

St. Vincent UCC Worship Service

A Summer Sunday – August 30, 2026

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson

Guest Church Musician – Penny Sallade



Musical Interlude

Ring of the Church Bell Welcome

Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: The world and all who live in it belong to the God we have come to worship today.

People: Let us give praise to our Creator God and give thanks for the gift of life. We come to worship in love and joy.

Pastor: Then, let us join our voices in saying our affirmation of faith for this day ...

*** Affirmation of Faith:**

With all Christians everywhere, we believe in one God, who made everything. The Father sent his Son, Jesus, to live among us and teach us his ways. He died on the cross, but rose again as Lord of all, that we might live forever with him.

God sent his Holy Spirit to live inside each of us, that we might grow to become more like Jesus. And so that we can affirm for our own hearts and minds that always and forever, God will love us and be with us in all things – no matter what. Amen.

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

*** Hymn: # 204, "Take Up Your Cross"**

Please Be Seated.

Call to Prayer: Though it is human nature for us to seek the easy way, Jesus tells us that God's way is better, so we must commit our hearts and minds and hands and voices to following his way. And, he assures us, that God will give us all the help we need to do so. Let us turn to God and pray about that -

Prayer:

God of forgiveness, we know that Jesus lived an unselfish life, but we don't always follow his lead. We have been selfish and self-centered in many ways, even at the expense of others. Forgive us and help us to be more like Jesus in all we say and do. We pray in his name, Amen.

Assurance: Happy are the people who know God's love and forgiveness. Happy are those of us who share the good news of a loving, forgiving God with others. With joy, 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 = Jen Kluge

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 21-28 where Jesus tells us that if we want to follow him, we must take up our cross.

Let us pray: Holy God, bless us in our hearing your message, so that this becomes a time when we grow closer to you and better understand your will for the whole of our lives. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

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

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you."

But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.

Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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, # 290, "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

Hymn: # 290, "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

Message: "Take Up Your Cross" Sung Response: # 2086, "Open Our Eyes"

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Offering Invitation: It is a blessing for us to be able to share our time, our talents, and our treasure – for whatever good we send out into the world, God will return to us in abundance. Let us present now 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!

*** Prayer of Dedication:**

May your name be praised, O God, for the blessings and gifts you have showered on us. Give us the grace to use our gifts in accordance with your will, for we dedicate them in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*** Hymn: # 2129, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"**

*** Benediction:** May the blessings of God overflow into your lives, filling your hearts with joy, and the desire to follow God all the days of your lives. And may God be with you all, in all ways, until we meet again. 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