

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

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vancechurch.org

3rd Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

Isaiah 55:1-9 ~ Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 ~ Luke 13:1-9

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

WELCOMING FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

PREPARATION for WORSHIP

As the Deer, GtG 626

CALL to WORSHIP (Psalm 63)

Liturgist: O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;

All: My flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Liturgist: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

All: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

Liturgist: So I will bless you as long as I live;

All: I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, the fountain of life, to a humanity parched with thirst you offer the living water of grace which springs up from the rock, our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant your people the gift of your Spirit, that we may learn to profess our faith with courage and announce with joy the wonder of your love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

⌘ OPENING HYMN of PRAISE

God the Sculptor of the Mountains, GtG 5

CONFESSION and time of self-examination (Isaiah 55:6-7)

(congregation may be seated)

Leader: The prophet Isaiah instructs us to seek and to call upon the Lord. The prophet pleads with the wicked to forsake their way, with the unrighteous to forsake their thoughts. The prophet invites them to return to the Lord that he may have mercy on them and assures them that our God will abundantly pardon. Let us seek God, let us call upon the Lord, knowing that we will be received with mercy and abundant forgiveness.

All: (Luke 13) **Merciful God, we confess that we have been quick to judge others and slow to make changes in our own lives. We confess that we have focused on others' shortcomings instead of reforming our own. Turn us, O Lord, from these ways that lead to perishing. Lead us, O Lord, in your ways that lead to abundant life. (Time for Silent Confession.) In Jesus' name, Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE *Hear the Good News of Salvation, GtG 441*

DECLARATION OF PARDON (Isaiah 55:8-9)

Leader: God speaks through the prophet Isaiah: my thoughts are not your thoughts nor are your ways my ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways. Let us find peace in God's ways of mercy and grace knowing that we are forgiven.

All: Amen.

Encountering God's Word

⌘ SONG of ILLUMINATION *As a Chalice Cast of Gold, GtG 429*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Preschool-aged children are dismissed to the nursery)

The ANTHEM

God of Grace and God of Glory

Words by Harry E. Fosdick

The tune CWM RHONDDA by John Hughes

Choral Setting by Joel Raney

Please refer to GtG 307.

The SCRIPTURE

HEBREW TESTAMENT READING:

Psalm 63:1-8

NEWER TESTAMENT READING:

Luke 13:1-9

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

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Erica L. Harley

Responding to God's Word

⌘ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (from the Confession of 1967 Inclusive Language Text)

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love. God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God's dealings with humankind. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator.

⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound, GtG 649

⌘ INVITATION to the OFFERING

Leader: The Confession of 1967 reminds us that "Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage." God has given each of us and all of us a variety of gifts and we are grateful. As an act of worship, let us commit to returning those gifts to God and God's service.

The OFFERTORY

If We Ever Needed the Lord Before

Words and Music by Thomas A. Dorsey

Arranged by Lloyd Larson

If we ever needed the Lord before we sure do need Him now.

We need Him ev'ry day and ev'ry hour.

We need Him in the morning, we need Him in the night,
And we need Him in the noonday when the sun is shining bright.

We need Him when we're happy,
and how we need Him when we're sad.
And, yes, we need Him when we're burdened,
oh, just to make our hearts feel glad.

PRAYER of DEDICATION

Gracious God, you give to us out of your abundance. For the material gifts and the spiritual gifts you give us, we thank you. We dedicate these gifts of time and talents and tithes to you and ask that you continue to lead us as we use these gifts to join your work in this community. 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

Just as I Am, without One Plea, GtG 442

⌘ BENEDICTION

⌘ BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Christ, Be Our Light, GtG 314, v. 3

⌘ 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 Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Carrico, Jr. and provided for free distribution by *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2025.

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 Joanne Winters for serving as liturgist today.
- For the month of February 2025 tithes and offerings from the congregation were \$22,089. For the same time period building expense for utilities, repairs and other maintenance costs were \$13,276.
- Watch for our new Men's Bible Study to begin early to mid April, titled *Authentic Manhood, 33 The Series*. Details to follow...
- Next week is as follows:
 - Greeter is Andy Barger
 - Ushers are Diane Crawl, Audrey Abraham, Sue Abraham, John Looney, Ann Bopp
 - Liturgist is Jeanne Finstein
 - Welcome Center Volunteer is John Looney

Vance Calendar

Week of March 23, 2025 through March 30, 2025

Sun. March 23

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, CE Classrooms, 2nd Floor**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**

Mon. March 24

- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, Wheeler Room
- 5:30pm, Presbytery PJC Training, Potter Chapel
- 6:30pm, Cub Scouts Den Meeting, Fellowship Hall & CE Classrooms

Tue. March 25

- 4pm, Susan Eison Bible Study, Squibb Room
- 7pm, Boy Scouts Troop 6 and Troop 6000 Meeting, Fellowship Hall

Wed. March 26

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

Thur. March 27

- **5:30pm, Celebrate Recovery Small Plate & Fellowship, Narthex**
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery, Merriman Chapel, Library, Davis Study, Narthex**

Fri. March 28

Sat. March 29

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

Sun. March 30

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, CE Classrooms, 2nd Floor**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- 3pm, Prayerful Gathering on our Relationship with our Homeless Neighbors, Fellowship Hall
- 6pm, Wash. Presbyterian Church Fellowship Group, Robbie Clarke Rm

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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.