

# **VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

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**vancechurch.org**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

January 05, 2025 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



### **Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:**

Jeremiah 31:7-14 ~ Psalm 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14 ~ John 1:(1-9); 10-18

**Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
is a welcoming, active, community-oriented,  
theologically Reformed congregation  
where all people are celebrated and valued  
as we worship the Triune God, engage in mission,  
and serve our community and beyond.**

# **Gathering around God's Word**

PRELUDE

CHIMES

*LET THE CHILDREN COME*

GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL to WORSHIP (Jeremiah 31)

**Liturgist:** For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

**All: Proclaim, give praise, and say 'Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.'**

**Liturgist:** See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

**All: Among them the blind<sup>i</sup> and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together;**

**Liturgist:** A great company, they shall return here.

**All: With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back.**

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, you have filled us with the light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of faith shine in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

⌘ OPENING HYMN of PRAISE

*The First Nowell, GtG 147*

CONFESSION and time of self-examination (Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-16) *(congregation may be seated)*

**Leader:** Wisdom delivers a holy people from a nation of oppressors. She enters the soul of a servant of the Lord, withstanding dread kings with wonders and signs. As we confess that our strivings for Holy wisdom fall short, we lament the oppression of the nations. As we confess that we don't always act as though our servant souls are imbued by God's wisdom, we lament the power of dread kings. Let us offer, therefore, prayers of lament and confession.

**All:** (Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-16) **Redeem your world, O Lord. We lament the destruction caused by worldly rulers extending their power through force. We lament the ways that the tendrils of oppression have taken hold among your people, your creation. Redeem your people, O Lord. Too often, we fail to act in ways that reflect your love. Too often, we fail to speak your truth. When it is easier for us to do nothing, help us act. When it is easier for us to say nothing, give us words to speak. Turn us away from sin, liberate us from the grasp of oppression, and lead us towards new life in Christ.**

## SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

### SUNG RESPONSE

*Lord, Have Mercy, GtG 551*

### DECLARATION OF PARDON (John 1:16)

Leader: The Gospel of John reminds us that “from Christ’s fullness, we have all received grace upon grace.” Hear this good news with joy: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and, in Him, all things are being made new.  
All: Amen.

### ⌘ GLORIA PATRI

*Glory Be to the Father, GtG 581*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

### ⌘ PASSING the PEACE of CHRIST

May the Peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you!**

## **Encountering God’s Word**

### ⌘ SONG of ILLUMINATION

*We Three Kings of Orient Are, GtG 151*

### **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

(Preschool-aged children are dismissed to the nursery)

### **THE ANTHEM**

*We Are Singing, for the Lord Is Our Light*

A TRADITIONAL ZULU SONG

Choral Arrangement by Hal H. Hopson

#### *REFRAIN:*

We are singing, for the Lord is our light,  
we are singing, for the Lord is our light.  
We are singing, for the Lord is our light,  
we are singing, for the Lord is our light.

We are singing,  
Oh, we are singing, for the Lord is our light.

We are singing,  
Oh, we are singing, for the Lord is our light.

1. The Lord is the strength of our lives; of whom shall we be afraid?  
Though foes may be near to destroy; the Lord will be our light.
2. One thing have we asked of the Lord, yes, this is the thing we seek:  
To dwell in the house of the Lord: to live with God forever.
3. When burdens are heavy to bear, our shelter is God alone.  
Our feet are lifted high; yes, high upon a rock.
4. We walk in the strength of the Lord, God’s love is ever sure.  
We shout that the world may hear, we sing a joyful song.

The SCRIPTURE

HEBREW TESTAMENT READING:

Isaiah 60:1-6

NEWER TESTAMENT READING:

Matthew 2:1-12

The Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God!**

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Erica L. Harley

**Responding to God's Word**

⌘ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (The Apostle's Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and life everlasting. Amen.**

⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION

*What Child Is This*, **GtG 145**

⌘ INVITATION to the OFFERING (Ephesians 1:3-4)

**Leader:** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love." We respond to the gifts that God has given us with gratitude and by using our gifts in service to God and neighbor. Giving thanks to God, let us collect our tithes and offerings.  
*(congregation may be seated)*

THE OFFERTORY

*Born to Be the Bread*

Words and Music by Ruth Elaine Schram

Thinking back upon Your humble birth;  
such an unpretentious entrance,  
as Your life began on earth.

Growing in wisdom as You grew to be a man;  
knowing Calv'ry loomed ahead;  
This was God's plan.

You were born to be the Bread, born to be the Bread,  
born to be the Bread of Life to my soul.

As we're partaking once again,  
once again, of the blessed Bread from Heaven,  
giving life that never ends,  
we thank You Jesus, that You came to earth for us,  
and that in this bread, this cup,

we know the depth of Your love.  
You were born to be the Bread, born to be the Bread,  
born to be the Bread of Life. Jesus, ...

You were born to be the Bread, born to be the Bread,  
born to be the Bread of Life to my soul.  
Born to be the Bread, born to be the Bread.

