

St. Vincent UCC Worship Service
Second Sunday in Advent December 7, 2025
Including the Sacrament of Holy Communion
Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson
Church Musician – Deb Rick

Musical Interlude
Ring of the Bell
Welcome & Announcements
Prelude Music



*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: Now is the time of watching and waiting – for something good is surely coming.

People: **We gather to worship and praise the God who blesses us with the good things that await us.**

Pastor: Let us, then, join our voices together in our Affirmation of Faith ...

*** Affirmation of Faith:**

We believe that God has come to us as a little child, making our human weakness into his strength. He secured our salvation by becoming one of us and then showing us how to become more like him. We are blessed with a Savior who is always with us helping us to make peace and goodwill toward all the work of our hands and voices. He fills our hearts with joy that we're called to share with one another.

God calls us and then sends us out into the world as his disciples. Wherever we go, he calls us to offer mercy and healing, comfort and justice, love and compassion – for every person that we meet is nothing less than his beloved child. This we believe. This we proclaim. This we seek to embody in word and deed.

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 102 “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”** (red hymnal)

Please be Seated for the Lighting of our Advent Candle.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: The Candle of Peace *Led by Bruce Fulmer and Jeanne Haring*

As we gather around our Advent Wreath, we know that we live in a world that is not perfect - bad things happen to good people, honest people make mistakes, peace and goodwill is not available for all the people. But we know that we can do better because God will make a way for us to do so. And that assurance gives us hope and peace for our hearts and minds.

(Light Two Candles – the one from last week and a second one)

Today, we light the second candle - the candle of peace. As we do so, we rejoice that once again the light of the world is coming into our midst. Jesus - the Prince of Peace – brings us hope and peace that will last forever. Let us pray together:

Eternal God, we thank you for the gift of peace and ask that you help us share that gift with others during this special time of the year. May all that we say and do help bring peace to the world in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Now, let us sing our response: (tune # 109, Away in a Manger)

**“Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare,
For a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease,
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.”**

Let us Pause for a Time of Prayer

Call to Prayer: Advent is the season for preparing our hearts and minds to experience the peace which surpasses all understanding that Jesus brings to us once again with his birth. Let us get ready for that special event as we pray together...

All: Holy God, during this time of preparation, open our eyes and ears to know you better; open our hearts to feel you more fully, and open our hands to show your love to others more completely. Help us to become living reflections of your good news in all that we say and do. We pray this in his name of the one for whom we wait. Amen.

Assurance: God longs to give us the gifts of Christmas once more through the re-birth of Jesus – filling us up with hope and peace, joy and love that has no end. In gratitude, let us sing our hymn.

Hymn: # 107 “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (red hymnal)

Scripture Reading: Liturgist: Jennifer Kluge

Liturgist: We now turn our hearts and minds to the reading of God’s Holy Scripture. Today’s reading comes from the first chapter of the Gospel, verses 57-80 where we hear the story of the birth of John the Baptist.

Let us pray: Gracious God, be with us now in the reading of your Holy Scripture so that we may learn more about you become more like you. Amen.

Read Luke 1: 57-80 (page 57 of the Pew Bible)

Now the time finally arrived when Elizabeth would give birth to her son. All of her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her and her husband, Zechariah. As was their custom, on the eighth day after his birth, he was to be circumcised and given his official name. It would have been right, according to their custom, that the boy should be named after his father. But his mother said, “No; he is to be called John.”

Her relatives were confused. They said to her, “None of your relatives has this name.” And they turned to his father, who was still unable to speak and asked him what name he wanted to give him. Zechariah took a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And all of them were amazed.

And then, suddenly, Zechariah was able to speak again and he began to praise God. But, every one else felt afraid – it was all his neighbors could talk about for days and news soon spread throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard about it wondered, “What then will this child become?” For it was clear that the hand of the Lord was upon him. Then, to try and answer their question, his father Zechariah, being filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke this prophecy:

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By

the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

The child called John grew and became strong in spirit, and he lived in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

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.

Response: “Emmanuel” (from the Methodist Hymnal) – see insert

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel. His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.**

Message: “Something to Sing About”

Sacrament of Holy Communion – see insert

Sung Response: # 2167, “More Like You” (Praise Book)

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Response: # 501, “Hear Our Prayer” (red hymnal)

**Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear
our prayer, O Lord and grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

Offering Invitation: With gratitude, let us now present our offerings to God, so that they may be used to extend God’s reign in the world. Let’s have our morning offering.

Offertory

*** Response: # 128, “In the Bleak Midwinter”** (verse 4)

**What can I offer, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb. If I were a wise one, I
would do my part – but what can I offer – all my heart.**

Prayer of Dedication: Gracious God, we present these offerings to you so that your light might shine through them to do good in our church. Accept them for your use, in the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

*** Hymn: # 117, “O Thou Joyful”**

*** Benediction:** May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of Jesus Christ, so that we may go forth with the blessing of God. Amen.

*** Response: “Blessing:** (tune # 108, O Little Town)

**Now may the good Lord bless and keep, His love in you increase; Lift up his face with shining
grace and grant eternal peace. To Father, Son, and Spirit – Eternal One-in-Three, Be thanks and
praise through all our days and to eternity!**

*** Postlude Music**