

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

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1st Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2024 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

Genesis 9:8-17 ~ Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22 ~ Mark 1:9-15

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

PREPARATION for WORSHIP

As the Deer, GtG 626

CALL to WORSHIP (based on Psalm 25)

Liturgist: O God, in you we trust.

All: Lead us in your truth and teach us,

Liturgist: for you are the God of our salvation;

All: for you we wait, for you we worship.

OPENING PRAYER

God of grace, help us seek you and the truth you intend for us today. Let us not be distracted by worldly pursuits or pleasures.

Help us to focus our hearts and minds on you and your Word read and proclaimed. Amen.

⌘ OPENING HYMN of PRAISE

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days, GtG 166

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

Leader: We pause here to examine our lives, our temptations, and the ways we have fallen short before our God. Let us confess our sins together.

All: Gracious God, as we begin this Lenten wilderness journey with Jesus, we confess our neglect of you and our faith. We make idols of nation, money and power. We build walls instead of better relationships. We fail to follow Jesus to the poor, the destitute, the stranger. Empty us this Lent, Holy God. Guide us in our faith so we can leave this wilderness season in right relationship with you.

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE

Create in Me a Clean Heart, GtG 422

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: Remember and receive these hopeful words from John 8:31-32, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." Receive God's truth. Receive God's grace. Accept the freedom God provides.

All: Amen.

⌘ PASSING the PEACE of CHRIST

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

Encountering God's Word

⌘ SONG of ILLUMINATION *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*, **GtG 775**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Preschool-aged children are dismissed to the nursery)

The ANTHEM

Hope of the World

Incorporating *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

Words and Arrangement by Lloyd Larson

Hope of the world, help to the helpless; a humble Servant, Savior, Friend;
God's only Son, sent to redeem us; hosannas ring praise without end.

Amazing love! How great a Savior! Christ comes to set the captive free.
A love beyond all comprehension, the grace of God for all to see.
Amazing love for you and me!

Jesus walked this lonesome valley, He had to walk it by Himself;
O, nobody else could walk it for Him; He had to walk it by Himself.

Jesus walked this lonesome valley, despised, rejected and alone.
He carried our sorrows, griefs and burdens. He had to bear them all alone.
Jesus bore them all alone.

Amazing love! How great a Savior! Christ comes to set the captive free.
A love beyond all comprehension, the grace of God for all to see.
Amazing love for you and me!

The SCRIPTURE

HEBREW TESTAMENT READING:

Genesis 9:8-17

NEWER TESTAMENT READING:

Mark 1:9-15

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

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Erica L. Harley

Responding to God's Word

⌘ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (from A Brief Statement of Faith)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit

gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*, **GtG 833**

⌘ INVITATION to the OFFERING

Leader: God calls us to lives of grateful generosity. Let us praise the Giver of all good gifts through our offering today.

The OFFERTORY

Adoro Te Devote

(Translation: I devoutly adore you.)

13th Century Plainsong

Incorporating DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Arranged for HANDBELLS by Jason W. Krug

Dr. Molly Cronin Williams, cello

Please refer to GtG 495 especially verse 3.

as we enter this season of Lent.

Fountain of goodness, Jesus, Lord, and God,
cleanse us, unclean, with thy most cleansing blood;
increase our faith and love, that we may know
the hope and peace which from thy presence flow.

⌘ PRAYER of DEDICATION

God of grace, you provide for us in amazing ways. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless them to further Christ's ministry and mission among the poor, the suffering and the destitute. Amen. *(congregation may be seated)*

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 *Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice*, **GtG 163**

The LENTEN WREATH and a SERVICE of DIMINISHING LIGHT

On this First Sunday in Lent

ALL please sing:

When We Are Tested, GtG, verse 1

When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,
nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.

⌘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.
- The December 2023 receipts from the membership equaled \$42,264. The Church's expenses for December 2023 were \$70,982. As examples of the cost of maintaining our building, the latest American Electric Power invoice paid in 2023 was \$2,585.83 and for the same period \$1,421.85 for Mountaineer Gas.
- We thank Kevin Miller for serving as liturgist today.

Vance Calendar

Week of February 18, 2024 through February 25, 2024

**Janice will be out of the office this week.*

Please be patient as we return phone calls and messages.

Sun. Feb. 18

- **9am, Adult Sunday School, *The Chosen, Potter Chapel***
- **9am, Children's Sunday School, *CE Classrooms, 2nd Floor***
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, *Robbie Clarke Room***
- **10am, Worship Service, *Sanctuary***
- **11:15am, Adult Sunday School, *The Chosen, Squibb Room***
- **11:15am, Deacons Meeting (Meal Planning Committee), *Wheeler Room***
- 6pm, Wash. Presbyterian Church Fellowship Group, *Robbie Clarke Rm*
- **6pm, Youth Group, *Squibb Room***

Mon. Feb. 19

- **Office Closed for President's Day**
- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, *Wheeler Room*

Tue. Feb. 20

- 1pm, Ohio County Adult Services Coalition, *Potter Chapel*
- 4:30pm, Susan Eismon Bible Study, *Squibb Room*
- 7pm, Boy Scouts Troop 6 Meeting, *Fellowship Hall*

Wed. Feb. 21

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

Thur. Feb. 22

- **5:30pm, Celebrate Recovery Soup & Bread, *Robbie Clarke Room***
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery, *Merriman Chapel, Library, Davis Study, Narthex***
- **6:30pm, PEO Meeting, *Robbie Clarke Room***

Fri. Feb. 23

Sat. Feb. 24

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

Sun. Feb. 25

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, *CE Classrooms, 2nd Floor***
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, *Robbie Clarke Room***
- **9am, Adult Sunday School, *The Chosen, Potter Chapel***
- **10am, Worship Service, *Sanctuary***
- **11:15am, Adult Sunday School, *The Chosen, Squibb Room***
- **6pm, Youth Group, *Ice Skating***

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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.