



St. Vincent UCC Worship Service
A Sunday for Miracles / January 23, 2022



Welcoming Music / Pastor's Greeting
Prelude Music

Call To Worship:

Pastor: O Sing to the Lord a new song. Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

People: We sing with joy of the marvelous works of Jesus – for great is the Lord.

Pastor: Let us sing our praises in our first hymn, "There Is A Name I Love To Hear".

Hymn: "There Is A Name I Love To Hear (O, How I Love Jesus) (# 52, UCC Hymnal)

**There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music to my ear, the sweetest name on earth.**

**O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus, whose love has first found me.**

*It tells my Savior's love for all; Christ to set us free;
Whatever problems may befall, we'll live in dignity.*

*O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus, whose love has first found me.*

**It bids me serve amid the wrath God's people face each day,
And sheds along life's troubled path bright sunshine on my way.**

**O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus, whose love has first found me.**

Call to Prayer:

Today's scripture story reminds us that wherever Jesus is present, miracles are possible. And if Jesus can turn water into wine, than he can turn our troubles into something good. Let us turn to God and pray together about that ...

Unison Prayer:

Holy One, help us to trust that you know what we need - and that you have the power to provide it for us. We know that Jesus performed miracles everywhere he went and for everyone who asked for his help. Help us, then, to believe with our whole hearts that your power to renew, restore, and transform the circumstances of our lives is for us as well. We pray for this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance:

Miracles are not just bible stories. They are real and possible every day in every situation we find ourselves. May miracles abound in our lives at all times – and more importantly, may we recognize and celebrate them when they do. May glory be to God now and always. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Our Liturgist = Todd Sutter

Liturgist: We now turn our hearts and minds to the reading of God's Holy Scripture. Our Gospel Lesson comes from the Gospel According to John, chapter 2. We're reading verses 1-11 where we hear the story of the first miracle Jesus performed of turning water into wine at a wedding in Cana.

Let us pray: Holy God, at the wedding in Cana your Son Jesus turned water into wine, performing a wonderful miracle of hospitality that made all hearts happy that day. We ask that you make our hearts happy by your generous Spirit, as we now hear your Holy Scripture. May it inspire us to use our varied gifts to show forth the light of your love for all. Amen.

Reading: John 2: 1-11

Once there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and Mary, the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. It was a very festive occasion and when the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus became concerned for the host, She said to him, "They have no wine."

And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." But, ignoring his hesitation, his mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill these jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim.

Then, he said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water, it was no longer water, but wine. He did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew).

He called bridegroom over and said to him, "This is remarkable. Everyone else serves the good wine first - and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the best wine until now."

Jesus did this - the first of his miracles - in Cana of Galilee. In doing so, he revealed his glory and his disciples believed in him.

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: Now, let us sing our hymn, "As The Deer"

Hymn: "As The Deer" (sing through twice) (# 2025, Praise Book)

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.

Pastor's Message: "Water Into Wine – And What Next?"

Affirmation of Faith: We Are The People Of God

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.

Prayer Concerns and Announcements

Offering Invitation:

Let us always offer to God all that we are and all that we have to share for the good of his church and to his glory. This is the path to let miracles happen for the follower of Jesus. As we meditate on what we have to offer to God, let us pause and listen to our Offertory Music.

Offertory Music

Offering Dedication: Generous God, we are so thankful for the blessings you have bestowed upon us. So, we pledge to you to become a blessing to others in your name – giving what we can to our church and our community, so that all people are blessed like us. We do so to your greater glory and so that your name be praised everywhere, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer: *Includes the Dedication of New Sanctuary Flags*

Lord's Prayer: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Now, let's sing our final hymn, "We Are Called".

Hymn: "We Are Called" (# 2172, Praise Book)

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God!
We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly,
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God!

*Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless so all hatred and blindness will be no more!
We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly,
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God!*

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love!
We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly,
we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God!

Benediction:

Let us live as if God's purpose of love and compassion for all people is our purpose for our lives, too. Let us hold our hope and trust in God at all times, for God is with us in in the midst of all things. From where you are now, go forth in peace and serve the Lord of Love. Amen.

Sung Response: "All Hail King Jesus" (# 2069, UCC Hymnal)

All hail King Jesus! All hail Emmanuel, King of kings, Lord of lords, bright Morning Star
And throughout eternity, I'll sing your praises; and I'll reign with you throughout eternity!

Postlude Music