

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

Church Telephone: (304) 232-0980

Fax: (304) 232-0982

vancechurch.org

Christ The King Sunday

November 23, 2025 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

Jeremiah 23:1-6 ~ Luke 1:68-79

Colossians 1:11-20 ~ Luke 23:33-43

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

CALL to WORSHIP (based on Luke 1:68-79)

Liturgist: We gather to worship God, who looks favorably on all the humans they created.

All: We sing blessings to God, who stands with us for justice and salvation.

Liturgist: We gather to worship God, who worked with many prophetic humans in every time and place.

All: We sing blessings to God, who makes faithful promises, to us and our ancestors.

Liturgist: We gather to worship God, whose tenderness we see shimmering in the breaking of dawn.

All: We sing blessings to God, who guides our feet on paths of peace.

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, you sent Jesus Christ to rule over all things, and made us servants in your kingdom. By your Spirit empower us to love the unloved, and to minister to all in need. Then at the last bring us to your eternal realm where we may worship and adore you and be welcomed into your everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

⌘OPENING HYMN of PRAISE

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!, GtG 41

CONFESSION and time of self-examination (Psalm 32:5)

(congregation may be seated)

Leader: As humans, we are all prone to error: when we are entrusted with power, we make mistakes. Let us confess together as a way of holding ourselves accountable to God and each other.

All: (based on Jeremiah 23:1-4)

O God of justice and mercy, you call us to be shepherds who gather and protect those more vulnerable than ourselves. We speak of your justice, but our actions continue to leave others scattered on the edges of society. In the name of our own safety, we shield ourselves from others, push them away with closed doors, hostile looks, and insensitive questions. Even as we protest the actions of the rich and powerful, we have still absorbed their desire for king-like power. We remain tempted by the dream of the Good Life, where goodness for some only comes at the expense of many. Raise us up, O God, from our willful ignorance; bring us back into the fold; help us shepherd

in the genuine change that reflects your just promises.

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE

Shine, Jesus, Shine, Refrain, GtG 192

DECLARATION OF PARDON (based on Jeremiah 23:5-6)

Leader: God promised to deal wisely with a scattered people who made compromised choices while living under an empire's occupation. God promised to save them by bringing justice and righteousness to the land. Hear the good news: Jesus's death and resurrection confirm God's faithful promises extended to us. God forgives and calls us to keep striving to do justice.

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** *Come, Christians, Join to Sing, GtG 267*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Preschool children are dismissed to the Nursery)

The ANTHEM

Then Sings My Soul

(How Great Thou Art)

Words and Music by Stuart K. Hine (1899-1989)

Choral Setting by Mary McDonald

For lyrics please see GtG 625.

The SCRIPTURE

OLDER TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 23:1-6

GOSPEL READING

Luke 23:33-43

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

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Peter F. Jessen

Responding to God's Word

⌘ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** (from the Belhar Confession and updated with gender-expansive language)

All: We believe in the triune God, Parent, Child, and Holy Spirit, who

gathers, protects, and cares for the church through the Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. We believe • that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people • that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor, and the wronged • that God calls the church to follow them in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry • that God frees the prisoner, supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, and blocks the path of the ungodly • that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel. To the one and only God, Parent, Child, and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION

Rejoice, the Lord Is King!, **GtG 363**

⌘ INVITATION to the OFFERING (Matthew 10:8)

Leader: "You received freely; freely, give" In celebration of God's freedom through Jesus Christ, we now give our tithes and offerings to God.

The OFFERTORY

Presented by VANCE VOICES of the VALLEY

Pilgrims' Hymn

Words by Michael Dennis Browne

Music by Stephen Paulus

Even before we call on Your name

To ask You, O God.

When we seek for the words to glorify You,

You hear our prayer.

Unceasing love, O unceasing love,

Surpassing all we know.

Glory to the Father,

And to the Son,

And to the Holy Spirit.

Even with the darkness sealing us in,

We breathe Your name,

And through all the days that follow so fast,

We trust in You.

Endless Your Grace, O endless Your Grace,

Beyond all mortal dream.

Both now and forever,

And unto ages and ages,

Amen.

⌘ 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

**Bless these gifts, God who fills our lives with joy and hope; use them
to fulfill your promises and bring your justice to all creation. 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 On, O King Eternal!, **GtG 269**

⌘BENEDICTION

⌘BENEDICTION RESPONSE

VANCE CHOIR

⌘POSTLUDE

⌘ Please stand if able.

GtG=Glory to God Hymnal

Songs used with CCLI License # 1223079

CCS License #11957

CVLI License #505495174

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

Today's worship service liturgy is written by Dr. Jimmy Hoke, 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 Frank Provance for serving as liturgist today.
- We are sponsoring 25 children from The House of the Carpenter this year for Christmas. Thank you to all who took a child's name. We have one remaining child who was chosen, but no Vance Member name listed. If you have child #121A (Akexton), please see Janice Carenbauer and/or add your name to the sign-up. **Unwrapped gifts are due to Vance Church today.**
- Next week is as follows:
 - Greeter is Jen Shearer
 - Welcome Center is Elaine Strauch
 - Ushers are Scott Winters, Zach Abraham, Ben Exley, Kevin Miller
 - Liturgist is Drew Seabright

Vance Calendar

Week of November 23, 2025 through November 30, 2025

Sunday, November 23

- **8:30am, Men's Study, Merriman Chapel**
- **9am, Children's Sunday School, C.E. Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, Fellowship Snacks, Narthex**
- **11:15am, Appalachian Christmas Project Shoebox Wrapping Party, Squibb Room**
- **11:15am, Packing Food Pantry Bags, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship, Robbie Clarke Room**

Monday, November 24

- **11am, Red Cross Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall**
- **11am, Christian Education Commission Meeting, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, Wheeler Room**
- **5pm, Nourish to Flourish, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **6:30pm, Cub Scouts Den Meeting, Fellowship Hall & CE Classrooms**

Tuesday, November 25

- **4pm, Susan Eismon Bible Study, Squibb Room**
- **7pm, Scouting America Troop 6, Fellowship Hall & CE Classrooms**

Wednesday, November 26

- **6pm, Narcotic Anonymous, Primary Chapel**
- **7pm, Scouting America Troop 6000, Fellowship Hall**
- **7pm, Junior League, Junior League Room, 3rd Floor**

Thursday, November 27 Thanksgiving

- **Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday**
- **6pm, Celebrate Recovery Small Plate & Fellowship, Narthex**
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery, Merriman Chapel**

Friday, November 28

- **Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday**

Saturday, November 29

- **7pm, Alcoholics Anonymous, Potter Chapel**

Sunday, November 30

- **8:30am, Men's Study, Merriman Chapel**
- **9am, Children's Sunday School, C.E. Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, Packing Food Pantry Bags, Food Pantry**

~~~~~

**The PASTOR and CHURCH STAFF**

**Rev. Erica L. Harley ~ Senior Pastor**

**Janet Hart ~ Clerk of Session**

**Janice Carenbauer ~ Church Office Administrator**

**Deborah Podolski Breiding ~ Director of Music**

**Jay Carenbauer ~ Head Custodian**

**Chaz Erasmus ~ Custodian**

**Keith Wilson ~ Sound, Video, and Media Coordinator**

**Michelle Harriman ~ Nursery Coordinator**

**~ MINISTERS of the CHURCH: ALL MEMBERS ~**

**MISSION PERSONNEL of OUR DIRECT CONCERN**

**Caleb and Claire (Seabright) Bermudez**

