

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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1st Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

Genesis 9:8-17 ~ Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22 ~ Mark 1:9-15

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

GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign and pass the fellowship pad to the inside aisle.

PREPARATION for WORSHIP

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God, GtG 423

CALL to WORSHIP

Liturgist: People of the covenant: God does not remember us according to our sins and transgressions.

All: God remembers us according to God's own steadfast love!

Liturgist: The God of our salvation teaches us right paths and leads us in truth.

All: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness; we put our trust in God.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, you have made covenant with us and with every living creature. We give thanks for the sign of the rainbow, for it reminds you and us of your promise: that the flood of destruction will not be the last word. We thank you, too, for the waters of baptism, the sign that we are raised as children of the covenant; through Jesus Christ our Lord. And we thank you for the sign of the dove, the promise of your Holy Spirit. Hovering over the dawn of creation, descending upon your beloved Son, your spirit also hovers over and descends upon us. With the whole creation, we give you all the glory and honor. In your triune name we pray. Amen.

⌘OPENING HYMN of PRAISE

The Glory of These Forty Days, GtG 165

CONFESSION and time of self-examination *(congregation may be seated)*

God's bow has been hung in the clouds—a unilateral disarmament in spite of sin. God remains faithful to the covenant of steadfast love, even when we are unfaithful. Without fear, then we confess our sins.

God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession. We do not live according to your ways, but according to our own. We condone violence, participate in systems of injustice and use power to our own advantage at the expense of others. Forgive us, we pray, when we are tempted to follow paths other than those you set before us. Teach us your commandments; help us to turn from evil in its many guises, and turn us toward your kingdom drawing near. In covenantal love, remember us, we pray, and be for us, once more and always, an ark of safety and new life. In Christ's name we pray.

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE *Jesus, Remember Me, GtG 227*

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Liturgist: As Noah and his family were brought safely through the flood onto dry ground, so in baptismal waters we are brought from death into new life in Christ. Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, forgives us and reconciles us and all things in heaven and on earth. Thanks be to God for this good news!

All: Thanks be to God. 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 *When We Are Tested, GtG 783*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The ANTHEM

Wade in the Water

A TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL arranged by Mark Hayes

Wade in the water
Wade in the water, children
Wade in the water
God's gonna trouble the water

"...repent, and believe in the good news."
~ Mark 1:15

"Wade in the Water" was first published in *New Jubilee Songs as Sung by the Jubilee Singers* (1901). It is associated with the songs of the Underground Railroad. Sources indicate that Harriet Tubman used the song to instruct fugitive slaves to trudge through the water to make sure that the dogs chasing them would lose their trail.

The SCRIPTURE
HEBREW TESTAMENT READING:

Genesis 9:8-17

GOSPEL READING:

Mark 1:9-15

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

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Erica L. Harley

Responding to God's Word

⌘ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Shorter Catechism 7.087

Question 87: What is repentance unto life?

Answer: Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of their sin, and of the mercy of God in Christ, does, with grief and hatred of their sin, turn from it toward God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me, GtG 775

⌘ INVITATION to the OFFERING

Leader: Because we believe that in Jesus Christ, God's time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near, we respond in tangible ways. By doing acts of justice and compassion and by sharing our resources, we bear witness to the good news of the gospel. The offering is received in gratitude to God. *(congregation may be seated)*

The OFFERTORY

He Never Said a Mumblin' Word

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL

Arranged by Moses Hogan

Please refer to GtG 219.

⌘ PRAYER of DEDICATION

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, we are humbled as we try to do what is right and to walk in your ways. Receive, we ask, these offerings, and use them for your own good purposes in the church and in all creation. We pray in Jesus Christ. Amen.

(congregation may be seated)

MORNING PRAYER & OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who 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!**

Taking God's Word out, into our Worlds

⌘ CLOSING HYMN

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days, GtG 166

The LENTEN WREATH and a SERVICE of DIMINISHING LIGHT

On this First Sunday in Lent

ALL please sing:

*Just as I Am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come.*

⌘ BENEDICTION

⌘ BENEDICTION RESPONSE

VANCE CHOIR

⌘ POSTLUDE

⌘ Please stand if able.

GtG=Glory to God Hymnal

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

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Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, 2014.

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. Radio 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
- If you are visiting with us today, please fill out the friendship pad in the pew rack so that we may obtain your contact information. Members need not fill out the friendship pads until the pandemic precautions have passed.
- Hearing devices and large print hymnals are available at the Welcome Center in the Narthex. Inquire with an usher and they will assist you.
- Masks, glove, and hand sanitizer is available at the Welcome Center in the Narthex.
- Attendance in worship last Sunday was 40.
- Giving for the month of January was \$19,334.49.
- There will be a Deacon's meeting Sunday, February 21, 2021 at 11:15pm.
- Appalachian Outreach is seeking volunteers to help escort people for their vaccinations. The volunteers will help people get out of their cars and to the vaccination area, usher them to and monitor them at the nurses' station, and escort them back to their cars. Anyone interested please call Rose Hart at 1-304-845-2762.
- Adult, children and youth Lenten devotionals from the Christian Education Commission are available at the Narthex at the Welcome Center.
- Wednesday, February 24th at 6:00 pm – Bible Study Session 1: Bethany. This Bible Study will be done by ZOOM. Join Zoom Meeting by putting the URL address below in your search engine.
<https://zoom.us/j/9280826986?pwd=aVVmUENFT3dLbHVpcm9aQ1hma0NYZ09>
Meeting ID: 928 082 6986 Passcode: Vance0980
Join us for the Places of the Passion special service for Week 1 of Lent, as we follow in the footsteps of our Savior, contemplating the places where Jesus stood on his path to salvation. In this service we go to Bethany to remember that Jesus is anointed for burial by his friends Mary, at her home in this small town. We are called to prepare our hearts for Christ's death as well, while still looking toward the fragrant surprise of the empty tomb.