St. Vincent UCC Worship Service
Stewardship Sunday – Nov. 8, 2026

Recognition of Veterans
Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson
Church Musician – Deb Rick



Musical Interlude
Ringing of the Church Bell
Welcome

Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts and know that God is here with us.
People: We lift up our hearts and give praises to God.
Pastor: Let us then lift up our voices together as we say our affirmation of faith for this day …

*** Affirmation of Faith:**

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God, who has created and is creating; who has come in Jesus the Word made flesh - to reconcile and make new. Who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church - to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 2190 "Bring Forth the Kingdom"**

Please Be Seated.

Call To Prayer:

In prayer, God shows us his light, his vision, his love for us. Let's pray about that …

Prayer:

Dear God, help us to see your light and feel your love and live our lives in ways that really make a difference to ourselves and to others. Hold us close and make us more like Jesus in all that we say and do. Amen.

Assurance:

Whatever we ask – God is happy to give us when we live according to his ways. May we "blessed be" now and always. Amen. In gratitude, let's sing our response ...

Sung Response: # 2164 Sanctuary (Praise Book)

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Scripture Reading: Liturgist – Kathy Strahan

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 of Matthew, chapter 25. We're reading verses 1-13 where we hear Jesus tell the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids.

Let us pray: Holy God, bless us now in our hearing your son's story and help us to discern what it means for our lives today. We pray this in his name, Amen.

Read the Scripture Lesson

Jesus told the crowd this parable - The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'

Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'

And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut.

Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' And so, they were left outside. The moral of this story is this: Keep awake and stay alert – for you never know when he might arrive!

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.

Hymn Intro: Now, let us remain seated as we sing together our middle hymn, # 2191, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

Hymn: # 2191, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

Message: "Carrying the Light"

Sung Response: # 793, "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Holy, Holy, Holy, my heart, my heart adores you.
My heart is glad to say the words – you are holy God.

Recognition of Veterans

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Sung Response: # 2215, "Cares Chorus"

Offering Invitation: We are invited to give and give again – just like God. We are invited to give enough for people's needs – just like God. We are invited to give with joy – just like God. This is the time when we give our gifts to the glory of God. Let us have our morning offering.

Offertory / * Response:

Tune "All That Dwell Below"

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, Alleluia!

*** Prayer of Dedication:**
Great and Giving God, we have opened our hands to give our offerings to you. Bless them to your use in the name of Jesus. Now, keep our hands open for just a little while longer, so that we might receive a further blessing from you. May our hands and hearts always be open to you and for your purposes in the world. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*** Hymn: # 610 "My Eyes Have Seen the Glory"**

*** Benediction:** Jesus tells us to keep awake and stay alert – for you never know when he might call us to do his work in the world. May we, then, be ready to act with God's blessings upon our hearts and minds, God's light in our hands and in our voices, and God's love in all we say and do. Let us go forth now and show the world what God can make possible through us. Amen.

*** Response: # 2162, "Grace Alone"** (vs. 1)

*** Postlude Music**