

St. Vincent UCC Worship Service
Transformation Sunday October 26, 2025
Celebrating in Costume for a Fun Worship Time
Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson
Church Musician – Deb Rick



Musical Interlude
Ringling of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements
Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: Let us gather in the warm embrace of God, as his own children, ready to worship our God.

People: **We come, called as disciples to follow in the path of Jesus.**

Pastor: Together, let us live in his joy, filled with the Holy Spirit.

People: **We are here - so let the Spirit blow through us in our worship and in our living.**

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

Affirmation of Faith:

God's love frees me to be the person I am without having to become more attractive, more intelligent, more popular. I am loved by God just as I am. God's love frees me to live in confidence – not needing to be self-absorbed, but ready to be engaged in the lives of others. God's love frees me to take risks with courage - sometimes to fall flat on my face – but always to move onward with the knowledge that God is with me – encouraging me, giving me strength, guiding me with hope.

God's love frees me to view the world not from the standpoint of wealth gained or ambition achieved, but from the perspective of relationships lived and human love shared. God's love frees me to put my sins behind me, to know that no sin is too great or too small to be left unhealed by God's gentle touch. God's love frees me to make a family with the people I love and to create a home where we honor Jesus Christ and follow his ways. Praise be to God whose love sets us free to become all that we are meant to be. Amen.

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 277, “Holy, Holy, Holy”**

Please Be Seated.

Call To Prayer:

God invites us to open our hearts and souls and minds to him every day with a desire to love him and serve one another in his name. And when we do, God promises to be with us in all things. Let us turn to God using the words of our prayer printed in the bulletin....

Unison Prayer:

We come before you, O God, feeling unworthy, yet knowing that your love and mercy is ours at all times. You have claimed us as your own and called us to follow your ways. We come before you, O God, eager to know you better and happy to be do your will for your greater glory. Come to us, then, O God – stay close to us and fill us with your spirit so that we can become more like your Son, Jesus, in every way. We pray this in his holy name. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

God has made us this promise – that when we put our faith in him and follow his ways, he will give us whatever we need to be all that he hopes and dreams for us and for those whom we love. Praise be to God. Amen.

Sung Response: # 2007 Holy, Holy, Holy”

**Holy, holy, holy – my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart knows how to say to you – you are holy, Lord!**

Scripture Reading:

Liturgist: Jen Kluge

Liturgist: We now turn our hearts and minds to the reading of God’s Holy Scripture. Today’s reading can be found in the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 18. We are reading verses 9-14 where Jesus tells us the story of two men in the temple.

Let us pray: Holy God, bless us as we gather to hear your message in our reading today. Help us to be transformed by your word so that we might become more like you. Amen.

Reading: Luke 18: 9-14

Jesus told this parable to some who regarded others with contempt while they trusted in themselves that they were righteous. He said, “Two men went up to the temple to pray - one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector.

The Pharisee was standing by himself and prayed, saying, *'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.'*

Then, there was the tax-collector, who stood far off in the back. He would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, *'God, be merciful to me, such a sinner as I am!'*

Then Jesus said, I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other - for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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.

Hymn Intro: Let’s now sing our hymn, # 2218 in our Praise Book, “You Are Mine”

Hymn: # 2218, “You Are Mine”

Pastor’s Message: “Two Men in the Temple”

Sung Response: # 2224, “Make Us One”

**Make us one, Lord, make us one; Holy Spirit, make us one.
Let your love flow so the world will know we are one in you.**

Pastoral Prayer & Lord’s Prayer

Sung Response: # 769, “Hear Our Prayer”

Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God. Incline your ear to us and grant us your peace. Amen.

Offering Invitation: The Bible tells us to let your light so shine before people that they may see your good works and give glory to God who is in heaven. Let us, then, shine our light as we now present our morning offering.

Offertory / * Response: # 785, “We Give You”

**We give you but your own – whate’er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone – we give it gratefully.**

*** Prayer of Dedication:**

Holy God, bless now these offerings and those who have given them so that your will may be done through them. We dedicate them in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*** Benediction:**

Now may God bless us all and stay close to us in the days to come. May we bring glory to his name when we let his light shine through all that we say and do. Go now in peace and serve the Lord. Amen.

*** Hymn: # 2173, “Shine, Jesus, Shine**

*** Postlude Music**