

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

Church Telephone: (304) 232-0980

Fax: (304) 232-0982

vancechurch.org

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

Acts 5:27-32 ~ Psalm 118:14-29 ~ Psalm 150

2 Kings 7:1-16 ~ Psalm 2

Revelations 1:4-8 ~ Luke John 20:19-31

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

CALL to WORSHIP (based on Psalm 118:14-29)

Liturgist: God of peace, we enter this holy room knowing the gospel's cornerstones of grace and mercy are often rejected in our world.

All: Yet we understand that rejection is not the end of the story.

Liturgist: We know that those we have come to know as the builders and the rulers of the world do not have the final word.

All: The Gospel of Grace is the Lord's doing.

Liturgist: Despite powers and principalities, despite the clamoring of meanness and cruelty,

All: this is the day that the Lord has made.

Liturgist: Grace is the ground upon which we walk.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

⌘OPENING HYMN of PRAISE

Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers, GtG 231

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

Leader: We are called to tell the truth. Those who are perfectly loved need not fear their shadows. When we speak what we fear and what we hope, silence cannot trap us and lies cannot hold us. As much as we are tempted to hide, telling the truth together reminds us that we trust in God's grace and the grace of this community. We remember that God's love yields healing. Honesty, confession, and forgiveness restore us to one another. As we pray together, we are reminded that our confessions of sin, just like our confessions of faith, are held in community. The literal words matter less than the contrite hearts who speak it. Trusting God loves us, and we love and are loved by each other, let us pray.

All: (based on John 20:19-31) **Holy God, we have found ourselves in fear, locked in rooms of inaction and indecision, unclear where we are called or what we could offer. We have lost ourselves in anxiety so loud we have not heard your voice. We have not recognized you on the move in the world, wounds in your side and life in your lungs. We have believed in the finality of your death and assumed all is left to**

our own meager efforts. We have refused to see, so we might not have to believe the gospel and live our lives accordingly. God of new life, restore hope throughout our bodies. Help us to breathe again. Strengthen us for the joy that is before us. Grant us eyes to see your beloved people all around us and ears to hear your good news through all the noise. Even as we have looked away, come to see us, call us forth from our locked rooms and bring us out to walk with you in the world you so love.

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE *Breathe on Me, Breath of God, GtG 286*

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: The God of truth is present to us in the speaking of truth. The Spirit of grace is present to us in the sharing of grace.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

⌘ GLORIA PATRI *Glory Be to the Father, GtG 581*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, 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 *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! GtG 591*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Preschool Children are dismissed to the Nursery)

The ANTHEM

He Is Exalted with Praise Him! Praise Him!

Arranged by Tom Fettke

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high. I will praise Him.

He is exalted forever exalted, and I will praise His name!

He is the Lord. Forever His truth shall reign.

Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name!

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

Praise Him! praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!

Sing, O earth, His wonderful love proclaim!

Hail Him! Hail Him! Highest archangels in glory,

Strength and honor give to His holy name!

Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard His children;

In His arms He carries them all day long:

Praise Him! Praise Him! Tell of His excellent greatness!

Praise Him! Praise Him! ever in joyful song!

Praise Him! praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!

Heav'nly portals loud with hosannas ring!

Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever;

Crown Him! crown Him! prophet and priest and King!
Christ is coming, over the world victorious,
Pow'r and glory unto the Lord belong:
Praise Him! Praise Him! Tell of His excellent greatness!
Praise Him! Praise Him! ever in joyful song!

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high. I will praise Him.
He is exalted forever exalted, and I will praise His name!
He is the Lord. Forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name!
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

The SCRIPTURE

HEBREW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 5:27-32

NEWER TESTAMENT READING

John 20:19-31

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

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Erica Harley

Responding to God's Word

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

All: 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. 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.

⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION

These Things Did Thomas Count As Real, GtG 256

⌘ INVITATION to the OFFERING

Leader: We are called to invest in the church, not just because the church needs money — although, of course, it does. Not just because it needs prayers and hopes and people willing to share all that makes them human. But mostly because we need our practices to speak back to us that we are invested in life together. We believe in gospel hope and structures of mercy. Therefore, our bodily, financial and logistical practices must remind us that our hope is not only in lonesome financial security. We are called to give because we confess a God who invites us into community. We believe in the preaching of the good news and the binding up of the broken hearted that happens when we share life. Giving reminds us that God calls us beyond ourselves, and this is good news. So

come and share in life together – whether you give an offering of prayer or praise, money, or time – come and practice a life invested in community.

