

St. Vincent UCC Worship Service
Second Sunday in Lent – March 1, 2026
Including the Sacrament of Holy Communion
Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson
Church Musician – Deb Rick



Musical Interlude
Ringling of the Bell

Pastor's Welcome

Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: Come, worship God with your whole heart. Give praise to God's glory.

People: **We worship God, for he is full of power, of love, and light. But, more importantly, we come because we want to get closer to God in this season of Lent.**

Pastor: May God bless us, then, as we gather to worship him. Let's begin by affirming our faith, saying together ...

*** Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 190, "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"**

Let us Pause for a Time of Prayer

Call to Prayer:

God invites us to this place. He gathers us together so that we are fed and nourished by his Spirit. We have come to ask God to take us in, to open us to his life-giving power and love. We offer our hearts and minds to his purpose more fully through our presence and our prayers. Let us, then, turn to God and pray together about that ...

Unison Prayer:

God of all – God of our hearts – God of all time and all places – we come to you this day confessing the ways in which we have failed to live as the people you have called us to be. We come to seek a closer relationship with you. We come to fulfill the purpose you have placed within us. Awaken our hearts anew, strengthen our spirits, and send us forth, empowered to be all that you want us to be.

Help us to change our lives for the better by being the best that we can be. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance:

God is so great - he lives in the past, the present, and the future all at the same time. He will always bring into our lives what is best for us and help us to figure that out along the way. When we put our trust and hope and faith in God – all will be well in God's good time.

Now, let's sing our response ...

Sung Response: # 772, "Nothing Can Trouble" (Praise Book)

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten - those who seek God shall never go wanting. Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten - God alone fills us.

Scripture Reading:

Liturgist: Kathy Strahan

Liturgist: We now turn our hearts and minds to the reading of God's Holy Scripture.

Let us pray: Gracious God, thank you for creating us and putting your spirit into each of our hearts so that we feel born again every day. Help us to feel the love you have for us and share that love with others. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Our first reading today comes from Psalm 121 which gives us the assurance of God's protection in times of need.

Read the Psalm (found on page 571 of the Pew Bible)

Our Gospel Lesson this morning comes from the Gospel of John, chapter 3, verses 1-17, where we hear a story about one man who wanted to understand the truth Jesus was sharing more clearly.

Read Scripture Lesson (found on page 93 of the NT in Pew Bible)

Liturgist: Here ends the reading of God's Holy Scripture. May God bless us with understanding and may we show our understanding in the way we live our lives. Amen.

Now, let's sing our hymn, # 202, O God, How We Have Wandered"

Hymn: # 202, "O God, How We Have Wandered"

Message: "Bold Blessings"

Sung Response: # 2152, "Change My Heart O God"

The Sacrament of Holy Communion – see insert

In the spirit of the Lenten Season, today we will be following a traditional UCC service of Communion. Please turn to your bulletin insert to participate.

Sung Response: # 2068, "I Love You, Lord"

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Offering Invitation: All that we have was first a gift from God – given with love as its sole purpose. In response, we are asked to share our blessings so that the work of the church may continue to touch the lives of those in need of that love. Let us, then, present with joy our offerings to God.

Offertory

*** Response: # 780 Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above, you heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*** Prayer of Dedication: Almighty God, we offer to you a portion of what you have first given to us. Receive these offerings and also our willingness to serve you and do your work. Transform us to truly be your people, seeking in our humble ways to change our world according to your will. Amen.**

*** Hymn: # 181, "You are Salt for the Earth, O People"**

*** Benediction:** God created us different with a holy purpose – to see if we will look beyond them to see our common spirit. Then, may we celebrate both the differences and the sameness as we journey together through Lent. Let us go forth – blessed by God – to be born again and again and again by the Spirit that loves us and send us forth to share that love with all those we meet – and know that God goes with us. Amen.

*** Response: # 78, "Part in Peace" (verse 3)**

Part in peace! Our voices raising – in God's presence always be. This the worship and the praising – bringing peace to you and me.

*** Postlude Music**