

# **VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**vancechurch.org**

## **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

March 17, 2024 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



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

Jeremiah 31:31-34 ~ Psalm 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10 ~ John 12:20-33

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

*Change My Heart, O God, GtG 695*

CALL to WORSHIP (From Psalm 51)

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love;

**All: According to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions.**

**Leader:** You desire truth in our deepest selves, so teach our hearts wisdom.

**All: Let us hear your joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

**Leader:** Create in us clean hearts, O God; put new and right spirits within us.

**All: Sustain in us willing spirits and restore us to the joy of your salvation. Let us worship God!**

OPENING PRAYER

**God of living water, pour out your Spirit and nourish your Word within us, that in its time, that Word may bear much fruit. Amen.**

⌘OPENING HYMN of PRAISE      *Beneath the Cross of Jesus, GtG 216*

CONFESSION and time of self-examination (Jeremiah 31:33)

*(congregation may be seated)*

**Leader:** "The days are surely coming," says the Lord, "When I will make a new covenant with my people. I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest." Friends, we are God's people. Yet even as we strive to know our God and walk in God's paths, we fall short. Trusting in God as a merciful covenant partner, let us confess our sin together:

**All: Living Christ, with whom we journey to the cross, we confess that we are always looking for an easier way. We long for the fullness of life with you, but we are slow to abandon the comforts of the life we know. We seek the fruit of new life, but we are not willing to die to ourselves. You call us to life in community, but we stubbornly cling to "me and mine." Yet you offer the grace of life abundant, even and especially when our best efforts fall short. Transform us, renew us, and free us from our attachment to what was, so that you might bring us into the glory of what will be.**

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

## SUNG RESPONSE

*Lord, Have Mercy upon Us, GtG 575*

## DECLARATION OF PARDON

**Leader:** Friends, hear the good news! We worship a God who forgives our iniquities and remembers our sins no more. Proclaim the good news with me:

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! 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 *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant, GtG 727*

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Preschool-aged children are dismissed to the nursery)

### The ANTHEM

*What Wondrous Love Is this?*

(Based on a traditional American Folk Hymn)

Arranged by Mark Hayes

*Please refer to GtG 215.*

### The SCRIPTURE

#### HEBREW TESTAMENT READING:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

#### NEWER TESTAMENT READING:

John 12:20-33

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

### MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Erica L. Harley

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

## ⌘ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (Heidelberg Catechism, Q.1)

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That we are not our own, but belong – body and soul, in life and in death – to our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. Because we belong to him, Christ, by the Holy Spirit, assures us of eternal life and makes us wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for God.

## ⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION

*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus,*  
**The Celebration Hymnal #602**

## ⌘ INVITATION to the OFFERING

**Leader:** By the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, our lives have borne much fruit. Let us now return thanks where it is due and offer the fruits of our labor back to the Lord. Let us receive the morning offering.

*(congregation may be seated)*

## The OFFERTORY

### *Give Me Jesus*

TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL arranged by Larry Shackley

In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.  
And when I am alone, give me Jesus.  
You can have all this world, but give me Jesus.

And when I come to die, give me Jesus.  
And when the trumpet sounds, give me Jesus.  
You can have all this world, but give me Jesus.

## PRAYER of DEDICATION

**Gracious God, it is our joy to return the gifts of our lives to you. May our offering this morning forever bring glory to your name, and may we continue to work tirelessly for the well-being of your whole creation. 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      *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said, GtG 718*

⌘ The LENTEN WREATH and a SERVICE of DIMINISHING LIGHT

*On this Fifth Sunday in Lent*

*ALL please sing:*

*When We Are Tested, GtG 783, verse 4.*

When we have struggled and searched through the night,  
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,  
Savior, surround us with circles of care,  
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

⌘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 Ginna Bairby 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](https://facebook.com/VancePresbyterian). Remote listeners can go to [vancechurch.org](https://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 February 2024 receipts from the Church membership were \$12,731. Expenses for February were \$53,963. Examples of the cost of maintaining our building during February are: utilities of \$2,695 along with repairs and maintenance expenses of \$8,195.
- We thank Karen Seabright for serving as liturgist today.
- Save the Date: April 7, 2024 is our Congregational Pot Luck Dinner from 6pm-7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- 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](https://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 March 17, 2024 through March 24, 2024

## Sun. March 17

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, CE Classrooms, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **9am, Adult Sunday School, The Chosen, Potter Chapel**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, Deacon's Meeting, Whole Board, Wheeler Room**
- **11:15am, Adult Sunday School, The Chosen, Squibb Room**
- 6pm, Wash. Presbyterian Church Fellowship Group, Robbie Clarke Rm

## Mon. March 18

- 11am, Red Cross Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall
- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, Wheeler Room
- 5pm, YWCA WIND Advisory Board Meeting, Robbie Clarke Room
- 6:30pm, Cub Scouts Pack Meeting Fellowship Hall & CE Classrooms

## Tue. March 19

- 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. March 20

- **5pm, Pack the Bags for Woodsdale School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- 6pm, Narcotics Anonymous, Fellowship Hall (NA Room)
- 7pm, Jr. League, Junior League Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

## Thur. March 21

- 5pm, YWCA Board Meeting, Squibb Room
- **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. March 22

## Sat. March 23

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

## Sun. March 24

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, CE Classrooms, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Palm Sunday Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, Adult Sunday School, The Chosen, Squibb Room**
- 2pm, Thursday Music Club Music Recital, Sanctuary
- **6pm, Youth Group, Go Karts, Location TBD**

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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.