

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Communion Sunday

First Sunday of Advent

December 03, 2023 ▪ 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

LET THE CHILDREN COME

GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ is coming!

All: We will keep awake!

Leader: Christ is coming!

All: We will be ready!

Leader: Christ is coming! He will gather God's people from the ends of the earth.

All: Praise be to God! We will worship and prepare.

⌘ OPENING HYMN of PRAISE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, GTG 82

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 during our warring madness. Holy God, turn us from evil. Return us to Christ and Christ's path of peace. 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)

Liturgist: 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 PATRI

*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

People, Look East, GTG 105

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Preschool-aged children are dismissed to the nursery)

The ANTHEM: ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Light of Hope: A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by Joel Raney

CHORAL OPENING ~ RESPONSIVE LITANY ~ READING WITH CANDLE LIGHTING
CHORAL RESPONSE ~ CLOSING PRAYER

Responsive Litany: First Sunday ~ The Gift of Hope

We begin the season of Advent with expectant and believing hearts.

We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

During Advent we confront the darkness that so often exists around us.

We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

During Advent we confront the doubt that so often resides within us.

We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

During Advent we confront the division that so often occurs between us.

We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

The SCRIPTURE

HEBREW TESTAMENT READING:

Isaiah 64:1-9

NEWER TESTAMENT 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: The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and life everlasting. Amen.

⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION

Change My Heart, O God, GTG 695

⌘ 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. *(congregation may be seated)*

The OFFERTORY

Advent Hope

Arranged for HANDBELLS by Derek K. Hakes

Based on the hymn tunes:

NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND,
Savior of the Nations, Come, GtG 102
and JEFFERSON,

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper, GtG 94

⌘ 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 *(congregation may be seated)*

The SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Leader: This is the joyful feast of the people of God! People will come from north and south and from east and west to sit at table in the kingdom of God. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. This is the Lord's Table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast that he has prepared.

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: Praise to you, O God, for all your works. You created the world and called it good and made us in your image to live together in love. You made a covenant with us, and even when we turned from you, you remained ever faithful. Therefore, with all creation we sing your praise:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

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: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

All: Amen, amen, amen.

ALL please join in reciting **THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

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 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

Leader: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: 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.

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 Teri McDowell Ott
and provided for free distribution by *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2023.

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.
- Attendance in worship last Sunday was 95. Giving for the month of November was \$9000.
- There will be no Adult, Children, or Youth Sunday School on December 24 and December 31.
- We thank Karen Seabright for serving as liturgist today.
- We are partnering with The House of The Carpenter to assist local families with Christmas gifts for their children. We still have four (4) children who need a sponsor for Christmas. The sign-up sheet and the children's names and gift requests are in the Narthex. Unwrapped gifts are due back to Vance by NEXT SUNDAY, December 10, 2023.
- Christmas Poinsettias are on sale now. Please see the sign-up in the Narthex to order your Poinsettia before December 10, 2023. These Poinsettias will be displayed the morning of December 24 in the Sanctuary, available for you to take home following the morning service.

- We are having the Live Nativity on Friday, December 15 and Saturday December 16! See the sign-up in the Narthex!
- Advent Calendars and Devotionals are available in the Narthex for children, families, and adults.
- We are having a "Cocoa & Coffee on the Corner" for people touring the Festival of Lights on December 23rd starting at 6pm. See the sign-up in the Narthex!
- Christmas Family Dinner is scheduled for December 10th after the Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall. See the sign-up in the Narthex, and sign up with your favorite side dish or dessert!
- Adult Sunday School, "*The Chosen*", will meet today, and then take a short break until the New Year.

Vance Calendar

Week of December 03, 2023 through December 10, 2023

Sun. Dec. 03

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, CE Classrooms, 2nd Floor**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **9am, Adult "*The Chosen*" Study, Potter Chapel**
- **10am, Communion Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, Adult "*The Chosen*" Study, Squibb Room**
- **Youth Group Christmas Gift Wrapping, Laughlin Chapel**

Mon. Dec. 04

- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, *Wheeler Conference Room*
- 1pm, Chamber of Commerce Sub Committee Meeting, *Squibb Room*
- 1pm, Presbytery Peacemaking Committee, *Presbytery Office*
- 6:30pm, Cub Scouts Den Meeting, *Fellowship Hall & CE Classrooms*

Tue. Dec. 05

- 7pm, Boy Scouts Troop 6 Meeting, *Fellowship Hall*

Wed. Dec. 06

- **5pm, Pack the Bags for Woodsdale School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- 6pm, Narcotics Anonymous, *C.E. Chapel*
- 7pm, Jr. League, *JL 3rd Floor Room*

Thur. Dec. 07

- 3pm, UOVP Executive Round Table, *UOVP Resource Center*
- **4:30pm, Building & Property Commission, Wheeler Room**
- 6:30pm, UOVP Committee on Ministry, *ZOOM*

Fri. Dec. 08

Sat. Dec. 09

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

Sun. Dec. 10

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, C.E. 2nd Floor Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15, Christmas Dinner, Fellowship Hall**
- **Youth Group Movie Night, "Christmas Vacation"**
- 6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship Group, *Robbie Clarke Room*

Coming later this month:

December 15, 16 – Live Nativity, Vance Lawn/Stable

December 16 – Kidz Morning Out, Robbie Clarke Room

December 17 – Children's Christmas Program, Sanctuary

December 23 – Cocoa & Coffee on the Corner, Vance Parking Lot

December 24 – Worship Services at 10am, 7pm, and 11pm

December 29/30 – Youth Group Lock-In

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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.