

St. Vincent United Church of Christ
Guest Pastor Sunday – February 9th, 2025

Guest Pastor – Kathy Jachowski
Church Musician – Deb Rick

Musical Interlude
Ring of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements from
Lay Leader Brenda McFadden

Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: A wise man once said: “When we truly love God, we are one in our love for one another. And the closer we are to one another, the closer we are to God. Such is the circle of love”.

People: **Let us draw closer to God and one another in his Spirit and follow his ways so that we will show that love in all we say and do.**

Pastor: Let us join our voices in saying our Affirmation of Faith.

*** Affirmation: Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 277, “Holy, Holy, Holy”**

Let us Pause for a Time of Prayer

Call to Prayer:

We can never hide from God and there should be no reason for us to do so. God loves us just as we are and just as we are becoming. But sometimes, we need to be reminded that this is the truth. Let us, then, turn to God and pray together about that ...

Unison Prayer:

Merciful God, we confess to you that we often try to hide from you, afraid that if you see us as we really are, you may not love us. Help us to overcome our fear and doubt and simply believe that what you say is true, so that we might feel your love and be healed. Help us to know once more the blessings of being your children of light in a darkened world. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance:

We are God's children – forgiven, loved, and empowered to face each day as a fresh beginning. In gratitude for this amazing gift from God, join me now in singing our response ...



Sung Response: # 2069, "All Hail King Jesus"

**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!**

Scripture Reading:

Liturgist: Brenda McFadden

Liturgist: We now turn our hearts and minds to the reading of God's Holy Scripture. Our reading today comes from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 5, verses 1-11 where we hear how Jesus told his first disciples that they would soon catch people for the faith.

Let us pray: Holy One, we long to know you better and so be able to follow your son more faithfully. Be with us now in this time and help us to hear what it is you want us to understand for our own lives. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Reading: Luke 5: 1-11

Once when Jesus was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret, the crowd was pushing in on him as he was teaching so that they could better hear the Word of God. He looked around and noticed two boats tied up.

The fishermen had just left them and were out scrubbing their nets. He climbed into the boat that was Simon's and asked him to put out a little from the shore, so that he could put some space between himself and the people. And he continued to teach them from where he sat in the boat.

When he was finished teaching, Jesus said to Simon, "Push out into deep water and let your nets out for a catch." But Simon replied, "Master, we've been fishing hard all night and haven't caught even a minnow. But if you say so, I'll let out the nets."

When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.

And when Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and cried, "Master, leave me to myself. I'm a sinner and can't handle this holiness". For he and all who were with him, including his partners James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken. But Jesus said to Simon, "There is nothing to fear. From now on you'll be catching people." Then, they brought their boats to shore and left it all behind and followed 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. Now, let us sing together our hymn, # 52, "O How I Love Jesus"

Hymn: # 52, "O How I Love Jesus"

Message: "Follow Me"

Sung Response: # 2119 Where the Spirit (Praise Book)

**"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is peace;
where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is love.
There is comfort in life's darkest hour;**

**there is light and life, there is help and power
in the Spirit, in the Spirit of the Lord.**

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Offering Invitation: Every day, God reaches out and draws us closer to him and his love. Every day, he gives us the chance to follow him by loving and serving one another. We respond with our hearts and hands and voices ready to do good in his name and to his glory.

Offertory / * Response: # 785, "We Give You"

**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be.
All that we have is yours alone – we give it gratefully.**

*** Prayer of Dedication:**

O Holy One, every good and perfect gift we receive comes from you. In gratitude, we present to you all that we have and all that we are. Use our gifts for your purpose and bless our lives to your service, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*** Hymn: # 2130, "The Summons"**

*** Pastor's Benediction**

*** Sung Response: # 2172, "We Are Called"**

**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!**

*** Postlude Music**