

# **VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

Church Telephone: (304) 232-0980

Fax: (304) 232-0982

**vancechurch.org**

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

March 30, 2025 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



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

Joshua 5:9-12 ~ Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 ~ Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**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

*Naught Be All Else*

*Lord of All Hopefulness*

Irish Tune SLANE

Also known as *Be Thou My Vision*

Arranged for HANDBELLS by Chris D. Burton

*Please refer to GtG 450.*

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Lent,  
traditionally called "Laetare" Sunday.

"Laetare" is a Latin word that means "rejoice".

Please take this time to pause and reflect  
on the joy of God's love and the promise of salvation...

CALL to WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 32)

**Liturgist:** In times of trouble, in days of fear,

**All: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

**Liturgist:** When we are lost and lonely, not sure of our place,

**All: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

**Liturgist:** When we are hard-hearted and cynical,

**All: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

**Liturgist:** When we struggle to believe God's promise of redemption,

**All: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

**Liturgist:** Together we look to God to teach us the way we should go.

**All: Steadfast love surrounds us, as together we place our trust in the Lord.**

OPENING PRAYER

**Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being,  
you have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until  
they rest in you. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose,  
that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no  
weakness keep us from doing it; that in your light we may see light  
clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

⌘ OPENING HYMN of PRAISE

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness, GtG 39*

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

**Leader:** Scripture promises us that no matter how far we stray from God's ways, when we make the decision to return to God, God runs to greet us

with open arms. Trusting in the never-failing mercy of the Lord, let us turn to God together by confessing our sins.

**All:** (Book of Common Worship) **Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name.**

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE

*Change My Heart, O God, GtG 695*

DECLARATION OF PARDON

**Leader:** Psalm 32 says: "God blesses those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are those happy people whose sins have been forgiven. Believe in the good news of the gospel and rejoice!

**All: Amen.**

## **Encountering God's Word**

⌘ SONG of ILLUMINATION

*O Come unto the Lord, GtG 416*

### *CHILDREN'S MESSAGE*

(Preschool-aged children are dismissed to the nursery)

#### **The ANTHEM**

*Softly and Tenderly*

Words and Music by Will L. Thompson

Choral Setting by Joel Raney

*Please see GtG 418.*

#### **The SCRIPTURE**

**HEBREW TESTAMENT READING:**

**Psalm 32**

**NEWER TESTAMENT READING:**

**Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

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

#### **MORNING MESSAGE**

Rev. Erica L. Harley

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

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

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of 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. 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

*What Is the World Like*, **GtG 771**

⌘ INVITATION to the OFFERING

**Leader:** As people who have received the overflowing mercy of God, we respond with gratitude in our hearts and with the dedication of our lives to God's ways. Our offerings give us the opportunity both to express our gratitude and to commit our resources to God's gracious purposes in the world. Let us share what we have for the good of this community and the good of our neighbors.

### **The OFFERTORY**

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

Appalachian Folk Hymn: WONDROUS LOVE

Southern Harmony, 1835

Arranged by Brian L. Hanson

*Please refer to* **GtG 215**.

PRAYER of DEDICATION

**Lord of all, we give you thanks for your unfailing love. All that we have and all that we are is a gift from you, and we return it to you now with thanks and praise. Take and bless what we offer here today, that it may be used to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, liberate the oppressed, care for the suffering, and share the good news of your redeeming love with the world. In Christ's name we pray, 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            *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy, GtG 435*

⌘ BENEDICTION

⌘ BENEDICTION RESPONSE            *Christ, Be Our Light, GtG 314, v. 4*

⌘ 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 Ellen Williams Hensle 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 Jeanne Finstein for serving as liturgist today.*
- *Thank you to the eight faithful volunteers who helped pack food bags for Woodsdale and Steenrod Schools this week. Congratulations on your record-setting nine minute task!*
- *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 Cheryl Joseph*
  - *Ushers are Drew Seabright, Russ Green, Tom John, Andy Barger, Roger Cain*
  - *Liturgist is Sue Abraham*
  - *Welcome Center Volunteer is Jeanne Finstein*

# Vance Calendar

Week of March 30, 2025 through April 06, 2025

## Sun. March 30

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, CE Classrooms, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Room*

## Mon. March 31

- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, *Wheeler Room*
- 6pm, Christian Education Commission Meeting, *Squibb Room*
- 6:30pm, Cub Scouts Den Meeting, *Fellowship Hall & CE Classrooms*

## Tue. April 01

- 4pm, Susan Eison Bible Study, *Squibb Room*
- 5:30pm, Presbytery PJC Training, *Potter Chapel*
- 6pm, Ohio County Master Gardeners Meeting, *Wheeler Room*
- 7pm, Boy Scouts Troop 6 and Troop 6000 Meeting, *Fellowship Hall*

## Wed. April 02

- **4:30pm, Building & Property Commission Meeting, Wheeler Room**
- **5pm, Pack the Bags for Woodsdale/Steenrod Schools, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **6pm, Worship & Music Commission Meeting, Squibb Room**
- 6pm, Narcotics Anonymous, *Fellowship Hall*
- 7pm, Jr. League, *Junior League Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor*

## Thur. April 03

- 3pm, UOVP Executive Round Table, *UOVP Resource Center*
- **5:30pm, Celebrate Recovery Small Plate & Fellowship, Narthex**
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery, Merriman Chapel, Library, Davis Study, Narthex**
- 6:30pm, UOVP Committee on Ministry, *ZOOM*

## Fri. April 04

- 3pm, Thursday Music Club, *Squibb Rm, Robbie Clarke Rm, Wheeler Rm, Merriman Chapel, Potter Chapel, Fellowship Hall*
- 7pm, Wheeling Symphony Orchestra Concert, *Sanctuary*

## Sat. April 05

- 9am, Thursday Music Club, *Squibb Rm, Robbie Clarke Rm, Wheeler Rm, Merriman Chapel, Sanctuary*
- 8:30pm, Alcoholic's Anonymous, *Fellowship Hall*

## Sun. April 06

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

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**Vance Church events are in bold type.**