

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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2nd Sunday of Advent Communion

December 07, 2025 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

Isaiah 11:1-10 ~ Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13 ~ Matthew 3:1-12

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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Prepare the Way: A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by Joel Raney

CHOIR ~ LITANY ~ CANDLE LIGHTING ~ CHOIR REFRAIN

Second Sunday of Advent ~ *Peace*

Litany Response:

"Prepare the way of the Lord with peace."

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Isaiah 11:1-10)

Liturgist: A shoot shall come forth from Jesse's stump,

All: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.

Liturgist: He will judge the poor with righteousness, and the meek with equity;

All: He will be clothed with righteousness and faithfulness.

Liturgist: The wolf and the lamb will live peacefully together,

All: The leopard and the kid will lie down side by side.

Liturgist: The cow and the bear will graze together; the lion will eat straw like the ox,

All: And a little child will lead them all.

Liturgist: They will neither hurt nor destroy on God's holy mountain,

All: For the earth will be full of the knowledge of God, as the waters fill the sea.

OPENING PRAYER

God of all peoples, your servant John came baptizing and calling for repentance. Help us to hear his voice of judgment, that we may also rejoice in his word of promise, and be found pure and blameless in that glorious Day when Christ comes to rule the earth as Prince of Peace. Amen.

⌘ **OPENING HYMN of PRAISE**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, GtG 88, v 3 & 4

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

Leader: We hear the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord and make God's paths straight." Let

us prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ as we confess our sin together:

All: God of Grace, we confess that we are not ready for you to come into our world — not quite yet. We cling to the known and familiar, afraid of the transformation your grace will bring. Yet you are always a step ahead of us, a voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting us into bold new ways of being disciples. Humble us, O God, and teach us to do the work of repentance so that, fully reliant on your grace, we may know the richness of restored relationship with you and one another.

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits, GtG 89, v.4

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Liturgist: Friends, hear the good news: God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Before we repent and change our ways, God's love has already claimed us as God's own. Proclaim with me the good news of the gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

⌘ 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

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright, GtG 827

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The ANTHEM

The Yearning

Music by Craig Courtney

Words by Susan Bentall Boersma

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow.

There is a yearning in hearts that in darkness hide
and in the shades of death abide,
a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One, the Firstborn of creation.

There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own,
and by His death for sin atoned,
to bring to us salvation.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of His appearing.

There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased
and we shall see the One who placed
within our hearts the yearning.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

The SCRIPTURE

HEBREW TESTAMENT READING:

Isaiah 11:1-10

GOSPEL READING:

Matthew 3:1-12

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**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, GtG 129

⌘ **INVITATION to the OFFERING**

Leader: God is the giver of every good gift, pouring out grace upon grace on us and our world. Let us give back a portion of those gifts as we receive the morning offering. *(congregation may be seated)*

The OFFERTORY

Bring Us Peace

Lyrics by Pamela Martin & Music by Craig Courtney

⌘ 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 (Glory to God #144)

"What can I give him, poor as I am? ... If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give him: give my heart."

(congregation may be seated)

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Leader: Hallelujah! The Lord our God the Almighty reigns! Let us rejoice and exult and give God the glory, for the feast of the Lamb of God has come.

All: Blessed are those who are invited to the feast of the Lamb of God.

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: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. You formed us in your image and set us in this world to love and serve you. When we were captives in slavery, you delivered us to freedom, and made covenant to be our sovereign God. When we were stubborn and stiff-necked, you spoke to us through prophets who looked for that day when justice shall triumph, and peace shall reign over all the earth. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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.

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son. You sent him into this world to bring freedom to the captives of sin, and to establish justice for the oppressed. He came among us as one of us, taking the lot of the poor, sharing human suffering, dying an unjust death. We rejoice that in his dying and rising again, you set before us the sure promise of new life, the certain hope of a heavenly home where we will sit at table with Christ our host.

Words of Institution

Leader: We give you thanks that on the night of his arrest Jesus 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 he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Leader: Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

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. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit to bring good news to the poor and loose the chains that bind. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. 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.

ALL please join in reciting

THE 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!

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. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of Cup

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Leader: Gracious and abundant God, even as we wait for the fulfillment of your creation, you meet us in Christ at this table, in this meal. We thank you for feeding us with the bread of life and quenching our thirst with the cup of salvation. Now send us out into the world by the power of your Holy Spirit to share your life and salvation with all whom we meet.

All: Amen.

Taking God's Word out, into our Worlds

⌘ CLOSING HYMN *Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice*, **GtG 163**

⌘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 Ginna Bairby 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 Karen Seabright for serving as liturgist today.
- There will be no Sunday School classes on December 28, 2025.
- As part of Vance's *Let the Music Live!* please join us in the Church Sanctuary this afternoon at 3pm for the Wheeling Wind Concert Band under the direction of Pat Garrett.
- Join us in the Fellowship Hall following the Service today for Sketti' With Santa, a fundraiser for Scouting America.
- Next week is as follows:
 - Greeter is Jane Hare
 - Ushers are Ed Gustkey, Frank Provance, Bob Mead, Bob Kanter, Jeanne Finstein
 - Liturgist is Cheryl Joseph
 - Welcome Center Host is Jane Hare

Vance Calendar

Week of December 07, 2025 through December 14, 2025

Sun. December 07

- **8:30am, Men's Study, Merriman Chapel**
- **9am, Children's Sunday School, C.E. Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Communion Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:30am, Sketti with Santa, Fellowship Hall**
- **3pm, Wheeling Wind Concert Band, Sanctuary**
- 6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship, *Robbie Clarke Room*

Mon. December 08

- 11am, Red Cross Blood Drive, *Fellowship Hall*
- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, *Wheeler Conference Room*
- 6:30pm, Cub Scouts Pack 6, *Fellowship Hall*
- **7pm, Session Meeting, Squibb Room**

Tue. December 09

- **10am, Staff Meeting, Church Office**
- **5pm, Mission Commission Meeting, Squibb Room**
- 7pm, Scouting America Troop 6, *Fellowship Hall & C.E. Classrooms*

Wed. December 10

- **12noon, Mid-Week Advent Service, Merriman Chapel**
- **5pm, Nourish to Flourish, Robbie Clarke Room**
- 6pm, Narcotics Anonymous, *Primary Chapel*
- 7pm, Scouting America Troop 6000, *Fellowship Hall*
- 7pm, Jr. League, *JL 3rd Floor Room*

Thur. December 11

- 4:30pm, Vets with Guitars, *Merriman Chapel*
- **5pm, Community Dinner, Fellowship Hall**
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery, Merriman Chapel**
- 6:30pm, PEO Meeting, *Robbie Clarke Room*

Fri. December 12

Sat. December 13

- 8:30pm, Alcoholics Anonymous, *C.E. 2nd Floor Chapel*

Sun. December 14

- **8:30am, Men's Study, Merriman Chapel**
- **9am, Children's Sunday School, C.E. Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:30am, Christmas Pot Luck Dinner, Fellowship Hall**

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Vance Church events are in bold type.