

**St. Vincent United Church of Christ
Christian Family Sunday – May 10, 2026**

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson
Church Musician – Deb Rick



**Musical Interlude
Ringing of the Bell
Pastor's Welcome**

Happy Mother's Day! Let us celebrate together that we are part of the Holy Christian Family

Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: We gather this day in the spirit of a loving God so that we can renew our spirits in that love.

People: Let us celebrate that we are one in the love of God as we worship God together.

Pastor: Let us join our voices as we say together our Affirmation of Faith

Affirmation of Faith:

God's love frees me to be the person I am and I am loved by God just as I am. God's love frees me to live in confidence because God has promised to be with me in all things - encouraging me, giving me strength, guiding me with hope.

God's love frees me to view the world through the eyes of heaven where kindness is a blessing, where relationships and human love shared is most important.

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: # 43, "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

Please Be Seated.

Call to Prayer: God promises that whenever we turn to him and share our deepest selves with him, he will be with us in the meaningful way he can. Let us then turn to him now, saying our prayer together.

Unison Prayer:

God of our ancestors, God of today, God of our mothers and fathers, we humbly submit ourselves to you, asking for your guidance. We have too often allowed opportunities to pass unfulfilled when we could have been instruments of your blessing in the lives of others. Help us, we pray, to be strong in our faith and not be afraid to boldly share our faith with all those around us. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance: The God of our ancestors, our God of today, is also the God of all our tomorrows. God's blessings make us new every day. We carry with us the best of our yesterdays and the promise of our tomorrows, and so we are renewed today as a people of hope, faith, and love. Glory be to God, Hallelujah!

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

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

Scripture Reading:

Liturgist: Suzi Clark

Liturgist: We now turn our hearts and minds to the word of God found in the scriptures. Today's reading can be found in the Gospel of John - chapter 14. We'll be reading verses 15-21 where Jesus makes a promise to us about the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray. Lord of all, may the words of your scripture bring us insight into the ways in which you want us to live and fulfill your mission in our own time and place. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Read Scripture Lesson (found on page 109 of the Pew Bible)

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.

This is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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, # 286, "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

Hymn: # 286, "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"**Message: "The Perfect Christian"****Sung Response: # 2025, "As the Deer"**

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you. You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you. You alone are my strength, my shield – to you alone may my spirit yield. You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer:**Sung Response: #2203, "In His Time" (verse 2)**

In your time, in your time; you make all things beautiful in your time. Lord, my life to you I bring; may each song I have to sing be to you a lovely thing in your time.

Offering Invitation: All good things come from God. With thankful hearts, we are given the opportunity to return a portion of what we have received to God's use. For the love of our Savior, Jesus Christ, let us now present our morning offering.

Offertory

* **Sung 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: Gracious God, accept these gifts as symbols of our love for you and your people. We dedicate them to your use and to your glory in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

* **Hymn: # 393, “Blessed Be the Tie that Binds”**

* **Benediction:** Let us go forth into the world with the grace of God, deeper than our imagination; the strength of Christ, stronger than our need; and the communion of the Holy Spirit, richer than our togetherness; guide and sustain us today and in all our tomorrows. 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**