

St. Vincent UCC Worship Service
Consistory Sunday September 21, 2025

Consistory Meeting following service

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson

Church Musician – Deb Rick

Musical Interlude

Ring of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude Music



Let us rise for our Call to Worship

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: God calls us here, away from the demands of this world, and gathers us together in his love for this time of worship.

People: **Be here with us, O God, that we might be renewed in your spirit and blessed with your light.**

Pastor: God calls us to be a reflection of his light and let it shine for all to see. In response to his call, let us join our voices together in saying our Affirmation of Faith ...

Affirmation of Faith:

We gather in this sanctuary that has been made by human hands, knowing that God is calling us to create a holy sanctuary of his love and light throughout the whole world. We have come here, away from the ways of the world, so that we can become closer to God, to be strengthened by his Holy Spirit, and to experience God's kingdom with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are here to learn how to be the saints of God so that we can go forth to do good and thus make the world a better place through what we say and do. We are here to receive his spirit, we are ready to serve his people, we are happy to be his saints in this world and in the next. May God be with us in the midst of our whole lives. Amen.

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 172, "Jesus Calls Us "Oer the Tumult"**

Please Be Seated.

Call To Prayer:

God claims us, loves us, and guides us – all we have to do is listen for his call and be ready to respond. Could it really be that simple? Let's turn to God and talk together about that ...

Unison Prayer:

God of love and compassion, we confess that there are times when we are confused and afraid and don't know what we are supposed to do in a given situation. We need you to help us, so we turn now to you and ask that you remind us that we are children of a loving parent, disciples of a gracious savior, and, by your grace, blessed with the holy spirit. Help us to find your light within us and let it shine through us in all that we say and do. Amen.

Assurance:

By God's grace, we are claimed, we are loved, we are guided in doing good. Praise be to God now and for evermore. In gratitude, let's join our voices together in singing our response.

Sung Response: # 2119 “Where the Spirit of the Lord”

**Where the Spirit of Lord is, there is peace;
Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is love.
There is comfort in life’s darkest hour;
There is light and life, there is help and power,
In the Spirit, in the Spirit of the Lord.**

Scripture Reading:

Liturgist: Todd Sutter

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 Luke, chapter 16. We are reading verses 1-13 where Jesus tells the story of the dishonest manager.

Let us pray: O God, in all ways we belong to you. Be with us in this time of worship and especially now as we hear your words in the midst of Holy Scripture. Amen.

Reading: Luke 16: 1-13

Then Jesus said to the disciples, ‘There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, “What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.”

Then the manager said to himself, “What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.”

So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, “How much do you owe my master?” He answered, “A hundred jugs of olive oil.” He said to him, “Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.” Then he asked another, “And how much do you owe?” He replied, “A hundred containers of wheat.” He said to him, “Take your bill and make it eighty.”

And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

‘Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.’

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.

Hymn Intro: Let’s now sing our middle hymn, # 293, “Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

Hymn: # 293, “Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

Message: “Two Paths, One Direction”

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

Offering Invitation: Every good thing we know in our lives came to us as a result of God’s intention. Let us celebrate and honor the blessings we have received by sharing them with others for the good of our church. Let us have our morning offering.

Offertory / * Response: # 562 “Take My Gifts” (verse 3)

**Take whatever I can offer—gifts that I have yet to find,
skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hands
and mind. Things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be –
take my gifts and let me love you -
God who first of all loved me.**

*** Prayer of Dedication:**

God of creation, you have entrusted great riches into our care. We humbly return a portion of those gifts. Use them and use us too to bring your message of love, healing, and forgiveness to a world in need. Amen.

*** Hymn: # 300, “Jesus Shall Reign”**

*** Benediction:** May God bless you and keep you. May God’s face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with kindness and grant you peace now and for evermore. Let us, then, go forth in peace and serve the Lord. Amen.

*** Sung Response: # 82 “Go My Children” (verse 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**