

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

Zephaniah 3:14-20 ~ Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7 ~ Luke 3:7-18

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

Third Sunday in Advent: Joy

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)*

We light this candle for peace. *(Light the second candle)*

We light this candle for joy! *(Light the third (pink, if used) candle.)*

To those who live as exiles from home in a dark time, to those enslaved as exiles due to others' oppression, to those who are sin's exiles from their best God-promised selves, the Lord speaks the joy of good news. A reading from Zephaniah 3:14-20.

Office of Theology and worship Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Reader 1:

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.

Reader 2:

"I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes," says the LORD.

Let us pray: (Isaiah 12:2-4, Philippians 4:4)
Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust and not be afraid,
for the LORD is my strength and my might;
God has become my salvation.
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
And you will say in that day:
Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I say, Rejoice!
Sing praises to the LORD, for God has done gloriously!

⌘OPENING HYMN of PRAISE *Away in a Manger*, **GtG 114**

Encountering God's Word

The Vance Children's Christmas Program

Stellar Christmas, Shine Jesus' Light

Written by Group Publishing

With participation from The Vance Church Kidz

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Responding to God's Word

⌘INVITATION to the OFFERING

Leader: With gratitude for God's faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us bring our gifts to God.

⌘ 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

O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, our coming Lord. 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 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*, **GtG 123**

⌘ BENEDICTION

⌘ 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*, 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.
- We thank Frank Provance for serving as liturgist today.
- There will be no Adult, Youth, or Children Sunday School on December 29.
- Advent Calendars and Devotionals remain available in the Narthex for children, families, and adults.
- Christmas Family Dinner is today after the Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall.
- For the month of November 2024 the Congregation supported the Church with contributions of \$13,118 which included Tithes, Offerings, Woodsdale School, and Food Pantry. For the first 11 months of 2024 our building's AVERAGE monthly repairs and maintenance expenses (excluding utilities) were \$9,998.
- Do you know how easy, safe, and convenient it is to use our new E-giving for your tithes or offerings? Very easy indeed! Just go to the church website www.vancechurch.org and click on the "GIVE" button on the front page. A new page will "pop-up" with a giving form you can fill out with your offering amount and payment method. You can make one-time gifts or set-up recurring gifts that will automatically withdraw from your bank account. Tithing is the foundation of giving and E-giving makes it easy to give whenever the Holy Spirit moves you toward generosity.

Vance Calendar

Week of December 15 through December 22, 2024

Sun. Dec. 15

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, CE Building, 2nd Floor Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **9:30am, Children's Christmas Program Practice, Merriman Chapel**
- **10am, Worship Service with Children's Christmas Program, Sanctuary**
- **11:30am, Congregational Christmas Dinner, Fellowship Hall**
- **6pm, Youth Group, Robbie Clarke Room**

Mon. Dec. 16

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

Tue. Dec. 17

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

Wed. Dec. 18

- **5pm, Pack the Bags for Woodsdale School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- 6pm, Narcotics Anonymous, *Fellowship Hall*
- 7pm, Jr. League, *Junior League Room, 3rd Floor*

Thur. Dec. 19

- 11am, YWCA Christmas Luncheon, *Fellowship Hall*
- **5pm, Celebrate Recovery Small Plate & Fellowship, Narthex**
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery, Merriman Chapel**
- 6:30pm, PEO Meeting, *Robbie Clarke Room*

Fri. Dec. 20

Sat. Dec. 21

- 6pm, NA Holiday Party, *Fellowship Hall*
- 8:30pm, Alcoholic's Anonymous, *Potter Chapel*

Sun. Dec. 22

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, C E Building 2nd Floor Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service, 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.