

**St. Vincent United Church of Christ
Ecumenical Sunday – January 19, 2025**

Includes the Installation of Consistory

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson
Church Musician – Deb Rick

**Musical Interlude
Ringing of the Bell**

**Welcome & Announcements
Prelude Music**

*** Call To Worship:**



Pastor: When God looks at us, he wonders, “What are you doing with the gifts I gave to you to show love and kindness in your life?”

People: We are called to fulfill his purpose of making our world more like his world. So, we gather today to remember and celebrate our purpose.

Pastor: Let us, then, say together our Affirmation of Faith.

*** Affirmation:**

**We believe in a God who makes love our sole purpose in life. God created all life and declared it “good” - and as part of that creation God has declared that we are good as well. So, then, “being loving” and “doing good” are the way we are called and empowered to live. May we be a beacon of God’s love to all those we encounter. May we bring goodness into every situation of life. May we have confidence that the good we do today will matter for now and for the future of our world. In the name of our Holy God, may we always act as his heart and hands and voices to bring more of God’s love and goodness into this world through all that we say and do. May it be so forever.
Amen.**

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 495, “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”**

Let us Pause for a Time of Prayer

Call to Prayer: Today’s scripture will tell the story of the miracle of turning water into wine that Jesus performed at a wedding in Cana. It reminds us that wherever Jesus is present, miracles are possible. Let us turn to God now in prayer ...

Unison Prayer: Great and loving God, we confess that we wrestle with the images we have for ourselves. We want to be humble like Jesus, but human pride invades. Help us to find renewal for our minds, so that we can become more like Christ. Help us to trust that you know what we need; and that you have the power to provide for us at all times. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Words of Assurance: Jesus performs his first miracle at a wedding - a miracle of hospitality and compassion. In doing so, he shows the power of God to renew, restore, and transform the circumstances of our lives into whatever we need to be happy. In gratitude, let’s sing our response ...

Sung Response: # 2069, “All Hail King Jesus”

**All hail King Jesus! All hail Emmanuel.
King of kings, Lord of lords, bright Morning Star.
And throughout eternity, I'll sing your praises –
and I'll reign with you throughout eternity!**

Scripture Reading:

Liturgist: Todd Sutter

Liturgist: We now turn our hearts and minds to the reading of God's Holy Scripture. Our Gospel Lesson comes from the Gospel According to John, chapter 2. We are reading verses 1-11 where we hear the story of the first miracle Jesus performed at a wedding in Cana.

Let us pray: Holy God, for his first miracle, your Son Jesus transformed water into wine to the delight of all who were there. We too want to feel such joy, so come close to us and transform our hearts with your spirit as we now hear the message in your Holy Scripture. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Reading: John 2: 1-11

Once there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and Mary, the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. It was a very festive occasion and when the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus became concerned for the host, She said to him, "They have no wine."

And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." But, ignoring his hesitation, his mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill these jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim.

Then, he said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water, it was no longer water, but wine. He did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew).

He called bridegroom over and said to him, "This is remarkable. Everyone else serves the good wine first - and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the best wine until now."

Jesus did this - the first of his miracles - in Cana of Galilee. In doing so, he revealed his glory and his disciples believed in him.

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 sing together our hymn, #472, "Precious Lord, Take My Hand".

Hymn: # 472, "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Pastor's Message: "The First Miracle"

Installation of Consistory for 2025

Congregational Prayer: Spirit of God, we pause now to pray for these leaders. Give them faith so that they may feel your presence around us. Give them courage, so that they may not fear the challenges of their work. Give them hope that they will see your light and let it shine brightly through them in all things. And help us to always support them so that together we will be the church you want us to be. Amen.

Sung Response: # 2172, "We Are Called"

Come, live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God! We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly, we are called to serve one another – to walk humbly with God!

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Offering Invitation: Let us now offer to God all that we are and all that we have to share for the good of his church and to his glory, as we present with joy our morning offering.

Offertory / * Response: # 785, "We Give You But Your Own"

**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be.
All that we have is yours alone – we give it gratefully.**

*** Prayer of Dedication:** Generous God, we present our offering, thankful for the blessings you have given us. Now, we ask your blessing on this offering so that it may serve your purpose for our church. We dedicate it in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*** Benediction**

*** Hymn: # 493, "O Jesus, I Have Promised"**

*** Postlude Music**