

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Communion Sunday

1st Sunday of Advent

December 01, 2024 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

Jeremiah 33:14-16 ~ Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 ~ Luke 21:25-36

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

First Sunday in Advent: Hope

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,

Remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope (*light the first candle*)

Hear God's promise of hope from Jeremiah 33:14-16:

"The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness".

Let us pray:

Faithful God, out of death you bring life. Renew us in hope, that we may be alert to the burgeoning of Christ's advent among us.

All: God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.

⌘OPENING HYMN of PRAISE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, GTG 82

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

Leader: Preparing for Christ's coming requires honest examination of our lives and our hearts. 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 in the midst of 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)

Liturgist: 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.

⌘ SUNG RESPONSE

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 *My Lord! What a Morning, GTG 352*

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
HEBREW TESTAMENT READING:
Jeremiah 33:14-16
NEWER TESTAMENT READING:
Luke 21:25-36
The Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God!**

MORNING MESSAGE
Elder Howard Monroe

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 *In Remembrance of Me, GTG 521*

⌘ 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. (*congregation may be seated*)

The OFFERTORY
presented by VANCE VOICES of the VALLEY
Veni, veni Emmanuel
TRADITIONAL LATIN TEXT
15TH CENTURY FRENCH MELODY
Please refer to GTG 88.

⌘ SUNG RESPONSE *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 *(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: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he 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: 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: Amen, amen, amen.

ALL: please join in reciting

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 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 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*, **GTG 377**

⌘ 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 Teri McDowell Ott and provided for free distribution by *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2024.

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.
- For the month of October 2024 the Congregation supported the Church with contributions of \$32,900, which included Tithes, Offerings, Woodsdale School, Organ, and Food Pantry. For the first 10 months of 2024 the AVERAGE utility expenses were \$6,310.
- There will be no Sunday School on December 29.
- We thank Gail Looney for serving as liturgist today.
- Pastor Erica is using a Vacation Sunday today. She will return to the pulpit December 15th.
- It is not cost effective to sell poinsettias this year. If you want a poinsettia for your personal home, please purchase it on your own. We are sorry for any inconvenience.
- Advent Calendars and Devotionals are available in the Narthex for children, families, and adults.
- Christmas Family Dinner is scheduled for December 15th after the Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall. See the sign-up in the Narthex, and sign up with your favorite side dish or dessert! Ham, turkey and meatloaf, drinks and place settings provided.

Vance Calendar

Week of December 01, 2024 through December 08, 2024

Sun. Dec. 01

- **10am, Communion Worship Service, Sanctuary**

Mon. Dec. 02

- 9:30am, YWCA Parenting Class, *Robbie Clarke Room*
- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, *Wheeler Conference Room*
- 1pm, UOVP Peacemaking Committee, *Presbytery Office*
- **2pm, Celebrate Recovery Step Study, Pastor Erica's Office**
- 6:30pm, Cub Scouts Den Meeting, *Fellowship Hall & CE Classrooms*

Tue. Dec. 03

- 7pm, Boy Scouts Troop 6 Meeting, *Fellowship Hall*

Wed. Dec. 04

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

Thur. Dec. 05

- 3pm, UOVP Executive Round Table, *UOVP Resource Center*
- **4:30pm, Building & Property Commission, Wheeler Room**
- **5:30pm, Celebrate Recovery Small Plate & Fellowship, Narthex**
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery, Merriman Chapel**
- 6:30pm, UOVP Committee on Ministry, *ZOOM*

Fri. Dec. 06

Sat. Dec. 07

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

Sun. Dec. 08

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, C.E. 2nd Floor Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **9:30am, Children's Christmas Play Practice, Merriman Chapel**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- 4pm, West Liberty Christmas Concert, *Sanctuary*
- 6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship Group, *Robbie Clarke Room*

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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.