

# St. Vincent UCC Worship Service

Sower Sunday - July 12, 2026

Lay Minister – Brenda McFadden

Church Musician – Deborah Rick

## Musical Interlude

### Ringing of the Church Bell

### Welcome

### Prelude Music

*Let us Rise and Join our Voices in the Call to Worship.*

### \* Call To Worship:

**Pastor:** We have come to answer God's call to love and serve him and the people he loves.

**People:** In this call, we hear God's promise of grace and courage to do so and his blessings in abundance.

**Pastor:** May these blessings come upon us now as we join our voices together in our affirmation of faith ...

### \* Affirmation of Faith:

**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.**

*Turning to the hymnal, let's sing our first hymn.*

### \* Hymn: # 315, "O Word of God Incarnate"

*Please be seated.*

### Call to Prayer:

Our greatest blessing in life is the knowledge that God is here with us in the midst of all things, giving us everything we need to be happy and healthy and whole. Let us, then, turn to God and pray together about that ...

### Prayer:

**Gracious God, we come before you giving thanks for your grace and mercy. Though we are not perfect, you love us in a perfect way and grant us every blessing. Help us to come closer to you and practice being one with your spirit, so that, through all that we say and do, the world will know more fully your love and healing for all people. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

### Assurance:

The blessings of God abound in our lives, if we only have eyes to see them. May we open our eyes and hearts to the glory of God and sing together, with joy, our response ...

### Response: # 2108, "O How He Loves You and Me" (vs. 1)

### Scripture Reading:

**Liturgist = Suzi Clark**



**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 13, verses 1-9 and then 18-23 Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower and then explains what it means for us.

**Let us pray:** Holy God, as Jesus sent the disciples out to preach and heal, so Christ sends us out to accept this mission to the world in our own time and place. Help us to hear his call and discern his will for our lives in the midst of today's scripture reading. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Read Scripture Lesson** (found on page 13 of the NT in Pew Bible)

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying:

"Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

Then Jesus explained the meaning of the parable to those who were still wondering. "Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.

As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.

As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

**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 remain seated as we sing our middle hymn, # , " "

**Hymn: # 318, "Almighty God, Your Word is Cast"**

**Message: "Sowers, Seeds, and Soils"**

**Sung Response: # 2086, "Open Our Eyes"**

**Prayer for the People and Lord's Prayer**

**Offering Invitation:** All people who follow Jesus are called to give, as they are able, in order to support his work in the world. Let us now present these gifts with joy and gratitude, giving back to God a portion of the blessings we've received from him.

**Offertory /**

**\* Response: Doxology sung to the 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:**

**Gracious God, we present these offerings to your care, so that they may be used to do your work according to your will. We dedicate them in the name of Jesus, so that they might be a blessing to our church and part of your answer to the needs of the world. Amen.**

*Now, let's join our voices in singing our final hymn.*

**\* Hymn: # 531, "God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak"**

**\* Benediction:** Let us go forth with the blessings of God upon us, knowing that no matter where we go, God goes with us. May our hearts be filled with love to overflowing, and may our hands be ever ready to serve in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**\* Response: # 82, "Go My Children" (vs. 2)**

**Postlude Music**