

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

Church Telephone: (304) 232-0980

Fax: (304) 232-0982

vancechurch.org

1st Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

Isaiah 2:1-5 ~ Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14 ~ Matthew 24:36-44

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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Prepare the Way: A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by Joel Raney

CHOIR ~ LITANY ~ CANDLE LIGHTING ~ CHOIR REFRAIN

First Sunday of Advent ~ *HOPE*

Litany Response:

"Prepare the way of the Lord with hope."

CALL to WORSHIP (based on Matthew 24:36-44)

Liturgist: Keep awake. Be ready. For the Son of Man is coming.

All: Thanks be to God! We will worship and prepare.

OPENING PRAYER

Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

✠OPENING HYMN of PRAISE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, GtG 88, v. 1 & 2

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

Leader: Let us honestly examine our lives and our hearts before Christ comes. Let us turn to God in prayer to confess our sins.

All: Prince of Peace, the wars and rumors of wars betray our addiction to violence, our destructive and dehumanizing ways. We deserve your judgement and condemnation. Yet, you remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace amid our warring madness. Holy God, turn us from evil. Return us to Christ and his path of peace. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits, GtG 89, v.1

DECLARATION OF PARDON (2 Corinthians 5:17; Book of Common Worship)

Leader: "Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun." Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

All: Amen.

⌘ **GLORIA** *Angels We Have Heard on High, GtG 113 refrain*
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

⌘ **PASSING the PEACE of CHRIST**

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

Encountering God's Word

⌘ **SONG of ILLUMINATION** *Soon and Very Soon, GtG 384*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Preschool children are dismissed to the Nursery)

The ANTHEM

The World Awaits Your Coming

Words and Music by Pepper Choplin

Inspired by Isaiah 2:3-4

The world is yearning for Your peace;
we pray for hate and war to cease.
Lord, come and teach Your peaceful way;
for all the world is waiting for the day
when ev'ry conflict and divide
You'll come to judge and will decide.
Then nations will lay down their swords
and they will train for fighting no more.
We'll train to fight no more.

REFRAIN: The world awaits Your coming,
the world awaits the day.
We hear the prophet calling,
"Come prepare the way!"

The world awaits Your coming
when heaven's work is done.
So hear the people calling,
"Now let Your Kingdom come!"

Let earth receive the glorious peace.
Blessed salvation He will bring.
His throne is fixed in heav'n above
and He will reign with justice and with love.
He'll reign with justice and love.

REFRAIN...

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

The SCRIPTURE
OLDER TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 24:36-44

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

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Erica L. Harley

Responding to God's Word

⌘ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (Book of Common Worship)

All: We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You, GtG 104*

⌘ INVITATION to the OFFERING (2 Peter 3:8-15)

Leader: "All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation." Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

The OFFERTORY

Advent Hope (When Will Messiah Come?)

Words and Music by Joseph Martin

⌘ DOXOLOGY *O Come, All Ye Faithful, GtG 133 refrain*

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

⌘ PRAYER of DEDICATION

Christ calls us to live generous and grateful lives. Take these gifts we offer today, O God, and use them to the fulfillment of Christ's ministry. May these gifts help to free the captives, heal the sick, comfort the lonely, feed the hungry, heal the wounded. As Christ's hands and feet, use us too, in service to building your beloved community. 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 *Savior of the Nations, Come*, **GtG 102**

⌘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

Today's worship service liturgy is written by Teri McDowell Ott, 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 Drew Seabright for serving as liturgist today.
- Next week is as follows:
 - Greeter is Cheryl Joseph
 - Ushers are Scott Winters, Zach Abraham, Ben Exley, Kevin Miller
 - Liturgist is Karen Seabright

Vance Calendar

Week of November 30, 2025 through December 07, 2025

Sunday, November 30

- **8:30am, Men's Study, Merriman Chapel**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, NO Packing Food Pantry Bags, Robbie Clarke Room**

Monday, December 01

- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, *Wheeler Room*
- 1pm, UOVP Peacemaking Committee Meeting, *General Presbyters Office*
- **6pm, Messy Church, First Christian Church/Disciples of Christ**
- 6:30pm, Cub Scouts Den Meeting, *Fellowship Hall & CE Classrooms*

Tuesday, December 02

- **5pm, Mission Commission Meeting, Squibb Room**
- 7pm, Scouting America Troop 6, *Fellowship Hall & CE Classrooms*

Wednesday, December 03

- **12pm, Mid-Week Advent Service, Merriman Chapel**
- **4:30pm, Building & Property Commission Meeting, Wheeler Room**
- **5pm, Nourish to Flourish, Robbie Clarke Room**
- 6pm, Narcotic Anonymous, *Primary Chapel*
- **6pm, Worship & Music Commission Meeting, Squibb Room**
- 7pm, Scouting America Troop 6000, *Fellowship Hall*
- 7pm, Junior League, *Junior League Room, 3rd Floor*

Thursday, December 04

- 3pm, UOVP Executive Round Table, *UOVP Resource Center*
- 4:30pm, Vets with Guitars, *Merriman Chapel*
- 5:30pm, Girl Scout Training, *Squibb Room*
- **6pm, Celebrate Recovery Small Plate & Fellowship, Narthex**
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery, Merriman Chapel**
- 6:30pm, UOVP Committee on Ministry, *ZOOM*

Friday, December 05

Saturday, December 06

- 2pm, Party, *Fellowship Hall*
- 7pm, Alcoholics Anonymous, *Potter Chapel*

Sunday, December 07

- **8:30am, Men's Study, Merriman Chapel**
- **9am, Children's Sunday School, C.E. Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Communion Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, Packing Food Pantry Bags, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **11:30am, Sketti with Santa, Fellowship Hall**
- **3pm, Wheeling Wind Concert Band under direction of Pat Garrett, Sanctuary**
- 6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship, *Robbie Clarke Room*

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