

# **VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**vancechurch.org**

## **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

December 22, 2024 ▪ 10:00 a.m.



### **Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:**

Micah 5:2-5a and Luke 1:47-55 ~ Psalm 80:1-7

Hebrews 10:5-10 ~ Luke 1:39-45; 47-55

**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**

*Jesus bleibet meine Freude*  
*(Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring)*  
Johann Sebastian Bach  
Arranged by Wolfgang Birtel

and

*Pastoral Symphony (from "Messiah")*  
George Frideric Handel  
Arranged by David Overton  
Flute part edited by James Galway  
DR. GAIL LOONEY, flute

## **CHIMES**

### **GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **PREPARATION for WORSHIP**

*Like a Child, I Wait*

Words and Music by Ruth Elaine Schram

Like a child, I wait for the promises to be fulfilled;  
for Emmanuel to come, the completion of God's will.  
And so I trust His Word with a simple, childlike faith.  
Till our Savior has come, like a child, eagerly I wait.

*REFRAIN:* Emmanuel will come!

He's the gift that Christmas brings:  
the precious Prince of Peace, the glorious King of Kings!  
Our Emmanuel will come! And until that blessed day,  
with a pure and open heart, like a child, like a child, I wait.

Anticipation builds for the Savior to appear,  
fill our darkness with His light, give us hope to calm our fear.  
Then we will know the joy of a Savior we can touch;  
our Redeemer in the flesh; God Himself with us!

*REFRAIN...*

I eagerly wait. Like a child, I wait.

**Fourth Sunday in Advent: Love**

#### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

**Watch and wait for Christ's coming!**

**Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,  
remembering the promises of God with prayer.**

**We light this candle in hope. (*Light the first candle*)**

**We light this candle for peace. (*Light the second candle*)**

**We light this candle for joy! (*Light the third (pink, if used) candle.*)**

**We light this candle with love. (*Light the fourth candle*)**

Hear again the Word of the Lord drawn from Zephaniah 3:17

The LORD your God...will rejoice over you with gladness; God will quiet you with divine love like a child upon the breast. The Lord will exult over you with loud singing.

Let us pray:

God of hope, God of peace,  
God of joy, and God of love,  
Teach us how to love one another  
as reflections of your light in the world.  
God of promise, God of love, into our darkness come.

⌘ OPENING HYMN of PRAISE

*My Soul Gives Glory to My God, GtG 99*

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

**Leader:** The prophet Micah tells us that the "one of peace" will come from Bethlehem. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us confess our sins and set ourselves on Christ's path.

**All: Soon we will celebrate the Prince of Peace, but we are not a people at peace. We glorify violence and dismiss the pacifist as weak. We dominate and demean turning dialogue into debate. We wage war with enemies and invest in self-defense before giving non-violent strategies a chance. Lord, forgive us. Help us work towards your peaceable kin-dom, where swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks.**

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE

*For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits, GtG 89, v. 5*

DECLARATION OF PARDON (Micah 5:4-5)

**Liturgist:** "And he will stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord ... And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace."

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

⌘ SUNG RESPONSE

*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

*Advent Grace*

Arranged by Lloyd Larson

Words adapted by Jean Anne Shafferman

from Phillips Brooks (1867)

Tunes: NEW BRITAIN (*Virginia Harmony, 1831*)  
and FOREST GREEN (*TRADITIONAL ENGLISH MELODY*)

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray:  
cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.

Where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in.  
The dark night wakes, God's glory breaks, and Christmas comes again.

O come, thou Son of David, come, Your blessed peace proclaim.  
O come, Thou bright and morning star, Your people now to save.  
O come, Desire of nations, come, as saints of old have sung.  
Your people watch, Your people pray throughout all Christendom.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound the heav'nly music swells;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel, our Lord, Emmanuel.

### The SCRIPTURE

NEWER TESTAMENT READING:

Luke 1:39-45; 47-55

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

### MORNING MESSAGE

Rev. Erica L. Harley

## Responding to God's Word

⌘ Affirmation of faith (from the Book of Common Worship, Colossians 1:15-20)

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.**

⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION

*Give Thanks, GtG 647*

⌘ INVITATION to the OFFERING

**Leader:** In this season of generosity, let us remember from whom all our blessings flow. Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

The OFFERTORY

*I'll Be Home for Christmas*

Music (and Words) by Kim Gannon and Walter Kent

Arranged by Brendan Fox

*Originally written - and recorded by Bing Crosby - in 1943,  
to honor soldiers who longed to be home at Christmas time,  
we offer this selection today praying  
that ALL will be "home" for Christmas this year.*

⌘ SUNG RESPONSE            *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

**Holy God, with Mary we seek to magnify you in our worship and in  
our deeds. Accept these gifts and bless them for Christ's ministry.  
May they lift the lowly and fill the hungry. May they reveal your  
glory present with us today and still yet to come. 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            *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, GtG 127*

⌘BENEDICTION

⌘BENEDICTION RESPONSE            VANCE CHOIR

⌘ POSTLUDE            *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*  
                                 Music by Felix Mendelssohn  
                                 with  
                                 *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*  
                                 TRADITIONAL GERMAN CAROL  
                                 Arranged by Gary Lanier

⌘ 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*, 2024.

# 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 Michelle John for serving as liturgist today.
- There will be no Adult, Youth, or Children Sunday School on December 29.
- The Flowers are dedicated to the Staff of Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church, who serve us each day throughout the year. Please enjoy these flowers through Christmas Eve, at which time the staff will enjoy them in their homes.
- Giving Envelopes for 2025 are available in the Narthex.
- For the month of November 2024 the Congregation supported the Church with contributions of \$13,118 which included Tithes, Offerings, Woodsdale School, and Food Pantry. For the first 11 months of 2024 our building's AVERAGE monthly repairs and maintenance expenses (excluding utilities) were \$9,998.
- Do you know how easy, safe, and convenient it is to use our new E-giving for your tithe or offering? Very easy indeed! Just go to the church website [www.vancechurch.org](http://www.vancechurch.org) and click on the "GIVE" button on the front page. A new page will "pop-up" with a giving form you can fill out with your offering amount and payment method. You can make one-time gifts or set-up recurring gifts that will automatically withdraw from your bank account. Tithing is the foundation of giving and E-giving makes it easy to give whenever the Holy Spirit moves you toward generosity.

# Vance Calendar

Week of December 22 through December 29, 2024

## Sun. Dec. 22

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, CE Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School Christmas Party, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- 6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship Group, *Robbie Clarke Room*

## Mon. Dec. 23

- 9:30am, YWCA Parenting Class, *Robbie Clarke Room*
- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, *Wheeler Room*
- **1pm, Personnel Committee Meeting, Squibb Room**
- No Cub Scout Den Meeting – Christmas Break

## Tue. Dec. 24

- **7pm, Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary**
- **11pm, Christmas Eve Service, Merriman Chapel**

## Wed. Dec. 25

- **Christmas Holiday – Church Office Closed**
- 6pm, Narcotics Anonymous, *Fellowship Hall*
- 7pm, Jr. League, *Junior League Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor*

## Thur. Dec. 26

- **5:30pm, Celebrate Recovery Small Plate & Fellowship, Narthex**
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery, Merriman Chapel**

## Fri. Dec. 27

## Sat. Dec. 28

- 8:30pm, Alcoholic's Anonymous, *Potter Chapel*

## Sun. Dec. 29

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

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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.