

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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First Sunday of Advent

"from Hope to Joy!": HOPE

Christmas Season: Advent through Epiphany

from Hope ... to Joy: God's Light breaking into the Darkness!

December 3, 2017 thru February 11, 2018 [Transfiguration Sunday]

December 03, 2017 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



"The questions are always more important than the answers."

Randy Pausch, *The Last Lecture*

Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

Isaiah 64:1-9 ~ Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 ~ Jeremiah 29:10-14

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 ~ **Mark 13:31-37**

The MISSION of
Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church (USA)
is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ
with everyone through Worship, Prayer,
Education, Fellowship, and Mission Outreach.

Gathering around God's Word

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Christ Be Our Light, GtG 314 v.1

CHIMES

GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Ella, John, Amber and Russ Green

The PROPHECY Candle: The Candle of HOPE

*"A Candle Is Burning"**

Please ALL join in singing.

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,

O candle of hope in December's dark night,

While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,

Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, as we enter into this Advent season, help us to remember what is truly important in our lives. In his "last lecture," Jesus instructed us to "Be aware ... keep alert ... and stay awake!" ... for the coming of The Master of the House ...

Yet we have become complacent and forget these admonitions to be mindful. Keep our eyes open to Your arrival and inspire us to live as if each day were our last day. Let our focus be on preparing our hearts and homes for your coming — not on the frenzy of shopping and decorating. Help us to slow down and enjoy the simple things in life. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

CALL to WORSHIP responsively ~from Isaiah 64:1 & Mark 13

O that God would tear open the heavens and come down!

Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God.

Be alert! Keep awake! The time is drawing near:

**The beginning of the good news of Jesus Messiah,
the Son of God.**

OPENING HYMN of PRAISE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, PH 2

The ANTHEM

Soon and Very Soon

Words & Music by Andrae Crouch; Choral Setting by Jack Schrader

Verse 1

Soon and very soon We are going to see the King
Soon and very soon We are going to see the King
Soon and very soon We are going to see the King
Hallelujah hallelujah We're going to see the King

Verse 2

No more crying there We are going to see the King
No more crying there We are going to see the King
No more crying there We are going to see the King
Hallelujah hallelujah We're going to see the King

Verse 3

No more dying there We are going to see the King
No more dying there We are going to see the King
No more dying there We are going to see the King
Hallelujah hallelujah We're going to see the King

(BRIDGE)

Should there be any rivers we must cross
Should there be any mountains we must climb
God will supply all the strength that we need
Give us grace till we reach the other side
We have come from ev'ry nation
God knows each of us by name
Jesus took His blood and washed my sins
And He washed them all away
Yes there are some of us
Who have laid down our lives
But we all shall live again on the other side

SCRIPTURE

Mark 13:31-37

~page 50 in the News Testament of our pew Bibles

³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Word of God ... **Thank be to God!**

COMMUNION MEDITATION

The Last Lecture of Jesus Messiah

Pastor John

Responding to God's Word

OFFERTORY CALL & DEDICATION PRAYER unison

~from 1 Corinthians 1:5-8

Faithful God, we thank You that Christ is being revealed in every time and place, until He comes again in the fullness of glory.

Strengthen our testimony and spiritual gifts; increase generosity in us, we pray, as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

 DOXOLOGY

The SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION ~ First Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Consecration of the Bread and Cup

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Gluten-free elements are available upon request.

HYMN MEDITATION *Communion Carol*

Words by Adam M.L. Tice; Music by Lee Dengler

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Taking God's Word out, into our Worlds

 CLOSING HYMN *Canticle of the Turning, GtG 100 v. 1*

 BENEDICTION

 BENEDICTION RESPONSE VANCE CHOIR

 POSTLUDE

 Please stand if able.

PH=Presbyterian Hymnal (Blue);

CH=Celebration Hymnal (Red)

GTG=Glory to God (screen or insert)

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

Lectionary Texts for Next Sunday's Service:

Second Sunday of Advent

December 03, 2017 @ 10:00 a.m.

Isaiah 40:1-11 ~ Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a ~ **Mark 1:1-8**

* "A Candle Is Burning" is a song by Sandra Dean (1986) and is found in Voices United, the hymn book of the United Church of Canada. The tune is "Away in A Manger" [tune: CRADLE SONG]. The words are reproduced here with permission. Sandra Dean lives in Ottawa, Canada and is Director of Music at Southminster United Church. She is delighted to share the song with you.

