

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

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vancechurch.org

5th Sunday of Lent

March 26, 2023 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

Ezekiel 37:1-14 ~ Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11 ~ John 11:1-45

**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

HYMN PRELUDE

Hymn of Promise, GtG 250

CHIMES

GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PREPARATION for WORSHIP

Christ Beside Me, GtG 702

CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: We gather to worship God.

People: **God who makes bones dance.**

Leader: God who calls Lazarus from the grave.

People: **God who forgives us and gives us hope.**

OPENING PRAYER

As we gaze across your world, O God, we wonder where we fit in. Where would you have us be, O God? What would you have us do? Give us the courage to live the reality of the resurrection. Give us the courage to witness to new life. Give us the courage to step into your created world with your words of prophecy, with the courage to believe that you call us and guide us. Amen.

⌘OPENING HYMN of PRAISE

Let Us Build a House, GtG 301

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

Leader: If the Lord marked our iniquities, we could not stand. But there is forgiveness with God. In trust and faith, let us offer our confessions to God.

All: Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord. Hear our voices and let your ears be attentive to the voice of your supplications. We come into your presence confessing our sins, aware we have behaved in ways that are contrary to your desire for our living. We come into your presence aware that too often we allow lifelessness to gain the upper hand. We come into your presence aware that we put our trust in our own abilities. Forgive us, O God. Infuse us with your life-giving spirit. Breathe into us and make us come alive.

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE

In Deepest Night, GtG 785

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Liturgist: Hope in the Lord!

All: With the Lord, there is steadfast love.

Liturgist: With God, there is great power to redeem.

All: Thanks be to God who redeems us from all our iniquities. Amen!

⌘ PASSING the PEACE of CHRIST

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. Please greet your neighbor in love.

Encountering God's Word

⌘ SONG of ILLUMINATION

Somebody's Knocking at Your Door, **GtG 728**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The ANTHEM

Lord of the Dance

Also known as *I Danced in the Morning*

Words by Sydney Carter

19th Century Shaker Tune adapted by Sydney Carter

Choral Setting by Don Hart

Lyrics may be found at **GtG 157**.

The SCRIPTURE

NEWER TESTAMENT READING:

Romans 8:6-11

GOSPEL READING:

John 11:1-45

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

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Erica L. Harley

Responding to God's Word

⌘ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *A Declaration of Faith*

Jesus announced the coming of God's kingdom and its hidden presence amid the world's kingdoms. He taught his disciples to seek God's kingdom first. We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives in pilgrimage toward God's kingdom. Like Christ, we may enjoy on our journey all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful. No more than Christ we are spared the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world. We are in the world, but not of the world. Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world, but in the coming and hidden presence of God's kingdom. Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom: to serve as he has served us; to take up our cross, risking the consequences of faithful discipleship; to walk by faith, not by sight, to hope for what we have not seen.

⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION

Woman in the Night, GtG 161

⌘ INVITATION to the OFFERING

Leader: We bring before God gifts of gratitude in response to God's gift of breath, life and wholeness. *(congregation may be seated)*

The OFFERTORY

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Adapted and Arranged by Ed Lojeski

Refer to GtG 835.

PRAYER of DEDICATION

Good and gracious God, may these gifts be one of the ways your life giving presence is experienced in our community. Use this money and use us to give hope to the hopeless, wholeness to the broken and fullness to the hungry. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

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

Lead Me, Guide Me, GtG 740

The LENTEN WREATH and a SERVICE of DIMINISHING LIGHT

On this Fifth Sunday in Lent, ALL please sing

Verse 5 of *Amazing Grace, GtG 649.*

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

⌘ 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 John Wurster and provided for free distribution by *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2023.

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.
- Attendance in worship last Sunday was 78. Giving for the month of February was \$21,815.
- We thank Joanne Winters for serving as liturgist today.
- Fish Banks for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering are available in the Narthex at the Welcome Center. The offering will be collected on Easter Sunday.



AMAZING GRACE:
Lenten Activities at Vance Church

As part of this year's Lenten Season, Erica will be leading a study called *Amazing Grace* on Sunday mornings after worship in the Merriman Chapel. Join us!

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 7:30pm in Merriman Chapel Ash Wednesday Worship with the Imposition of Ashes—David (Psalm 51:1)

Sunday, February 26, 2023 @ 11:15am—Week 1: Isaiah of Babylon (Isaiah 6:7)

Sunday, March 5, 2023 @ 11:15am—Week 2: The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:32)

Sunday, March 12, 2023 @ 11:15am—Week 3: The Woman at the Well (John 4:13-14)

Sunday, March 19, 2023 @ 11:15am—Week 4: The Blind Man (John 9:24)

Sunday, March 26, 2023 @ 11:15am—Week 5: Paul (1 Timothy 1:15)

Sunday, April 2, 2023 @ 11:15am—Palm Sunday: Peter (John 21:15)

Friday, April 7, 2023 @ 12pm—Good Friday Worship: The Penitent Thief (Luke 23:43)

Sunday, April 9, 2023 @ 10:00am—Easter Worship: Mary Magdalene (John 20:18)

Vance Calendar

Week of March 26, 2023 through April 2, 2023

Sun. Mar. 26

- **9am, Sunday School, C.E. 2nd Floor Classrooms**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, Amazing Grace Lenten Study, Merriman Chapel**

Mon. Mar. 27

- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, *Wheeler Conference Room*
- **6pm, C.E. Commission, Robbie Clarke Room**
- 6:30pm, Cub Scouts Pack 6, *Fellowship Hall*

Tue. Mar. 28

- **10am, Staff Meeting, Erica's Office**
- 4:30pm, Women's Bible Study, *Squibb Room*
- 7pm, Boy Scouts Troop 6, *Fellowship Hall*

Wed. Mar. 29

- 6pm, Narcotics Anonymous, *C.E. Chapel*
- 7pm, Jr. League, *JL 3rd Floor Room*

Thur. Mar. 30

- 12pm, Presbytery Pastor's Bible Study, *Potter Chapel*

Fri. Mar. 31

Sat. Apr. 1

- 1pm, Birthday Party, *Fellowship Hall*
- 8:30pm, Alcoholic's Anonymous, *Fellowship Hall*

Sun. Apr. 2

- **9am, Sunday School, C.E. 2nd Floor Classrooms**
- **10am, Communion/Palm Sunday Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, Amazing Grace Lenten Study, Merriman Chapel**
- 6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship Group, *Robbie Clarke*

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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.

**Have you given your church  
a cost-of-living increase  
this year?**