

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

Church Telephone: (304) 232-0980

Fax: (304) 232-0982

vancechurch.org

4th Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2023 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

1 Samuel 16:1-13~ Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14 ~ John 9:1-41

**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

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

PREPARATION for WORSHIP

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need, GtG 803

CALL to WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord leads us like a shepherd.

People: God nourishes our lives and restores our souls.

Leader: The Lord is with us, even in the darkest valley.

People: God's goodness and mercy are always close.

OPENING PRAYER

Great God, in you is more love than we can imagine and more grace than we can fathom. You have shown yourself in Jesus Christ as a God who meets us where we are and loves us as we are. We are glad for this day and grateful for your many gifts. You bring good things into our lives, more than we can name, more than we can number. Amen.

⌘OPENING HYMN of PRAISE

Christ, Be Our Light, GtG 314

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

Leader: Jesus calls us to enter the joy of discipleship, the joy of following in his way. But sin clings closely, and we struggle to respond fully to Christ's invitation. Let us seek God's forgiveness so that we may know more deeply the joy God intends.

All: God of perfect love, you continually bring forth life, transforming sadness to joy, and despair to hope. We are weak, but you are strong. Our ways are flawed, but your ways are true. We are seldom right, but you are never wrong. Forgive us, redeem us, transform us. Take away the sin that burdens us, and restore us to the people you would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE

Lead Me, Lord, The Celebration Hymnal #695

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Liturgist: Relentlessly, God seeks us out. With abundant grace and boundless mercy, God seeks us out. This is good news!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen!

⌘ PASSING the PEACE of CHRIST

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. Please greet your neighbor in love.

Encountering God's Word

⌘ SONG of ILLUMINATION

Open My Eyes, That I May See, GtG 451

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The ANTHEM

I Believe

Mark A. Miller

*"Dedicated in loving memory
to my sister, Mary Beth Miller, 1963-2009"*

Text: Anonymous Jewish poem

I believe in the sun even when it's not shining.
I believe in love even when I don't feel it.
I believe in God even when God is silent.

The SCRIPTURE

NEWER TESTAMENT READING:

Ephesians 5:8-14

GOSPEL READING:

John 9:1-41

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

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Erica L. Harley

Responding to God's Word

⌘ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION

Faith Begins by Letting Go, GtG 684

⌘ 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. *(congregation may be seated)*

The OFFERTORY

Amazing Grace

Arranged for HANDBELLS by Sandra Eithun

Using the "singing bell" technique...

PRAYER of DEDICATION

O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, the head of the church and the Lord of our lives. 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

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light, GtG 377

The LENTEN WREATH and a SERVICE of DIMINISHING LIGHT

On this Fourth Sunday in Lent, ALL please sing

Verse 4 of *Amazing Grace*, **GtG 649**.

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.

He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

⌘ 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 John Wurster
and provided for free distribution by *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2023.

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.
- Attendance in worship last Sunday was 69. Giving for the month of February was \$21,815.
- We thank Julie Squibb for serving as liturgist today.
- There are Lenten devotionals for adults and children available in the Narthex at the Welcome Center. They are companions to the Amazing Grace Study Erica is leading.
- Fish Banks for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering are available in the Narthex at the Welcome Center. The offering will be collected on Easter Sunday.
- Easter Flower orders in memory or honor of a loved one will be taken from now until the deadline of **Tuesday, March 21st**. The order form is at the Welcome Center in the Narthex. Lilies, hyacinth, tulips and daffodils available for \$10 per plant.



The graphic features a large background image of a cross on a rocky shore with waves crashing. On the left, the text 'AMAZING grace' is written in a mix of serif and cursive fonts. On the right, there is a vertical stack of five small images, each with a purple header and white text: 'ASH WEDNESDAY David' (a hand playing a harp), 'WEEK ONE Isaiah of Babylon' (a man in a blue robe), 'WEEK TWO The Prodigal Son' (a man in a blue robe), 'WEEK THREE The Blind Man' (a man in a blue robe), and 'WEEK FIVE Paul' (a man in a blue robe). At the bottom left of the graphic, the word 'LENT' is written in white on a red rectangular background.

AMAZING GRACE: Lenten Activities at Vance Church

As part of this year's Lenten Season, Erica will be leading a study called *Amazing Grace* on Sunday mornings after worship in the Merriman Chapel. Join us!

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 7:30pm in Merriman Chapel Ash Wednesday Worship with the Imposition of Ashes—David (Psalm 51:1)
Sunday, February 26, 2023 @ 11:15am—Week 1: Isaiah of Babylon (Isaiah 6:7)
Sunday, March 5, 2023 @ 11:15am—Week 2: The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:32)
Sunday, March 12, 2023 @ 11:15am—Week 3: The Woman at the Well (John 4:13-14)
Sunday, March 19, 2023 @ 11:15am—Week 4: The Blind Man (John 9:24)
Sunday, March 26, 2023 @ 11:15am—Week 5: Paul (1 Timothy 1:15)
Sunday, April 2, 2023 @ 11:15am—Palm Sunday: Peter (John 21:15)
Friday, April 7, 2023 @ 12pm—Good Friday Worship: The Penitent Thief (Luke 23:43)
Sunday, April 9, 2023 @ 10:00am—Easter Worship: Mary Magdalene (John 20:18)

Vance Calendar

Week of March 19, 2023 through March 26, 2023

Sun. Mar. 19

- **9am, Sunday School, C.E. 2nd Floor Classrooms**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, Amazing Grace Lenten Study, Merriman Chapel**
- **11:15am, Deacon's Meeting, Squibb Room**
- 6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship Group, Robbie Clarke Room

Mon. Mar. 20

- 11am, Red Cross Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall
- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, Wheeler Conference Room
- 6:30pm, Cub Scouts Blue and Gold Banquet, Fellowship Hall

Tue. Mar. 21

- 4:30pm, Women's Bible Study, Squibb Room
- 7pm, Boy Scouts Troop 6, Fellowship Hall

Wed. Mar. 22

- 6pm, Narcotics Anonymous, C.E. Chapel
- 7pm, Jr. League, JL 3rd Floor Room

Thur. Mar. 23

- 12pm, Musician Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 12pm, Presbytery Pastor's Bible Study, Potter Chapel
- 6pm, Girl Scout Troop 10285, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30pm, PEO Meeting, Robbie Clarke Room

Fri. Mar. 24

- 10:30am, Kidz Morning Out, Fellowship Hall
- 4-7pm, Thursday Music Club Auditions, Various Rooms

Sat. Mar. 25

- 8:30pm, Alcoholic's Anonymous, Fellowship Hall
- 9am-1pm, Thursday Music Club Auditions, Various Rooms

Sun. Mar. 26

- **9am, Sunday School, C.E. 2nd Floor Classrooms**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, Amazing Grace Lenten Study, Merriman Chapel**

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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.