

St. Vincent United Church of Christ
Doubling Thomas Sunday – April 12th, 2026

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson
Church Musician – Deb Rick



Musical Interlude
Ringing of the Bell

Pastor's Welcome:
Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: We gather this day to worship the God we see in the risen Christ, who died and yet remains with us forever.

People: **We gather so that love, joy, peace, and hope will grow stronger through us and bless our community.**

Pastor: With gratitude to God, let us join our voices together in saying our Affirmation of Faith ...

Affirmation of Faith:

We are the people of God – his hands and heart and voices on the earth in this time and place. We are brothers and sisters in Christ - evidence of God's continued presence in the world. We believe in our God, we believe in God's goodness, and the power of God's love. We believe in Christ and his presence in our lives, and that we will recognize Christ in one another.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who moves among God's people and inspires us to bring God's reign more fully into our world. We are the people of God, and we believe that our church is part of God's eternal plan. May all that we say and do help to fulfill God's hopes and dreams for us and the world in which we live. Amen.

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 240, "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"**

Please be seated.

Call to Prayer: Jesus once said that "those who have not seen him resurrected and yet believe that it is true" are blessed. That would be us - even though we can't see Jesus with our eyes, we believe we feel Jesus in our hearts. Let us, then, express our belief as we now pray using the prayer printed in our bulletin ...

Unison Prayer: **Holy God, when we look around ourselves, we can see that the earth is full of your glory - and so we worship you. Our hearts are on fire with the awareness that Christ lives on inside of us - and so we thank you. The darkness of our fears and doubts has been calmed in the bright light of the resurrection - and so we praise you. Stay close to us, we pray – for we long to abide forever in the assurance of your love, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Assurance: Jesus gave us one rule and one goal – to love one another. As we follow his ways of love, let us praise our God of new life and new possibilities and give glory to his name all the days of our lives. Amen.

With gratitude, let us sing our response...

Sung Response: # 2026, "Halleluja" (praise book)

Halle, Halle, Halle-luja! Halle, Halle, Halle-luja! Halle, Halle, Halle-luja! Halleluja!, Halleluja!

Scripture Reading: Liturgist: Brenda McFadden

We now turn our hearts and minds to the reading of God's Holy Scripture. Our lesson today comes from the Gospel of John, chapter 20. We are reading verses 19-31 where we hear the story of doubting Thomas.

Let us pray: Loving God, come closer to us as we celebrate your love for us in this Easter Season. Be with us now in the reading of our Holy Scripture so that we might better see Jesus in our midst and believe in him more fully. Amen.

Reading: (found in the New Testament on page 114 in the pew Bible)

When it was evening on the day after the Resurrection, the disciples were together in a house with the doors were locked because they feared the Jews. Then, Jesus appeared among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.

Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven - if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the other disciples later told him, "We have seen the Lord", he said, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house and this time, Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt - but believe."

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Liturgist: Here ends the read 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 middle hymn, "The Strife is O'er"

Hymn: # 242, "The Strife is O'er"

Message: "I See You"

Sung Response: # 2086, "Open Our Eyes"

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Sung Response: #2203, "In His Time" (verse 2)

Offering Invitation: Jesus Christ is risen and we see him through the eyes of Doubting Thomas. Let us then share this blessing with others in the form of our morning offering.

Offertory

* **Sung Response: # 565, “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”** (verse 3)

Treasure, too, you have entrusted – gain through powers your grace conferred. Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word. Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ’s ageless call. Healing, teaching, and reclaiming – honoring you by loving all.

* **Prayer of Dedication: Holy God, we are grateful for your gifts and now return to you a portion for your blessing. We dedicate our offering in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

* **Hymn: # 231, “Because You Live, O Christ”**

* **Benediction: We are blessed because Jesus sees us. He knows us, loves us, and wants us to be like him. Let us then go forth to see Jesus in everyone we meet. Amen.**

* **Sung Response: # 77, “Lord, Dismiss Us”** (verse 1)

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing – fill our hearts with joy and peace. Let us each your love possessing – triumph in redeeming grace. Oh, refresh us oh, refresh us – traveling through wilderness.

* **Postlude Music**