

St. Vincent UCC Worship Service

Communion Sunday – August 2, 2026

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson

Church Musician – Deborah Rick

Musical Interlude
Ring of the Church Bell Welcome



Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: Imagine – there once were 5,000 hungry people and only one little basket of fish and bread among them for food. Thanks to the generous heart of a boy and the miraculous work of Jesus, everyone got fed.

People: **We tell this story because it reminds us that God will always take care of us.**

Pastor: May God be with us now as we join our voices in our affirmation of faith ...

*** Affirmation of Faith:**

We are the people of God – his hands and heart and voices on the earth in this time and place. We are brothers and sisters in Christ - evidence of God's continued presence in the world. We believe in our God, we believe in God's goodness, and the power of God's love.

We believe in Christ and his presence in our lives, and that we will recognize Christ in one another. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who moves among God's people and inspires us to bring God's reign more fully into our world.

We are the people of God and we believe that our church is part of God's eternal plan. May all that we say and do help to fulfill God's hopes and dreams for us and the world in which we live. Amen.

*** Hymn: # 319, "Sing Them Over Again to Me"**

Please be seated.

Call To Prayer: God makes it clear that if we will do even just a little good, he will make it grow and produce a lot. Let us turn to God and ask for his help in doing what we can...

Prayer: **Generous God, over and over again we see how when we do the right thing, you make it a great thing. When we make good choices, you turn them into wonderful choices.**

Everything we do, you make it into something bigger, better, more beautiful. So, help us now in all our efforts to do good, to be good, to encourage good in others. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance: When we don't see a way to make things better, God will show us the way and then, make it possible and bless our courage for walking in that way. And so, with gratitude, 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 = Kathy Strahan

Liturgist: We now turn our hearts and minds to the word of God found in the scriptures. Today's reading can be found in the Gospel of Matthew - chapter 14, verses 13-21 where we hear the story of how Jesus fed 5000 people with the contents of one boy's basket of fish and loaves.

Let us pray: Loving God, be with us now in the hearing of your holy word and help us to discern it's meaning for our lives today. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Read Scripture Lesson (found on page 16 of the NT in Pew Bible)

Jesus spent a whole day teaching the crowds about his ways of love and compassion. He performed many acts of healing miracles for the sick and heartbroken among them. But the day was getting long and he needed a rest. So, he withdrew from the crowds and got into a boat and went to a deserted place by himself.

But the people were still in need of his words and acts of healing. So they followed him on foot and many more joined the crowd as they left their towns to go where his boat was resting.

When Jesus came ashore, he saw how many people were waiting for him and he had compassion for them. He cured their sick and mended their hearts.

When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late - send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”

Jesus said to them, “They need not go away - you give them something to eat.” So, they looked around among the gathered people for food to share. They found just one basket with two small fishes and loaves of bread that belonged to a young boy whose mother had prepared for his meal.

They brought it to Jesus and told him, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” And he said, “Give them to me.” Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the loaves and fish, he raised them up to heaven, and blessed the food. He broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

All the people ate till they were full. And when the disciples gathered up what was left over of the broken pieces, there was still twelve baskets full. It is said that those who were there and ate their fill that day included about five thousand men, women, and children.

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, # 449, “Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”.

Hymn: # 449 “Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”

Message: “5000 Fed and Freed”

Sung Response: # 2086, “Open Our Eyes”

Sacrament of Holy Communion (see insert)



Sung Response: # 2244, "People Need the Lord"

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Offering Invitation: We give our support to the church so that our gifts, as well as our hands and hearts might become part of God's answer to the cries of the world. Let us now present our offerings to God.

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: Accept these we now offer to you, O God. Since you have provided everything for us, we share with one another with joy and gratitude, in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

*** Hymn: # 304, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"**

*** Benediction & 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