

**St. Vincent United Church of Christ
Communion Sunday – February 2, 2025**

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson

Church Musician – Deb Rick



**Musical Interlude
Ringing of the Bell**

**Welcome & Announcements
Prelude Music**

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: Let us look to God in all things and give praise to him always. We do so not for God's sake, but for our own - so that we might get closer to God and learn how to be more like him.

People: **Through our prayers and praise, may we love and serve God better in all that we say and do.**

Pastor: Let us, then, say together our Affirmation of Faith.

*** Affirmation:**

We believe in the God of light and love. May God surround us and fill up our hearts to overflowing with his holy light and love. We believe in God's Son, Jesus, the Christ. May his ways of compassion and kindness guide our every thought and action so that we can become more like him and be the change we wish to see in the world. We believe in the Holy Spirit. May the Spirit empower us to fulfill this calling to the glory of God. Amen.

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 439, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"**

Let us Pause for a Time of Prayer

Call to Prayer: God speaks to us in many ways - through coincidences, chance remarks of friends and strangers, successes, and even failures. That means that we need to listen for the voice of God at all times and in all places – for when we do – good things will happen in our lives. Let us turn now to God and pray together about that ...

Unison Prayer:

How often, Lord, have we failed to listen for your voice, or, having heard it, have chosen to ignore it so that we might choose our wills over your own. Strengthen us to prefer your will always to our own. Give us wise discernment so that we might recognize and heed your words when you speak to us. Keep us safe from deception and ever walking in your holy ways. Amen.

Words of Assurance: Sometimes we meet God in the most unlikely of places. But no matter where God finds us, he has promised to bless our lives with great and wonderful things when our intentions are only for good to follow. Let us look for God wherever we go and act more like him in all that we say and do. Amen. In gratitude, let's sing 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: Eric Hanson

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 Luke, chapter 4. We are reading verses 14-24 & 28-30 where we hear what happened to Jesus when his role as a prophet was revealed in his own hometown.

Let us pray: Holy God, in you we find our joy - for through your law and your prophets you have led us toward mercy and freedom, justice and righteousness, peace and prosperity. Pour your Spirit on us today, as we hear your Holy Word found in Scripture, just as you poured your spirit on Jesus during his visit to his hometown. We pray this in his name. Amen.

Reading: Luke 4: 14-24, 28-30

Having completed his baptism and spent his time in the wilderness to overcome temptation, Jesus returned to Galilee filled with God's Spirit. Word of his return quickly spread among the people, and he began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to his hometown of Nazareth, he went to that synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Now, he also said many other things to them and they turned to one another and spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. Still, they were confused and asked one another, "Is not this Joseph's son?"

He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown.

When they heard this, the people in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the edge of the cliff on which their town was built where they intended to hurl him off. But Jesus simply passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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, # 539, "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?"

Hymn: # 539, "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?"

Message: "He's the One!"

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (see insert)

Sung Response: # 2167, "More Like You"

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Offering Invitation: God calls us to draw closer to him in every moment of our lives. Let us respond with good works done in love as we also present with joy our morning offering.

Offertory

* **Response: # 785, “We Give You But Your Own”**

**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:** Holy One, we now present to you these gifts and ask that they may be used for your purpose. We dedicate them, with joy and gratitude in the holy name of Jesus. Amen.

* **Hymn: # 573, “Lead On Eternal Sovereign”**

* **Benediction:** May the light and the love and the power of our Savior, Jesus Christ be with us in all things. May his spirit guide us in doing good and help us be a blessing to all those whom we meet along the way. May God bless you and yours. Amen.

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**