The OFFERTORY

In Christ Alone

Words and Music by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty

Arranged by David Angerman

⌘ DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*, **GtG 606**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

⌘ PRAYER of DEDICATION

God of abundance, take these gifts, which were already yours, and use them to knit us closer to each other and closer to the world you love. 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 *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*, **GtG 254**

⌘ BENEDICTION

⌘ BENEDICTION RESPONSE

VANCE CHOIR

⌘ POSTLUDE

⌘ Please stand if able.

GtG=Glory to God Hymnal

Songs used with CCLI License # 1223079

CCS License #11957

CVLI License #505495174

10:00 a.m. Service of Worship regularly broadcast over WKWK-FM 97.3

Today's worship service liturgy is written by Karen Rohrer, 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.
- Please join us for snacks and fellowship today in the Narthex immediately following the Service.
- Scouting America Troop 6000 is having a Dine to Donate on Tuesday, April 28, 2025 at Perkins. Flyers available in the Narthex.
- We thank Scott Winters for serving as liturgist today.
- Next week is as follows:
 - Greeter is Andy Barger
 - Ushers are Ed Gustkey, Frank Provance, Bob Mead, Bob Kanthers, Jeanne Finstein
 - Liturgist is Michelle John
 - Welcome Center Volunteer is Cheryl Joseph
 - Communion Servers are John Looney, Alan Cline, Jane Hare

Vance Calendar

Week of April 27 through May 04, 2025

Sunday, April 27

- **8:30am, Men's Study, Authentic Manhood, 33 The Series, Merriman Chapel**
- **9am, Children's Sunday School, CE Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- 3pm, Kirkwood Church Closing Ceremony
- 6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship, *Robbie Clarke Room*

Monday, April 28

- **11am, C. E. Commission Meeting, Squibb Room**
- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, *Wheeler Room*
- **5pm, New Believers' Bible Study, Merriman Chapel**
- 6:30pm, Cub Scouts Den Meeting, *Fellowship Hall & CE Classrooms*

Tuesday, April 29

- **12pm, Pack the Food Bags, House of the Carpenter**
- 4:00pm, Susan Eismen Bible Study, *Squibb Room*
- 7pm, Scouts Troops 6 and 6000, *Fellowship Hall & C.E. Classrooms*

Wednesday, April 30

- **1pm, VBS Meeting, Squibb Room**
- **4pm, Stewardship, Finance & Memorial Meeting, Squibb Room**
- **5pm, Pack the Bags for Woodsdale School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- 6pm, Narcotic Anonymous, *Primary Chapel*
- 7pm, Junior League, *Junior League Room, 3rd Floor*

Thursday, May 01

- 3pm, UOVP Executive Round Table, *UOVP Resource Center*
- 4:30pm, Vets with Guitars, *Merriman Chapel*
- **5:30pm, Celebrate Recovery Small Plate & Fellowship, Narthex**
- 6pm, Committee on Ministry Meeting, *Squibb Room*
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery, Merriman Chapel**
- 6:30pm, UOVP Committee on Ministry, ZOOM

Friday, May 02

Saturday, May 03

- 7pm, Alcoholics Anonymous, *Fellowship Hall*

Sunday, May 04

- **8:30am, Men's Study, Authentic Manhood, 33 The Series, Merriman Chapel**
- **9am, Children's Sunday School, CE Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Communion Worship Service, Sanctuary**

~~~~~

**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.

|                      | <b>ELDERS</b>     |                     |
|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>2025</b>          | <b>2026</b>       | <b>2027</b>         |
| John Looney          | Elaine Strauch    | Jeanne Finstein (2) |
| Frank Provance (2)   | Zach Abraham      | Diane Crowl (2)     |
| Karen Seabright      | Scott Winters     | Amber Green         |
| Howard Monroe (2)    | Jill Flanagan     | Sue Abraham         |
|                      | <b>DEACONS</b>    |                     |
| <b>2025</b>          | <b>2026</b>       | <b>2027</b>         |
| Denise Williamson    | Janice Carenbauer | Audrey Abraham (2)  |
| Jennifer Shearer (2) | Cheryl Joseph     | Jane Hare (2)       |
| Andy Barger (2)      | Roger Cain (2)    | Joanne Winters      |
| Chase Burdick        | Alan Cline (2)    | Rowena Baker        |

**The PASTOR and CHURCH STAFF**

**Rev. Erica L. Harley ~ Senior Pastor**

**Janice Carenbauer ~ Church Office Administrator**

**Deborah Podolski Breiding ~ Director of Music**

**Jay Carenbauer ~ Head Custodian**

**Chaz Erazmus ~ Custodian**

**Keith Wilson ~ Sound, Video, and Media Coordinator**

**Michelle Harriman ~ Nursery Coordinator**

**~ MINISTERS of the CHURCH: ALL MEMBERS ~**

**MISSION PERSONNEL of OUR DIRECT CONCERN**

**Caleb and Claire (Seabright) Bermudez**