

VANCE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

905 National Road, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003

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vancechurch.org

1st Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024 ▪ 10:00 a.m.`



Lectionary Selections of Scripture for this Sunday:

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 ~ Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12-17 ~ Luke 2:41-52

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

OHIO VALLEY BRASS QUINTET

Justin Schwertfeger, trumpet; John E. Leonard, trumpet

Lara Wilhelm Cline, French horn

Jared Withers, trombone; Dr. Alan Cline, trombone

CHIMES

GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION for WORSHIP

VANCE VOICES of the VALLEY

Lully, Lulla, Lullay

Words from a 16th century TRADITIONAL CAROL

Music by Philip W. J. Stopford

This haunting carol - known as the COVENTRY CAROL - was traditionally performed in Coventry, England as part of a mystery play called "The Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors". The rocking lullaby tells the story of the "Massacre of the Innocents" - when King Herod ordered all male infants under the age of two to be killed. It's sung from a mother's perspective, as a beautiful lament for her doomed child.

CALL to WORSHIP

Liturgist: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

All: So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Liturgist: But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

All: Teach us, O Lord, how to lead lives of holiness and godliness while, in accordance with your promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Liturgist: This is the day that the Lord has made;

All: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Liturgist: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was presented in the temple and acclaimed the glory of Israel and the light of the nations. Grant that in him we may be presented to you and in the world may reflect his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

⌘ OPENING HYMN of PRAISE

Once In Royal David's City, GtG 140

CONFESSION and time of self-examination (Acts 3:19) (*congregation may be seated*)

Leader: Hear these words of the Apostle Peter, "Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." With humble and trusting hearts, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

All: Holy and merciful God, we confess we neglect to seek your wisdom for our lives. Instead, we think more highly of ourselves and our own knowledge, choosing to go our own way in this world. Lord, have mercy. We let the cares and concerns of this world crowd out the promise of your Word, that you are with us always. Christ, have mercy. We confess we face the future with uncertainty and misgivings. Help us put our trust in you so we may live faithful and obedient lives, as we depend on the wisdom of your Holy Spirit and the love of Christ to shape our lives and actions. Lord, have mercy.

SILENT PRAYER of CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE

He Came Down, GtG 137

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Leader: The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on The Lord in truth.

All: The Lord fulfills the desires of all who fear him; The Lord also hears their cry, and saves them.

Leader: Friends, hear and believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven!

All: Alleluia! 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

Born in the Night, Mary's Child, GtG 158

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Preschool Children are dismissed to the Nursery)

The ANTHEM

Glory, Glory!

Words and Music by Mark Hayes

Referencing *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Words adapted from Isaiah 9 and Luke 2

The SCRIPTURE
HEBREW TESTAMENT READING
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
NEWER TESTAMENT READING
Luke 2:41-52

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

MORNING MESSAGE
Rev. Erica Harley

Responding to God's Word

⌘ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (from A Declaration of Faith, Chapter Six, Section 2, "Jesus Christ is the living Word of God")

All: The Word which was with God from the beginning was embodied in Jesus Christ. We hold that what God says to us and does for us centers in Jesus Christ our living Lord as he is remembered, known, and expected. In Christ God's Word of acceptance takes flesh: by grace through faith we are set right with God, adopted as children of God, not because of anything we have done, but because of what Christ has done. In Christ God's Word of demand is lived out: to love God and neighbor as he did is what God requires of us. The Spirit adds no different Word from God, but leads us deeper into the truth of God uttered in Jesus Christ.

⌘ SONG of AFFIRMATION *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem, GtG 159*

⌘ INVITATION to the OFFERING (Hebrews 13:15)

Leader: The letter to the Hebrews calls us to a life of gratitude and generosity with these words: "Through Jesus let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Let us present our tithes and offerings with glad and generous hearts.

The OFFERTORY
OHIO VALLEY BRASS QUINTET

⌘ 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

Good and gracious God, in this season during which we have given and received so many gifts, we thank you for the greatest gift of all, your Son Jesus Christ. In response to your love and mercy, we bring our tithes and offerings to you. Bless them and us, so our gifts may be multiplied and our hearts may be generous as we seek to do good and share what we have; through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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

Go, Tell It on the Mountain, GtG 136

⌘BENEDICTION

⌘BENEDICTION RESPONSE

VANCE CHOIR

⌘POSTLUDE

OHIO VALLEY BRASS QUINTET

⌘ Please stand if able.

GtG=Glory to God Hymnal

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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 Philip Gladden, 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.*
- *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.*
- *We thank Drew Seabright for serving as liturgist today.*

Vance Calendar

Week of December 29, 2024 through January 05, 2025

Sun. December 29

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

Mon. December 30

- 12pm, Al-Anon Support Group, *Wheeler Room*
- 6:30pm, Cub Scouts Den Meeting, *Fellowship Hall & C.E. Classrooms, 2nd Floor*

Tue. December 31

- 7pm, Scouts Troops 6 and 6000, *Fellowship Hall & C.E. Classrooms*

Wed. January 01

- **Church Office closed for New Years Day Holiday**
- 6pm, Narcotic Anonymous, *Primary Chapel*
- 7pm, Junior League, *Junior League Room, 3rd Floor*

Thur. January 02

- 3pm, UOVP Executive Round Table, *UOVP Resource Center*
- **4:30pm, Building & Property Commission Meeting, Wheeler Rm**
- **5:30pm, Celebrate Recovery Small Plate & Fellowship, Narthex**
- **6:30pm, Celebrate Recovery, Merriman Chapel**
- 6:30pm, UOVP Committee on Ministry, *ZOOM*

Fri. January 03

- 5pm, Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby Set-Up, *Fellowship Hall*

Sat. January 04

- 8am, Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby Car Workshop, *Fellowship Hall*
- 7pm, Alcoholics Anonymous, *Fellowship Hall*

Sun. January 05

- **9am, Children's Sunday School, CE Classrooms**
- **9am, Youth Sunday School, Robbie Clarke Room**
- **10am, Communion Worship Service, Sanctuary**
- 6pm, Washington Presbyterian Church Fellowship, *Robbie Clarke Room*

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**Vance Church events are in bold type.**