⌘DOXOLOGY      *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow, GtG 606*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

⌘PRAYER of DEDICATION

**We thank you for all of the spiritual and material gifts that you have given us, O Lord. We dedicate these gifts to you in gratitude and in hope for the day where all will be fed, all will be sheltered, and all will be safe. In Jesus' name, Amen.** *(congregation may be seated)*

## The SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION

### Invitation to the Lord's Table

**Leader:** This is the joyful feast of the people of God! People will come from north and south and from east and west to sit at table in the kingdom of God. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. This is the Lord's Table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast that he has prepared.

### Great Thanksgiving

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**Leader:** Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

**Leader:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Leader:** Praise to you, O God, for all your works. You created the world and called it good and made us in your image to live together in love. You made a covenant with us, and even when we turned from you, you remained ever faithful. Therefore, with all creation we sing your praise:

**All Sing:**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

### Words of Institution

**Leader:** We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this

in remembrance of me. In the same way Jesus took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you and for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

**Leader:** Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Sing: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

**Leader:** Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**All Sing: Amen, amen, amen.**

**All please join in singing.**

***The Lord's Prayer***

**Our Father, which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**But deliver us from evil;**

**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.**

**Amen, Amen.**

**Leader:** Jesus said: I am the bread of life. Jesus also said: I am the vine, you are the branches. Come to me and never be hungry; believe in me and never thirst. The gifts of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of Cup

#### Communion of the People

#### Prayer after Communion

**Leader:** God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

### Taking God's Word out, into our Worlds

⌘ CLOSING HYMN

*For Everyone Born, GtG 769*

⌘ BENEDICTION

⌘ BENEDICTION RESPONSE

VANCE CHOIR

⌘ POSTLUDE

⌘ Please stand if able.

**GtG**=Glory to God Hymnal

Songs used with CCLI License # 1223079

**10:00 a.m. Service of Worship regularly broadcast over WKWK-FM 97.3**

Today's worship service liturgy is written by Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Carrico, Jr. and provided for free distribution by *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2025.

## *AdVance Announcements*

- *Welcome to Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church, a traditional church with Spirit, serving the greater Wheeling Community and beyond! We welcome our radio congregation listening to our live worship on 97.3 WKWK-FM and to our Facebook Live congregation watching on facebook.com/VancePresbyterian. Remote listeners can go to vancechurch.org, select the "News" tab and choose "Bulletin" to follow along with a PDF of the worship service. If you ever need prayer or would like home communion, please contact the church office at 1-304-232-0980.*
- Worship guests are particularly welcome this morning. Please stop by the Welcome Center in the Narthex to receive a free gift and to leave us your contact information.
- We thank Sue Abraham for serving as liturgist today.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, January 19 immediately following the Worship Service in the Sanctuary. The deadline for reports from the Commissions and Committees is January 10 to the Church Office.
- For the month of November 2024 the Congregation supported the Church with contributions of \$13,118 which included Tithes, Offerings, Woodsdale School, and Food Pantry. For the first 11 months of 2024 our building's AVERAGE monthly repairs and maintenance expenses (excluding utilities) were \$9,998.
- Giving Envelopes for 2025 are available in the Narthex.
- If you would like to engage the services of Vance Voices of the Valley for your events, please contact Emily Wade at 304-488-6324.
- *A Concert for Christmas and Epiphany* will be held today at 3pm at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, 1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV, featuring our own Deborah Podolski Breiding on piano. Proceeds benefit Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center.

# Vance Calendar

Week of January 05, 2025 through January 12, 2025

## Sunday, January 05

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, C. E. Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Communion Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- 3pm, A Concert for Christmas and Epiphany, *Cathedral of St. Joseph*
- 6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship Group, *Robbie Clarke Room*

## Monday, January 06

- 11am, Red Cross Blood Drive, *Fellowship Hall*
- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, *Wheeler Conference Room*
- 1pm, UOVP Peacemaking Committee, *General Presbyters Office*
- **2pm, Celebrate Recovery Step Study, Pastor Erica's Office**
- 6:30pm, Cub Scouts Den Meeting, *Fellowship Hall, C. E. Classrooms, Primary Chapel, Potter Chapel*

## Tuesday, January 07

- 7pm, Scouts Troops 6 and 6000 Meeting, *Fellowship Hall & C.E. Classrooms*

## Wednesday, January 08

- **5pm, Pack the Woodsdale School Food Bags, Robbie Clarke Room**
- 6pm, Narcotics Anonymous, *C.E. Chapel*
- 7pm, Jr. League, *JL 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Room*

## Thursday, January 09

- **5pm, Community Dinner, Fellowship Hall**
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery, Merriman Chapel**

## Friday, January 10

- **Annual Reports due to the Church Office**

## Saturday, January 11

- 8:30pm, Alcoholic's Anonymous, *Fellowship Hall*

## Sunday, January 12

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, C.E. Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service with Ordination/Installation of New Officers, Sanctuary**

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**Vance Church events are in bold type.**

Vance Church also houses the offices of Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery, Young Life, Junior League, Harmony House, and Wishing Well Learning Center.

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<sup>i</sup> Despite the antiquated language, scholar Amos Yong cites this section of Jeremiah in *The Bible, Disability, and the Church: A New Vision of the People of God* as one of several "eschatological images [that] declare the flourishing of all people not because the blind are given sight or the lame are physically cured, but because YHWH has removed the barriers that segregate temporarily able-bodied people from those with disabilities and has eliminated the social stigma attached to disabilities."