St. Vincent UCC Worship Service
Thanksgiving Sunday – Nov. 22, 2026



Service will be followed by our Annual Congregational Meeting
Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson
Church Musician – Deb Rick

Musical Interlude
Ringing of the Church Bell Welcome
Prelude Music

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: Let us come before God this day with expectant hearts, waiting for something good to happen to us here.
People: We come, wanting to know God more fully. Our hearts are hungry and we long to have them filled with God's Spirit.
Pastor: Let us open our hearts to God, letting his seeds of love become planted within us, so that we might grow in faith and fellowship.
People: We welcome God's Spirit into our presence and into our hearts, as we gather now to worship him.
Pastor: Let us begin this worship time by joining our voices together in saying our affirmation of faith …

*** Affirmation of Faith:**
We gather in this sanctuary because here we find our home with God. We know that God is calling us to go forth from here to create a holy sanctuary of his love and light in the world through what we say and do. We are here to become closer to God, be strengthened by his Holy Spirit, and to celebrate that God loves us without condition – but simply because we are his. May God be with us in this hour of worship and throughout our whole lives. Amen.

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: "We Gather Together"** - see insert

Please Be Seated.

Call To Prayer: When we put God first in our lives and we allow the Holy Spirit to lead the way rather than our own desires, then a 'rightness' will fill our days and we will know ourselves better and be able to serve God more faithfully. Let us join our voices together in our prayer.

Prayer: Merciful God, help us to let go of the need to control everything and put ourselves into your care, trusting in your spirit to guide us. Help us to see our lives from your perspective rather than our own limited views. Help us to open our hearts and minds to your will and follow your ways all the days of our lives. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance: Through God's mercy, we receive the blessings of new life and new opportunities. Let us honor God by living into this 'newness' with joy and gratitude as we 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 – Suzi Clark

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 31-46 where Jesus explains to us the difference between sheep and goats.

Let us pray: Holy God, bless us now as we hear what it means to be a sheep or a goat and help us to choose wisely as to which we want to be. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Read Scripture Lesson (found on page 29 of the NT in Pew Bible)

One day Jesus was teaching among a crowd of gathered people and he said to them: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep
at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then he will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, and inherit the kingdom. It has been prepared for you from the foundation of the world because when I was hungry, you gave me food; and when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I was a stranger, you welcomed me; and when I was naked, you gave me clothing. When I was sick, you took care of me; and when I was in prison, you visited me there.

The sheep will question him, saying, 'Lord, when was it that we did these things for you?' And he answered them, saying, 'Truly I tell you, whenever you did these things to someone who needed your help, you did them for me.'

Then he will turn to those at his left hand and say to them, 'You that have been unkind and uncaring – you are worthless to God's good plan. Depart from here for you are good for nothing. When I was hungry, you gave me no food; and when I was thirsty, you gave me nothing to drink. When I was a stranger, you did not welcome me; and you did nothing for me when I was naked, sick, and in prison.

The goats will ask him, 'Lord, when was it that you needed us and we did not take care of you?' And he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, whenever you have failed to do for another one who was in need, you failed to do so for me.

Then, he sent those goats away out of his sight. But he gathered the sheep even closer to himself so that they might enjoy eternal life in his kingdom."

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 together our middle hymn, # 423 "Great is your Faithfulness"

Hymn: # 423 "Great Is Your Faithfulness"

Message: "Thankful For … "

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.

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Sung Response: # 2215, "Cares Chorus"

Offering Invitation: We are blessed by God so that we are able to live as a blessing to others. Let us then return to God a portion of those blessings in the form of 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:**

Holy God, in gratitude for all that you've done for us, we dedicate these offerings for your purpose in our lives and in the world. Bless them to your use in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*** Hymn: # 419 "Now Thank We All Our God"**

*** Benediction:**

Let us go forth with the spirit of Thanksgiving in our hearts, on our lips, and in our acts of kindness. May the blessings of our God be with you always and may what you say and do be the reason all the days of your life that others give thanks to God too. Go in peace and serve the Lord. Amen.

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

*** Postlude Music**

Please remain seated for the annual Congregational Meeting.