

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

Church Telephone: (304) 232-0980

Fax: (304) 232-0982

vancechurch.org

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

Isaiah 35:1-10 ~ Psalm 146:5-10

James 5:7-10 ~ Matthew 11:2-11

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

Prepare the Way: A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by Joel Raney

CHOIR ~ LITANY ~ CANDLE LIGHTING ~ CHOIR REFRAIN

Third Sunday of Advent ~ JOY

Litany Response:

"Prepare the way of the Lord with joy."

CALL to WORSHIP (Isaiah 35:1-2; Matthew 11:4-5)

Liturgist: What if joy were to break out unrestrained in our world? What would we notice?

All: The wilderness and dry land would be glad; the desert rejoice and blossom.

Liturgist: The blind would see and the lame would walk. Lepers would be cleansed, and the deaf would hear.

All: The dead would rise and the poor would receive good news.

Liturgist: May joy break out in our worship today as we anticipate the One who comes into our world!

All: Come thou long expected Jesus!

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you, now prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end, and your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love; through Jesus Christ, who lives in power with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠OPENING HYMN of PRAISE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, GtG 88, Vv. 5 & 6

CONFESSION and time of self-examination (Romans 3:23-24)

(congregation may be seated)

Leader: There are two great equalizers among us. One is that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory. The other is that we are all now justified by God's grace through the gift of Christ Jesus. Confident of both, let us admit where we have fallen short and receive grace without limit.

All: Holy and wonderful God, we confess that we have closed our eyes to what you are doing. We prefer to concentrate on problems,

bad news and violence. When we do, we miss all the healing, freeing and helping you accomplish in our world. We pass up opportunities to participate in your Good News. We rob ourselves of so much joy. Forgive us and give us eyes to see, ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts to treasure your mission in the world. Fill us with unquenchable joy at the coming of Jesus.

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits, GtG 89, v.2

DECLARATION OF PARDON (Matthew 1:21)

Leader: The angel told Joseph, "You are to name the baby Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Believe the good news of the gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Hallelujah! 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 *Canticle of the Turning, GtG 100*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Preschool children are dismissed to the Nursery)

The ANTHEM

Mary, Did You Know?

with *What Child Is This?*

Words and Music by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene
incorporating GREENSLEEVES, 16th c. English Melody

Words by William C. Dix, 1865

Arranged by Mary McDonald

The SCRIPTURE

OLDER TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:2-11

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

MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Erica L. Harley

Responding to God's Word

⌘ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (from A Declaration of Faith)

Leader: What do you believe?

All: In Christ, God gave us a glimpse of the new creation God has already begun and will surely finish. We do not know when the final day will come. In our time we see only broken and scattered signs that the renewal of all things is under way. We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering in the world, the church, or our own lives. But we see Jesus as Lord. As he stands at the center of our history, we are confident he will stand at its end. He will judge all people and nations. Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God's good creation. There will be no more tears or pain. All things will be made new.

⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION

Shout to the North, GtG 319

⌘ INVITATION to the OFFERING

Leader: We give to God's work in the world in response to all that God has done for us. In awareness and gratitude, let us give God's tithes and our offerings.

The OFFERTORY

Joy of Every Longing Heart

Words by Marcus Aurelius C. Prudentius, 4th c.,

Tr. John M. Neale, 1854, and Henry W. Baker, 1859

Tunes: JESU, JOY OF MAN'S DESIRING, from BMV 147 by J.S. Bach
and DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong, 13th c.

Arranged by Lloyd Larson

Please refer to GtG 108.

⌘ 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

We thank you God, for all the ways you work and heal and bless and free us. Accept these gifts given in great gratitude and in anticipation of Christ's return. Multiply them for your glory and for the good of all people. 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

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn, **GtG 107***

⌘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 Tracey Davenport, 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 Cheryl Joseph for serving as liturgist today.
- Join us following the Worship Service today for our Christmas Potluck Dinner!
- Next week is as follows:
 - Greeter is Jane Hare
 - Ushers are Ed Gustkey, Frank Provance, Bob Mead, Bob Kanters, Jeanne Finstein
 - Liturgist is Joanne Winters

Vance Calendar

Week of December 14, 2025 through December 21, 2025

Sunday, December 14

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, C.E. Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- **11:15am, Christmas Potluck Dinner, Fellowship Hall**

Monday, December 15

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

Tuesday, December 16

- 7pm, Scouting America Troop 6, *Fellowship Hall & CE Classrooms*

Wednesday, December 17

- **12pm, Mid-Week Advent Service, Merriman Chapel**
- **5pm, Nourish to Flourish, Robbie Clarke Room**
- 6pm, Narcotic Anonymous, *Primary Chapel*
- **6:15pm, EF&M Meeting, Wheeler Room**
- 7pm, Scouting America Troop 6000, *Fellowship Hall*
- 7pm, Junior League, *Junior League Room, 3rd Floor*

Thursday, December 18

- 4:30pm, Vets with Guitars, *Merriman Chapel*
- **6pm, Celebrate Recovery Small Plate & Fellowship, Narthex**
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery, Merriman Chapel**

Friday, December 19

- **6-8pm, Live Nativity with Troop 6000**

Saturday, December 20

- 12noon, Kidz Morning Out, *David Movie*
- 11am, NA Holiday Dance, *Fellowship Hall*
- **6-8pm, Live Nativity with Vance Church**
- 7pm, Alcoholics Anonymous, *Potter Chapel*

Sunday, December 21

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, C.E. Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School Christmas Party, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- 6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship, *Robbie Clarke Room*

~~~~~