

# VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2024 ▪ 7:00 p.m.



### **Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:**

Isaiah 9:2-7 ~ Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14 ~ Luke 2:1-14

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**

NARTHEX CAROLS: VANCE VOICES of the VALLEY

## **PRELUDE: STRING QUARTET**

Dena Miller, violin; Ben Podolski, violin  
Derek Pavlic, viola; Molly Williams, cello

### *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Gustav Holst, arranged by Thomas Quigley  
*Please refer to GtG 144.*

## **PREPARATION for WORSHIP**

VANCE VOICES of the VALLEY and STRING QUARTET

### *Christmas Night*

Melody from Arbeau's *Orchésographie* (1588)  
Words and arrangement by John Rutter

Softly through the winter's darkness shines a light,  
Clear and still in Bethlehem on Christmas Night  
Round the stable where a virgin mother mild  
Watches over Jesus Christ the holy child.

Shepherds kneel in adoration by his bed;  
Seraphim in glory hover round his head.  
Wisemen, guided by the leading of a star,  
Bring him gifts of precious treasure from afar.

Choirs of angels sing to greet his wondrous birth:  
Christ our Lord in human form comes down to earth.  
"Glory to God in highest heav'n" their joyful strain:  
"Peace on earth, goodwill to men" the glad refrain.

Lullaby! The child lies sleeping: sing lullaby!  
Safe in Mary's tender keeping: sing lullaby!  
Guardian angels keep their watch till break of day:  
Lullaby! Sweet Jesus sleeps among the hay.

Alleluia! Let the earth rejoice today!  
Christ is born to take our sins and guilt away.  
Praise the Lord who sent him down from heav'n' above:  
Holy infant, born of God the Father's love.

## **GREETINGS**

### **ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

**We have watched; we have waited**

**in hope.** (light the first candle)

**for peace.** (light the second candle)

**in joy!** (light the third (pink) candle.)

**with love.** (light the fourth candle)

**Now our redemption draws near!** (The Christ Candle (center white) is lit)

Hear the Word of the Lord from Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has  
shined.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;

They rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors

and all the garments rolled in blood

shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son is given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,

and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with

righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Glory to God in the highest!

Alleluia! Amen!

⌘ OPENING HYMN of PRAISE    *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, **GtG 133**

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

The angels proclaim good news for all. Let us confess the sins that  
keep us from glorifying and enjoying our God.

**Gracious God, you call us to celebrate, yet we struggle to find  
hope in the suffering and despair of our world. What reason is  
there to rejoice? We turn from each other and from you,  
questioning the power of love in the face of the world's  
cruelty and hate. Comfort your people, sovereign God. Return  
us to the faith born this night. Save us from hopelessness.  
May the promise and possibility of every newborn child  
remind us of the salvation we have in Jesus Christ.**

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE                    *Away in a Manger*, **GtG 115 (v 3)**

## DECLARATION OF PARDON

**Liturgist:** "The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting." (Psalm 103:17) 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 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*, **GtG 128**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### An ANTHEM for ALL

*O Holy Night!:* CANTIQUE DE NOEL

Lyrics: John S. Dwight; Music: Adolphe C. Adam

**The Celebration Hymnal 285, verses 1 and 3**

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall be break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;  
Let all within us praise His holy name!  
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!  
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!  
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

### The SCRIPTURE

HEBREW TESTAMENT READING:

Psalm 24

GOSPEL READING:

Luke 2:1-14

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

# The Christmas Message

Rev. Erica L. Harley

## **Responding to God's Word**

⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION    *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, **GtG 121**

⌘ INVITATION to the OFFERING

**Leader:** In gratitude for the gift of Christ our Savior, let present our tithes and offerings to God. *(congregation may be seated)*

### The OFFERTORY

*Messiah*

Words and Music by Jeff Pardo, Francesca Battistelli and Molly Reed  
Arranged by Heather Sorenson

⌘ SONG                    *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

**Emmanuel, in gratitude for the gift of your presence with and among us, we present these offerings to you. Accept and bless these gifts so that they might spread the joy of Christmas to others. Amen.** *(congregation may be seated)*

PASTORAL PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

## **Taking God's Word out, into our Worlds**

*Let There Be Peace on Earth*

Words and Music by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God as our Father, fam'ly all are we.  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.  
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.  
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow:  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!  
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

⌘ SHARING THE LIGHT    *Silent Night, Holy Night!*, **GtG 122**

With Vance Mazure as guitarist

*Individuals should tip their candles into the lit candle  
and pass the Light of Christ to their neighbors.*

## ⌘BENEDICTION: BLESSING AND CHARGE

May the God of glory, the Word of life, and the Spirit of truth bless you all, now and forever. Go forth in peace and joy!

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## ⌘BENEDICTION RESPONSE & POSTLUDE

*Joy to the World!*, **GtG 134**

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*, 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
- Do you know how easy, safe, and convenient it is to use our new E-giving for your tithe or offering? Very easy indeed! Just go to the church website [www.vancechurch.org](http://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.
- If you would like to engage the services of Vance Voices of the Valley for your events, please contact Emily Wade at 304-488-6324.