



St. Vincent UCC Worship Service

Independence Day Sunday / July 3, 2022

* = please stand if able

Prelude Music / Pastor's Greeting



* Call To Worship:

Pastor: Let us come together to celebrate the many gifts that God provides for us – our homes, our families, our work, our freedom to become all that God calls us to be.

People: **God plants the seeds of good things within us and calls us to help them grow and expand and reach out to others to share in good ways for his glory.**

Pastor: Let us, then, do good in his name as we sing our first hymn.

* **Hymn:** "My Eyes Have Seen the Glory" (verses 1, 3, 4) (# 610, Hymnal)

My eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord,
who is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored,
and has loosed the fateful lightning of a terrible swift sword,
God's truth is marching on. Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory hallelujah! God's truth is marching on.

*God has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
and is sifting out the hearts of all before the judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer and be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on. Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory hallelujah! God's truth is marching on.*

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in whose bosom that transfigures you and me;
As Christ died to make us holy, let us die to make all free;
While God is marching on. Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory hallelujah! God's truth is marching on.

* **Call To Prayer:** Talking to God gives us our best chance of connecting to his heart and mind so that he can speak directly to us and share his hopes and dreams for our lives. Let us then, turn to God and pray together about that ...

* **Unison Prayer:** **Wonderful God, open our eyes to see what is beautiful among us: open our minds, to know what is true among us; open our hearts, to love what is good among us. Make our hearts as loving as yours, for we must be your heart here on earth; make our hands as gentle as yours, for we must be your hands in this world; make our voices as strong as yours, for we must be your voice speaking to your people. Lead us in your ways, so that we might grow more like you in all that we say and do. Amen.**

* **Assurance:** God loves us in ways we have not even imagined. God is faithful, kind, inspiring, motivating – our guide, our help, our strength, our hope. With God, all things are possible and we have the power to make them so – because that is the way God works in our lives. In gratitude, let us affirm our faith together ...

* **Affirmation of Faith:** **We believe in God the Father, maker of all things. We believe in his Son Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior of the world. We believe in the Holy Spirit, giver of life and light. We belong to the Church, God's family everywhere. Amen.**

(please be seated)

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 10, verses 1-11 and 16-20. In these verses, we hear how Jesus sent forth his disciples.

Let us pray: Gracious God, bless now to our hearts the words we hear in Scripture so that we might understand you more fully and follow your Son Jesus more completely. Amen.

Reading: Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20

Jesus appointed seventy disciples to go ahead of him to every town and place where he, himself, intended to go. He sent them out in pairs and said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Now, go on your way."

He gave them these instructions: "See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid."

"Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.'

Know this: whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

So, the seventy went out as Jesus instructed and they returned afterward with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!"

He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

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 middle hymn, "America", which we will sing without accompaniment.

Hymn: "America / My Country 'Tis of Thee" (verses 1, 2, & 4) (# 697, Methodist Hymnal)

My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing; land where my fathers died,
land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring!

*My native country, thee, land of the noble free, thy name I love; I love thy rocks and rills,
thy woods and templed hills; my heart with rapture thrills, like that above.*

Our fathers' God, to thee, author of liberty, to thee we sing; long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light; protect us by thy might, great God, our King.

Pastor's Message: "Being Americans"

Offering Dedication: Sharing is what we are called to do – sharing the good news of Jesus and the gifts that God has blessed us with in his name. Let us share what we can for the glory of our Savior. Now let us say our prayer of dedication to bless our offering ... **Giving God, we are grateful not only for what we have received, but also for the ability to give back for the good of our church and those whom we serve. We dedicate these offerings in the name of Jesus and ask that you bless them accordingly. Amen.**

LITURGY FOR THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to participate in communion with us whenever we celebrate God's love for us in this way. For those worshiping with us in person, there are pre-filled communion cups available on the back table. At the end of the service, please dispose of your cup in the trash can in the back of the Sanctuary. Parents who wish to have their children participate are welcome to provide them with their own cups. For those joining us from home on Facebook, please have something to eat and drink near you so that you can fully participate in this sacrament that connects us "as one" in God's spirit, love, and devotion.



Pastor: Let us turn now to our service of Holy Communion. May peace, hope, and love reign in this place, in our homes, and in our hearts now and at all times. Jesus promised to be with us whenever we are one-in-his-spirit and welcome him in – so come, Lord Jesus, and be with us now in this time of communion with you.

The act of participating in the Lord's Supper is sacred because Christ is made more fully known to us in the midst of this service. Here, we receive the assurance of the great love and kindness God has for us as we try our best to follow the ways of his Son. Let us be sustained and nourished by God's gracious spirit in the midst of this service.

And may we confidently entrust ourselves into his merciful care and the future, filled with hope and promise, that he has prepared for us. We come here to this moment just as we are - so that we might know God more fully; understand his way of love more clearly; and follow him more completely all the days of our lives.

Pastor: God be with you. **People:** And also with you.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High. **People:** It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: Let us pray ...

All: Our Gracious God, we thank you for loving the world into existence and sustaining all of life by your goodness. With gratitude, we recall that you revealed yourself to us through prophets and teachers and, most fully, in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus – our Lord and Savior. Through the power of your spirit, let us know afresh the joy of Christ's living presence within us, the strength to face every circumstance of life, and the knowledge that nothing can ever separate us from your love. Amen.

Pastor: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Now, please hold your hand over your communion cup – and, if you are at home, the cup & plate near you while I say these words of blessing ... "Holy God of Life and Love and Eternity – We ask you to consecrate these gifts of the plate and the cup with your Holy Spirit –and bless us as we

receive them as a sign of our covenant of love with you. In gratitude for all that you do for us, we offer you our faith and praise and the whole of our hearts now and for evermore, in the name of Jesus. Amen”.

Come, let us eat and drink – and receive the assurance of the new life Christ offers. As you partake, may you find nourishment from the love of Christ that lives within you. “Remember and Be Thankful”.
(Take - Eat and Drink - and Pause to Meditate)

Pastor: Let us pray together ...

All: We thank you, God, for inviting us into this time of communion where we have known the presence of Christ and received his love and care. Strengthen us in our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor: Now, receive this blessing as we seal in our hearts and minds, this sacred time of communion with our Lord. May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace – now and for evermore. Amen.

Prayer Concerns, Birthday Celebrations, and Announcements

Keeping all of these concerns in our hearts and minds, let us pause for our time of Prayer

Pastoral Prayer – A Prayer For Our Nation

Lord's Prayer: Now, let us pray together as Jesus has taught us to say ... **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 stand and sing together our final hymn

* **Hymn:** “Lead On, Eternal Sovereign” (# 573, UCC Hymnal)

Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow in your way; loud rings your cry for justice,
your call for peace this day. Through powerful preparation, your grace will make us strong,
to carry on the struggle to triumph over wrong.

*Lead on eternal Sovereign, we follow not with fear, for in each human conflict
your words of strength we hear. That when we serve with gladness, you will not let us fall,
our trust is in your promise that love will conquer all.*

Lead on eternal Sovereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease, and all your saints together
will sing a hymn of peace. Then all in your dominion will live with hearts set free,
to love and search each other for all eternity.

* **Benediction:** May God bless us and keep us. May God's face shine upon us and be gracious to us. May God look upon us with kindness and give us peace this day and for all our days yet to come. Amen.

Postlude Music