

St. Vincent UCC Worship Service

World Communion Sunday – Oct. 4, 2026

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson
Church Musician – Deb Rick



Musical Interlude
Ringling of the Church Bell
Welcome
Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: God has hopes and dreams for what we can become by following his ways. We should not let God dream alone. Let us join God in making his dream a reality for those of us who love him and follow his ways.

People: **Holy God, come close to us and help us to do what we can to fulfill your hopes and dreams for us and for a better world.**

Pastor: Now, let us join our voices together in saying our Affirmation of Faith ...

*** Affirmation of Faith:**

We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God, who has created and is creating; who has come in Jesus the Word made flesh - to reconcile and make new. Who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church - to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

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

*** Hymn: # 386 "The Church's One Foundation"**

Please Be Seated.

Call to Prayer: Jesus show us the way to live according to God's ways and it's up to us to choose wisely to do so. Let us then, turn to God and pray about it.

Prayer: **Holy God, we try our best, but we don't always live according to your ways. Help us to do so for no other reason, but our love for you so that we can become what you hope and dream. Amen.**

Assurance: Let us give glory to the One who hopes and dreams with us for a better life and a better world for everyone. In gratitude, let us sing our response -

Response: # 2164 Sanctuary

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

Scripture Reading:

Liturgist – Deb Rick

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 21, verses 33-46 where Jesus tells the story of the Wicked Tenants.

Let us pray: Holy One, bless us with understanding as we hear your message in the reading of Scripture. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Reading: Jesus had been teaching the crowd gathered around him one day and he continued saying, "Listen to another parable. Once there was a wealthy landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a lot of care into making it a fine establishment. He put a fence around it for protection, dug a wine press nearby for efficiency, and built a watchtower to ensure a safe and secure working environment. Having done the best that he could to set up a successful vineyard, he then leased it to some tenants and went away to another country. When it was time to harvest the grapes, the landowner was not able to return home yet, so he sent his servants back to the vineyard to collect his profits from the tenants. When the first servant arrived on the scene, the tenants grabbed him and beat him up. The next servant who came there was murdered by them. When the third servant was sent, they threw stones at him until he ran away.

The landowner didn't give up, but sent more of his servants – arriving together this time – but they, also were abused by the wicked tenants. Finally he decided to send his only son. 'Surely,' he thought, 'they will respect my son.'

But when the tenants saw the son arrive, they thought to themselves greedily, 'This is the landowner's heir. If we kill him, we can have all of this for ourselves.' And that is just what they did – they grabbed him, threw him off the land and killed him.

"Now -" Jesus asked the crowd listening to him, "when the owner of the vineyard comes back from his trip away, what do you think he will do to these wicked tenants?" The crowd answered, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will hand over the profits when it's harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "That is right and you have the proof in the scriptures, where it says: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes.' This is the way it is with you. The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

Now, when the chief priests and the Pharisees heard these parables, they realized that Jesus was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds who regarded him as a prophet of God.

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 hymn, # 286 "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

Hymn: # 286 "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

Message: "Wicked Ways!"

Sung Response: # 2080, "All I need is You"
Sacrament of Holy Communion (see insert)

Special Music by Deb Rick

Sung Response: # 2167 "More Like You"

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Sung Response: # 2215, "Cares Chorus"



Offering Invitation: There will always be times in life when the going gets rough. When that happens, we need to remember who we are and why we do the things we do. As the followers of Jesus, we are called to act like him in all ways. Let us do so now in the form of our morning offering.

Offertory / * Response: Tune “All That Dwell Below”

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:** Holy God, we return to you today, a portion of the blessings we’ve received and ask for your added blessings upon them. May your love be felt through these offerings so that your grace might fill the world. Amen.

*** Hymn: # 403 “My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less”**

*** Benediction & Response: # 2162, “Grace Alone” (vs. 1)**

Postlude Music