VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003
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1st Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

Isaiah 64:1-9 ~ Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 ~ Mark 13:24-37

**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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Light of Heaven, Come:
A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent
Words and Music by Karen Crane
Arranged by Joel Raney

CHOIR ~ LITANY & CANDLE LIGHTING ~ CHOIR REFRAIN

First Sunday of Advent ~ LIGHT of FAITH
Responsive Litany:
LEADER: In shadowed days, we wait and pray,
PEOPLE: Asking for God to light the way.
LEADER: When answers hide and paths seem dim,
PEOPLE: We place our faith and trust in him.
LEADER: The word of God, both sure and true,
PEOPLE: We hold our hope, O God, in you.
LEADER: As we prepare for Christ's own birth,
PEOPLE: We walk by faith upon this earth.

CALL to WORSHIP
Liturgist: Christ is coming!
All: We will keep awake!
Liturgist: Christ is coming!
All: We will be ready!
Liturgist: Christ is coming! Christ will gather Christ's people from the ends of the earth.
All: Praise be to God! We will worship and prepare.

OPENING PRAYER
Eternal God, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths. Renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love, as Lord of lords and King of kings, to whom be glory always. Amen.

⌘OPENING HYMN of PRAISE
The People Who Walked in Darkness, **GtG 86**

CONFESSION and time of self-examination *(congregation may be seated)*
Leader: Preparing for Christ's coming requires honest examination of our lives and our hearts. Let us turn to God in prayer to confess our sins.
All: Prince of Peace, the wars and rumors of wars betray our addiction to violence, our destructive and dehumanizing ways. We deserve your judgement and condemnation. Yet, you remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace in the midst of our warring

madness. Holy God, turn us from evil. Return us to Christ's nonviolent path. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits, **GtG 89, v.1**

DECLARATION OF PARDON (2 Corinthians 5:17; Book of Common Worship)
Leader: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.
All: Amen.

⌘ GLORIA *Angels We Have Heard on High,* **GtG 113 refrain**
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

⌘ PASSING the PEACE of CHRIST
May the Peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you!**

Encountering God's Word

⌘SONG of ILLUMINATION *Great Is Thy Faithfulness,* **GtG 39**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Preschool children are dismissed to the Nursery)

The ANTHEM

The World Awaits Your Coming
Words and Music by Pepper Choplin
Inspired by Isaiah 2:3-4

The world is yearning for Your peace;
we pray for hate and war to cease.
Lord, come and teach Your peaceful way;
for all the world is waiting for the day
when ev'ry conflict and divide
You'll come to judge and will decide.
Then nations will lay down their swords
and they will train for fighting no more.
We'll train to fight no more.

REFRAIN: The world awaits Your coming,
the world awaits the day.
We hear the prophet calling,
"Come prepare the way!"

The world awaits Your coming
when heaven's work is done.
So hear the people calling,
"Now let Your Kingdom come!"

Let earth receive the glorious peace.
Blessed salvation He will bring.
His throne is fixed in heav'n above

and He will reign with justice and with love.
He'll reign with justice and love.

REFRAIN…
O come, O come, Emmanuel.

The SCRIPTURE
OLDER TESTAMENT READING
Isaiah 64:1-9
GOSPEL READING
Mark 13:24-37
The Word of the Lord … **Thanks be to God!**

MORNING MESSAGE
Rev. Erica L. Harley

Responding to God's Word

⌘ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** (Book of Common Worship)
All: We believe there is no condemnation (Rom. 8:1, 28, 38, 39) **for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

⌘ **SONG of AFFIRMATION** *The Days Are Surely Coming,* **GtG 357**

⌘**INVITATION to the OFFERING** (2 Peter 3:8-15)
Leader: "All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation." Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

The OFFERTORY
Advent Hope (When Will Messiah Come?)
Words and Music by Joseph Martin

⌘**DOXOLOGY** *O Come, All Ye Faithful,* **GtG 133 refrain**
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

⌘**PRAYER of DEDICATION**
Christ calls us to live generous and grateful lives. Take these gifts we offer today, O God, and use them to the fulfillment of Christ's ministry. May these gifts help to free the captives, heal the sick, comfort the lonely, feed the hungry, heal the wounded. As Christ's hands and feet, use us too, in service to building your beloved 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** *Soon and Very Soon,* **GtG 384**

⌘**BENEDICTION**

⌘**BENEDICTION RESPONSE** VANCE CHOIR

⌘**POSTLUDE**

⌘ Please stand if able.

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

Today's worship service liturgy is written by Teri McDowell Ott, and provided for free distribution by *Presbyterian Outlook,* 2026.

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 Frank Provance for serving as liturgist today.

- Diane Roy has published a book titled *Coffee with a Stranger*. This is quite an accomplishment and we congratulate Diane! Please join us on Friday, December 4th at 6pm in the Narthex for a Book Launch.

- Next week is as follows:

    - Greeter is Michelle John
    - Welcome Center volunteer is Brien Mudge
    - Liturgist is Karen Seabright
    - Ushers are Diane Crowl, Sue Abraham, Audrey Abraham, John Looney and Ann Bopp

Vance Calendar

Week of November 29, 2026 through December 06, 2026

Sunday, November 29 Poinsettia Orders due today

- **10am, Worship Service, *Sanctuary***

Monday, November 30

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

Tuesday, December 01

- 4pm, Susan Eismon Bible Study, *Squibb Room*
- **6pm, Worship & Music Commission Meeting, *Squibb Room***
- 7pm, Scouting America Troop 6, *Fellowship Hall & CE Classrooms*

Wednesday, December 02

- 10am, Elizabeth Blake, WV SHIP, *Wheeler Room*
- **4:30pm, Building & Property Commission Meeting, *Wheeler Room***
- **5pm, Nourish to Flourish, *Robbie Clarke Room***
- 6pm, Narcotic Anonymous, *Primary Chapel*
- 6pm, Scouting America Troop 6000, *Fellowship Hall & CE Classrooms*
- 7pm, Junior League, *Junior League Room, 3rd Floor*

Thursday, December 03

- 12noon, UOVP Committee on Ministry, *ZOOM*
- 3pm, UOVP Executive Round Table, *UOVP Resource Center*
- 4:30pm, Vets with Guitars, *Merriman Chapel*
- **6pm, Celebrate Recovery Small Plate & Fellowship, *Narthex***
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery, *Merriman Chapel***

Friday, December 04

- **6pm, Coffee with a Stranger Book Launch, *Narthex***

Saturday, December 05

- **10am, Packing Sandwich Lunches for Unhoused Population & Delivering to Life Hub, *Fellowship Hall***
- 7pm, Alcoholics Anonymous, *Potter Chapel*

Sunday, December 06

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, *C.E. Classrooms***
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, *Robbie Clarke Room***
- **10am, Communion Worship Service, *Sanctuary***
- **11:30am, Christian Education Committee Meeting, *Robbie Clarke Room***
- 6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship, *Robbie Clarke Room*

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