

**St. Vincent United Church of Christ  
Baptism of Christ Sunday – January 12, 2025**

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson  
Church Musician – Deb Rick



**Musical Interlude  
Ringing of the Bell  
Welcome & Announcements  
Prelude Music**

**\* Call To Worship:**

**Pastor:** Let us rejoice – for Jesus has come to reconcile our hearts and make us new once again.

**People:** **We gather to recognize that God is in our midst and promise to follow his ways.**

**Pastor:** Let us join our voices in saying our Affirmation of Faith.

**\* Affirmation: The UCC Statement of Faith**

**We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify: He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death. He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself. He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.**

**He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. Amen.**

*Now, let us sing together our first hymn.*

**\* Hymn: # 43, "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

*Let us Pause for a Time of Prayer*

**Call to Prayer:** God calls each one of us his own precious child and promises to meet us wherever and whenever we seek a closer walk with him. Let us turn to God and pray together about that ...

**Unison Prayer:**

**Abba Father, we come to you, seeking your blessing of cleansing and renewal. Wash away all that is in us that keeps us from being close to you. Help us to let go of past hurts and mistakes and move forward into the life you have prepared for us. Give us the wisdom to discern your will in all things and give us the strength to follow your lead and serve your people in all that we say and do. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Assurance:** Before our confession falls from lips, forgiveness is already ours – such is the depth of mercy and love that God feels for his beloved children. May, then, all that we say and do be pleasing to God. In gratitude, let's sing our next hymn.

**Hymn: “Here I Am, Lord”** (insert)

**Scripture Reading:** Liturgist: Jen Kluge

**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 Luke, chapter 3. We are reading verses 15-17 and 21-22 where we hear the story of what happened when Jesus was baptized by John in the River Jordan.

**Let us pray:** Gracious God, you empower us to move from the ways of death to the ways of new life through your love and inspiration. Help us now to hear your message in the midst of Holy Scripture. We pray for understanding in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Reading: Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people who had gathered there that day were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved - with you, I am well pleased.'

**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 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!**

**Message:** “Affirmed by Love”

**Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer**

**Offering Invitation:** In gratitude for all that God has done for us, let us present to God all that are and all that we have to offer - so that God's hopes and dreams for our church and for the world can become reality through us. Let us have 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:**

**Gracious God, accept now these gifts of our offerings and of ourselves – given for your use. May all that we present this day become a blessing to others in the days yet to come. Amen.**

**\* Hymn: # 83, “Go My Children With My Blessing”**

**\* Benediction:** God calls us to continue the work of Jesus – to teach and heal and show mercy to all people. May God's Spirit rest within you and go with you into the world. Let us go forth ready to serve our Lord and become a blessing to all those whom we meet to his glory. 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!**

**\* Postlude Music**