

St. Vincent UCC Worship Service

A Summer Sunday – August 23, 2026

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson



Church Musician – Deborah Rick

Musical Interlude

Ringling of the Church Bell

Welcome

Prelude Music

* Call To Worship:

Pastor: In our story today, Jesus asks his disciples this question, “Who do you say I am?” It’s more than just a question, it’s an invitation to find out who Jesus is to you.

People: **Open our hearts, Lord Jesus, and help us to know more fully who you are to us.**

Pastor: Let us join our voices in saying our affirmation of faith for this day ...

* Affirmation of Faith: UCC Statement of Faith

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify: He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death. He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself. He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races. He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ’s baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. Amen.

Let’s join our voices in singing our first hymn.

* Hymn: # 18, “Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”

Please Be Seated.

Call to Prayer: We need God in every moment of our lives to guide us, love us, and empower us to be all that God hopes and dreams for us. Let us prayer together in gratitude ...

Prayer: We give thanks to you, O God, for all that you provide for us, the blessings you send, the hope you place within our hearts that no matter what is happening – you promise us a better day yet to come. Amen.

Assurance: Praise be to God who fills our lives with love and grace and all good things. And so, let us sing our response ...

Response: # 2108, "O How He Loves You and Me" (vs. 1)

O how he loves you and me! O how he loves you and me! He gave his life. What more could he give? O how he loves you; O how he loves me; O how he loves you and me!

Scripture Reading:

Liturgist = Eric Hanson

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 Matthew, chapter 16, verses 13-20 where Jesus asks his disciples who they think he is to them.

Let us pray: Loving God, be with us now in the hearing of your holy word and help us get closer to Jesus as our friend and Savior. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Read Scripture Lesson (found on page 18 in the Pew Bible)

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

He said to them, "But who do YOU say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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 middle hymn, # 2130, "The Summons" which you will find in the Praise Book.

Hymn: # 2130, "The Summons"

Message: "Finding Jesus, Following Jesus"

Sung Response: # 2086, "Open Our Eyes"

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Offering Invitation: We give to the church so that people can hear about Jesus and learn his ways that we are called to follow. With joy, let us bring to that mission our morning offering.

Offertory / * Response: Tune "All That Dwell Below the Skies"

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

*** Prayer of Dedication:**

Loving God, may these gifts be used to enable others to come to know Jesus Christ as your Son, as their friend, and as the Lord and Savior of us all. May our offerings reflect the compassionate spirit of Jesus, for we dedicate them to your use in his holy name, Amen.

*** Hymn: # 52, "There is a Name I Love to Hear"**

*** Benediction:** Let us go in peace and serve the Lord of love and grace, showing kindness and mercy to all those whom we meet along the way. And may the blessings of God be with us all. Amen.

*** Response: # 82, "Go My Children" (vs. 2)**

Go my children fed and nourished, closer to me. Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free. Here my Spirit's power filled you, here with tender comfort stilled you, Go my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

Postlude Music