

St. Vincent UCC Worship Service

Discipleship Sunday August 17, 2025

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson

Church Musician – Deb Rick

Musical Interlude

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude Music

Let us rise for our Call to Worship

*** Call To Worship:**

Pastor: Our loving God created all things and all people and declared that all of it is good.

People: **We thank you, O God, for creating us in your image and making us new every day so that we can reflect your goodness in all that we say and do to your greater glory.**

Pastor: Let us show our gratitude to God as we now affirm our faith using these words ...

Affirmation of Faith:

We are the people of God – his hands and heart and voices on the earth in this time and place. We are brothers and sisters in Christ - evidence of God's continued presence in the world. We believe in our God, we believe in God's goodness, and the power of God's love. We believe in Christ and his presence in our lives, and that we will recognize Christ in one another. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who moves among God's people and inspires us to bring God's reign more fully into our world. We are the people of God and we believe that our church is part of God's eternal plan. May all that we say and do help to fulfill God's hopes and dreams for us and the world in which we live. Amen.

Now, let us sing together our first hymn.

*** Hymn: # 386, "The Church's One Foundation" (vs. 1,2,4)**

Please Be Seated.

Call To Prayer:

God is here – come to meet us in this time of worship - to nourish and lead us forward to do his work in our own time and place. Let us open our hearts and minds to God as we pray together about that ...

Unison Prayer:

Holy One, though the first disciples did not always understand the ways of Jesus, they put their trust in him and dared to follow as best they could. We also want to follow his ways of love. So, we ask for your help to be daring disciples as well. Help strengthen our faith and guide us in all that we say and do – for we long to please you and fulfill your plans for the world. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance:

God calls us and empowers us to share his love with others. We belong to God now and always – let us, then, delight in doing his will for the sake of good for all people. With joy, let us sing our response together ...

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: Kathy Strahan

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 12, verses 49-56 where Jesus talks about becoming a daring disciple for him.

Let us pray: Gracious God, be with us in this reading of your Holy Scripture – so that we might grow in the hearing and reflection. Amen.

Reading: Luke 12: 49-56

Jesus was talking with his followers about being faithful and daring disciples on his behalf and said, “I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed!

Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son, and son against father; mother against daughter, and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

And he also said this about interpreting the time to those gathered there, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens.

You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? Why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?”

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, # 507, “Jesus - the Very Thought to Me” We are singing verses 1, 3, & 5.

Hymn: # 507, “Jesus, the Very Thought to Me” (vs. 1, 3, 5)

Message: “Becoming a Daring Disciple for Jesus”

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Offering Invitation: God has blessed us with good things, and we are called to bless others as well. Let us begin by giving back to God a portion of what he has given us in the form of 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:**

O God, accept this offering of your people, remembering in love those who have brought it and those for whom it is given. Follow it with your blessing that it may promote peace and goodwill among all people, in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

*** Hymn: # 436, “God of Grace and God of Glory” (vs. 1,3,5)**

*** Benediction:**

May Christ so dwell within each one of us that we will go forth from this time of worship to truly be his disciples and bring glory to God in all that we say and do. 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**