Advent Wreath & Candle explanation

People sometimes ask about the Advent Candle Wreath and what it means. The wreath is of course a circle, reminding us of the perfection and eternity of God.

Many wreaths are decorated with evergreen branches. The evergreen, like the circle, is a symbol of eternity — but also of mortal life. Holly is sometimes used instead of, or with, the evergreen. The sharp points of the leaves of the Holly remind us of Christ's crown of thorns. The red berries remind us of his blood. There is a story that holly berries were white until Christ's blood fell on them, causing them to be red ever since.

Christ is, of course, the light of the world, hence the candles. The candles are purple, the Liturgical color of Advent, purple signifying seasons of penitence and preparation. The Rose Candle is half-way through Advent, and is a blend of the Christ Candle, which is white, and the purple candles of Advent ... hence rose color, a reminder that we are half-way to Christ's birth, and the rose, which is a symbol of Christ!

The Sequence of candles and Texts this year are:
Hope, Love, Joy & Peace: Prophecy sustains our Hope; the Love of God in the Holy Family; the Joy of worship and the gifts of the Magi; and the Angelic proclamation of Peace to the shepherds.

Prayers for use beyond our walls:

Morning Prayer ~from Psalm 80:3

Thank you, God, for the gift of life today. I give thanks that your face shines upon me—for you are my salvation. Lead me like a shepherd through this day. Strengthen me for whatever lies ahead. Grant me the spiritual gifts of peace, patience, kindness, and gentleness, for I want to show your love, in word and deed, to others. In Christ's name. Amen.

Evening Prayer ~from Mark 13: 37 & Isaiah 64:8

Though you have told us to keep awake, O God, you have also blessed us with rest and sleep. Grant me such rest in the hours ahead that I awaken with eager longing for a new day, ready for you to be revealed in mundane moments and ordinary encounters. By your grace prepare me, whether awake or asleep, to greet you: in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn. All times are in your hands, and I, too, am in your hands, faithful God. In Jesus' name I rest and pray. Amen.

2017 CHURCH DIRECTORY

Clerk of Session	Julie Squibb
President of the Board of Deacons	Russ Green
Church Treasurer	Paul Limbert
Chairperson of Building and Property Commission	Ted Owens
Chairperson of Christian Education Commission	Jill Flanagan
Chairperson of Worship & Music Commission	Howard Monroe
Chairperson of Missions Commission	Carol Obermann
Chairperson of Personnel Committee	Beth Ann Dague
Chairpersons of Hospitality	Sue Abraham, Rowena Baker, Carol Myers
Chairperson of Finance Committee	Jeremy McCamic
Chairperson of Nominating Committee	Scott Winters
Chairperson of Stewardship Committee	Jay Frey
Chairperson of Strategic Planning Committee	Jay Frey, Phil Polack
Moderator of Presbyterian Women	Virginia Dulany

SESSION

2017	2018	2019
Jill Flanagan	Jay Frey	Beth Ann Dague
Jeremy McCamic	Howard Monroe	Ted Owen
Phil Polack	Carol Obermann	Geri Sloane
Bettie Steele	<i>vacancy</i>	Scott Winters

DEACONS

2017	2018	2019
Diane Crowl	Kathy Hannan	Ann Bopp
Russ Green	Michael Hires	Marjorie Easton
Janet Hart	Louise Limbert	Carol Myers
Amy Mead	Joanne Winters	Karen Seabright

Congregational Nominating Committee for 2017

Elder Scott Winters (chair), Elder Geri Sloane, Deacon Michael Hires, Penny Kenamond, Jeanne Finstein and Danna Tyska

MISSION PERSONNEL of OUR DIRECT CONCERN

Caleb & Claire (Seabright) Bermudez

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

The PASTOR and CHURCH STAFF

Rev. John Oerter ~ **Transitional Pastor**
 Jane Schockey ~ **Church Administrator/C.E. Director**
 Deborah Podolski Breiding ~ **Organist and Choir Director**
 Russ Brown ~ **Head Custodian**
 Jay Carenbauer ~ **Custodian**
 Evan Smith ~ **Sound, Lighting & Visual Coordinator**