

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

Church Telephone: (304) 232-0980

Fax: (304) 232-0982

vancechurch.org

World Communion Sunday

October 01, 2023 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

Exodus 17:1-7 ~ Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Philippians 2:1-13 ~ Matthew 21:23-32

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

Let the Children Come

GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL to WORSHIP (from Luke 13:29)

Liturgist: People will come from east and west,

All: from north and south,

Liturgist: and will eat in the kingdom of God.

All: Thanks be to God for welcoming us to the table.

OPENING PRAYER

Bless us, O God, with ears to hear your truth, vision to discern your path, and feet ready to move into action, responding to your call. Inspire us as we hear your Word read and proclaimed. Amen.

⌘ OPENING HYMN of PRAISE *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*, **GtG 65**

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

Leader: Sin is our stumbling block. Repentance clears the way to hear and receive God's truth. Let us confess our sins together.

All: Gracious God, we are indebted to you and your generosity. But we fail to live as good stewards of all you have given us. We confiscate and consume far more than our fair share. We neglect the poor and trap people in poverty. God, liberate us from our spiritual and moral bondage. Reorder our priorities so all your nations and peoples may thrive.

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE

Lord, Have Mercy, **GtG 551**

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

DECLARATION OF PARDON (2 Corinthians 5:17; Book of Common Worship)

Liturgist: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

All: Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

⌘ 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 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*, **GtG 263**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The ANTHEM

Within These Walls

Words and Music by Pepper Choplin

Within these walls, we assemble.
Within these walls, we gather in Your name.
As we join our hearts in a holy union,
we come to find communion in Your holiness again.

Within in these walls, let there be harmony;
a common bond; a Spirit from above.
And as Your children let us love each other
as sisters and as brothers united by Your love.

We are the branches, You are the Vine.
We are the vessels and You are the Wine.
We are the body, You are the Head.
For ev'ry hunger, You are the Bread.

Within these walls, let there be refuge,
a place of rest when doubts and trials form.
And let us lift each other as we gather
to find Your peace no matter how terrible the storm.

Within these walls, give us Your vision.
Within these walls, let us understand
that beyond these walls, there are hurting people
who have never felt Your healing hand.

Beyond these walls, send us forward.
Beyond these walls, let Your will be done.
We are your people; You will leave us never,
and we shall work together until Your kingdom comes.
Your kingdom come!

Within these walls, let us listen.
Within these walls, let us pray.
Let us pray.

The SCRIPTURE

HEBREW TESTAMENT READING:

Exodus 17:1-7

NEWER TESTMENT READING:

Matthew 21:23-32

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

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Erica L. Harley

Responding to God's Word

⌘ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly, GtG 509*

⌘ INVITATION to the OFFERING

Leader: We are inspired to be generous by a generous God. We are inspired to give by the greatest of givers. In gratitude to God, let us present our tithes and offerings. (*congregation may be seated*)

The OFFERTORY

Here at This Table

Words and Music by Nancy Price and Don Besig
with LET US BREAK BREAD, Traditional Spiritual, alt.
Dr. Gail Looney, flute

Lord, You have called us; humbly we come.
Here at this table we all are made one.
Now, as we share Your love and Your grace,
Lord be with us, we pray.

Lord, You have shown us; clearly we know,
here at this table we all are made whole.
Now, as we share this gift we receive,
bless us, Lord. Help us believe.

Let us break bread together on our knees.
Let us break bread together on our knees.
Through this bread and this cup,
we remember our Savior's love.
O Lord, fill our hearts with peace.

Lord, You have blessed us; truly we see
here at this table our sins are redeemed.
Now as we share this promise come true,

hope is found, faith is renewed.

Let us praise God together on our knees.

Let us praise God together on our knees.

With our hearts joined in prayer

we give thanks for this meal we share.

O Lord, fill our hearts with peace.

Here at this table, we will find God's peace.

⌘ 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

Holy God, bless these gifts for your good use. May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in blessing the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive. Use these gifts to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.

(congregation may be seated)

The SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Leader: Christ's table is wide, and his welcome is for all. Jesus dined with sinners and saints, with farmhands and foreigners, with disciples and doubters, with children and cherished friends, with the outcast and the outspoken, with lepers and loved ones. And just as he ate at others' tables, when Christ set his banquet table, he welcomed us all too. As we gather around Christ's table, we are united with all of God's beloved across the world through the love and grace made known in bread broken and cup passed. So come to the table where we witness Christ's love and peace for all.

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: We give you thanks and praise, God of all Creation, for the blessing of your earth and all your children, for the mercies you pour forth in fresh rains and harvests of plenty, for joy that comes in the morning. We are a grateful people. You created a world of harmony and peace, but our yearning for power and privilege throughout history led to division and conflict, suffering and violence. We give thanks that you sent prophets and poets to lament and remind to bear witness and call us to yet a better way, to write the vision of a peaceable kingdom for all to see. With fresh eyes and renewed hope, we join our voices with those around the world and with your heavenly chorus to sing:

All sing GtG 552. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

We give you thanks that in the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus to bear witness to your mercy, grace and love. In his living, he showed us how to love. In his dying, he offered us undeserved mercy. In his rising, he granted us grace. Through the gifts of faith even faith as small as a mustard seed, his witness rekindles in us the gifts of God, not so that we can hold onto these gifts for ourselves but so that we can be united across the globe as one family of faith gathered around one table, sharing in one holy meal, sustained by a love that binds us together in peace.

Words of Institution

Leader: We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me". In the same way Jesus took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you and for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me".

Leader: Great is the mystery of faith:

All sing GtG 553. Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon our many tables trusting that Christ is the host of our sacred meal together. May the blessing of grain from the earth and fruit of the vine be a reminder of the true joy of communion that unites us in one worldwide covenant of love.

All sing GtG 554: Amen. Amen. Amen.

All Sing *The Lord's Prayer*, The Celebration Hymnal #631.

Our Father, which 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, Amen.

Leader: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life". Jesus also said: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Come to me and never be hungry; believe in me and never thirst". The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Vance Calendar

Week of October 01, 2023 through October 08, 2023

Sun. Oct. 01 – World Communion Sunday

- **9am, Children’s Sunday School, C.E. Classrooms, 2nd Floor**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, World Communion Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, Adult “The Chosen” Study, Squibb Room**
- 6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship Group, Robbie Clarke Room

Mon. Oct. 02

- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, Wheeler Conference Room
- 1pm, Presbytery Peacemaking Committee, Presbyter’s Office
- 6:30pm, Cub Scouts Pack 6, Fellowship Hall and C.E. Classrooms, 2nd Floor

Tue. Oct. 03

- 4:30pm, Susan Eison Bible Study, Squibb Room
- 7pm, Boy Scouts Troop 6, Fellowship Hall

Wed. Oct. 04

- 6pm, Narcotics Anonymous, Fellowship Hall
- 7pm, Jr. League, JL 3rd Floor Room

Thur. Oct. 05

- 3pm, Presbytery Executive Round Table, UOVP Resource Room
- **4:30pm, Building and Property Commission, Wheeler Room**
- 6:30pm, Presbytery Committee On Ministry, ZOOM

Fri. Oct. 06

- 10am, Continuum of Care, Potter Chapel

Sat. Oct. 07

- 8:30pm, Alcoholics Anonymous, Fellowship Hall

Sun. Oct. 08

- **9am, Children’s Sunday School, C.E. Classrooms, 2nd Floor**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, Adult “The Chosen” Study, Squibb Room**

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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, and Harmony House, and Wishing Well Learning Center.