

St. Vincent UCC Worship Service

Wheat & Weeds Sunday - July 19, 2026

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson
Church Musician – Deborah Rick

Musical Interlude
Ringling of the Church Bell
Welcome

Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**



Pastor: Come into the presence of God and know that we can always put our trust in God to meet us here.

People: We bring our hearts and minds and spirits into this time of worship, trusting in the One who is our hope and source of all our life.

Pastor: Let us then join our voices together in affirming our faith ...

*** Affirmation of Faith:**

With all Christians everywhere, we believe in one God, who made everything. The Father sent his Son, Jesus, to live among us and teach us his ways. He died on the cross, but rose again as Lord of all, that we might live forever with him. God sent his Holy Spirit to live inside each of us, that we might grow to become more like Jesus. And so that we can affirm for our own hearts and minds that always and forever, God will love us and be with us in all things – no matter what. Amen.

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

*** Hymn: # 562, "Take My Gifts"**

Please be seated.

Call to Prayer:

God gives us everything we need to be his heart and hands and voices in the world today. Let us pray for his help in doing so...

Prayer:

God of love, we give thanks for all that you provide. We long to be closer to you and fulfill your ways. So, be with us at all times – guide us, strengthen us, empower us to be all that you hope and dream for our lives. Amen.

Assurance:

Let us rejoice – for when we put our trust in God, all will be well. 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 = Brenda McFadden**

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 according to Matthew, chapter 13. We're reading verses 24-30 and 36-43 where Jesus tells the Parable of the Weeds Among the Wheat.

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 14 of the NT in Pew Bible)

Jesus was busy teaching the people about his ways using parables to help them understand. Now, he put before them another one, saying:

The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.

And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?"

But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."

Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.

The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

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, # 425, "For the Fruit of All Creation"

Hymn: # 425, "For the Fruit of All Creation"

Message: "Workers of the Wheat"

Sung Response: # 2086, "Open Our Eyes"

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus - to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him. Open our ears, Lord and helps us to listen. Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Offering Invitation: Let us present with joy our offerings to God to help with the work of the church. And may we each serve in our own way to make that work possible in the world.

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:** Holy God, accept this offering and bless those who have given it to serve your purpose in the world. We dedicate it in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*** Hymn: # 457, “Jesus, I Live to You”**

*** 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