



Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background or sexual orientation.

September 13, 2020

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 114

<sup>1</sup> When Israel went out from Egypt,  
the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,

<sup>2</sup> Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel his dominion.

<sup>3</sup> The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.

<sup>4</sup> The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.

<sup>5</sup> Why is it, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?

<sup>6</sup> O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs?

<sup>7</sup> Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD,

at the presence of the God of Jacob,

<sup>8</sup> who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

**Prelude:** Variations on "For the Beauty of the Earth"

Austin C. Lovelace  
(1919-2010)

Austin Lovelace received degrees from High Point College in North Carolina and Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He not only held numerous church and college positions, but also wrote and published many wonderful hymn texts.

Call to Worship

*When evil surrounds us and we have been wronged,  
God helps us turn the evil to good.*

**We need not be afraid whatever happens.**

**We are in God's care wherever we go.**

*Sing the praises of God, our strength.*

*Know that God is majestic and holy.*

**How great is God's mercy for all who worship!**

**We sense among us God's kindness and patience.**

Hymn: "For the Beauty of the Earth"

DIX

1. For the beauty of the earth,  
For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies.  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

4. For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above,

For all gentle thoughts and mild,  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

5. For Thy church that evermore  
Lifteth holy hands above,  
Offering up on every shore  
Her pure sacrifice of love,  
Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.

## Prayer of Confession

We bow before your judgment seat, O God. We have ranked our sisters and brothers by the faulty standards of our society to decide who is worthy of our attention. We have rejected those whom we dislike and have been harsh with those we think do not measure up. We have been quite willing to overlook our own faults as we look down on other people. O God, you have shown us a better way. Save us from the pain we inflict and help us to discover the blessing of forgiveness. Amen.

## Moment for Children

Heather Mikes

Jesus loves me, this I know, For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong, They are weak but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

## The New Testament Reading:

Romans 14:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup> Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. <sup>5</sup> Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup> Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup> We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup> Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup> For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup> So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

**Solo:** "Benedictus" from *Little Organ Mass*

Franz Joseph Haydn

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

(1732-1809)

Michele Byrd, Soprano

## Prayer for Illumination

## The Gospel Reading:

Matthew 18:21-35

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup> "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup> and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold,

together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup> So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup> Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup> But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup> Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup> And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup> So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.' "

### Message

"Forgiveness—the Clothes on Your Back"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

### Offering

Offertory: "At the Name of Jesus"

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Michele Byrd, Soprano

(1872-1958)

### Prayers of the People and 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.**

### Commission and Blessing

*Let every knee bow daily before our God.*

*Let every tongue give praise to the Almighty.*

**God helps us turn evil into good.**

**Every day we can know God's loving presence.**

*Alleluia.*

**Amen.**

### Benediction Response:

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

(Copyright 1955 by Jan-Lee Music. Renewed 1983. Used by permission.)

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me. Let there be peace on earth the peace that was meant to be. With God as our Father, children all are we; Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me let this be the moment now. With every step I take let this be my solemn vow. To take each moment and live each moment in peace, eternally. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.**

### Postlude: A Short Voluntary

John Worgan

(1724 – 1790)

*Worgan was born in London in 1724. He was one of six children to John Worgan and Mary Lambert. Their father was a surveyor of Welsh or Cambrian ancestry. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in music at St John's College, Cambridge in 1748, and gained a doctorate in 1775.*

## WORSHIP LEADERS

**The Rev. Robert J. Marrow**, *Pastor*

**Heather Mikes**, *Interim Director of Christian Education*

**Karen Chappler**, *Liturgist*

**Dr. James Cochran**, *Director of Music, playing the Richard and Patricia Fors Organ to the Glory of God and in honor of James Cochran, Organist.*

**Michele Byrd**, *Soprano*

**Soundboard Operator:** Victoria Bonavita

**Scripture Passages for the following week:**

**September 20, 2020—15<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**First Reading: Philippians 1:21-30**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1-16**

**"THE  
LAST  
WILL BE  
FIRST,  
AND THE  
FIRST  
LAST."**

MATTHEW 20:16, ESV



## VPC NEWS

### **UPDATE - EXTENSION OF THE SUSPENSION OF IN-PERSON WORSHIP:**

During their meeting on Monday, August 24, 2020, the Session re-affirmed their stance on continuing with virtual worship for the immediate future. They will continue to examine this important information over the coming weeks and plan to add in-person worship when they determine it is safe to do so. Call us (597-5410), or contact us by email Barbara Bonavita ([bbonavita@vpcnaples.org](mailto:bbonavita@vpcnaples.org)), Lisa Lloyd ([llloyd@vpcnaples.org](mailto:llloyd@vpcnaples.org)) or Michele Byrd ([mbyrd@vpcnaples.org](mailto:mbyrd@vpcnaples.org)) if you need assistance of any kind.



### **THE VANDERBILT LEARNING CENTER IS OPEN —BACK TO SCHOOL!**

It's been a wonderful week back to school at the Vanderbilt Learning Center, a ministry of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church. Please continue to pray for the teachers, students, families and staff, as we share God's love and keep everyone healthy, happy and safe this year!



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

**—STAYING—  
CONNECTED**

**ZOOM IN FOR FELLOWSHIP HOUR**—This morning, Sunday, September 13, from 11—11:30am, Zoom in to see your fellow church members. The **Meeting ID is: 896 7928 1614** and the **password is 4Wp4kK**. Missing your church family? Zoom in to say HI! We hope to see you there!

## WE MISS YOU! STOP BY TO SAY HELLO!

It has been a long time since we have seen your smiling faces and we miss you! On Wednesday, September 23 from 10 -10:30am **AND** from 6-6:30pm we will have a **"Connection Caravan."** The staff will be under the porte-cochère to say hello, wave and give air hugs as you stay in your car and drive through. We hope to see YOU! Remember, you are loved and we are here for you!



### TAKE A STUDY BREAK WITH PASTOR ROB!

We are gathering for a brief virtual prayer meeting this Wednesday, September 16 at 6:00 p.m., to ask for God's blessing on our time of study and to support and encourage one another through our first few weeks of back to school.

The **Meeting ID is: 825 3813 7836** and the **password is DR5JG6**.

### THE NEXT VIRTUAL CONCERT IS AVAILABLE!

"September Song" is online at [www.vpcnaples.org](http://www.vpcnaples.org) and is found in the Sermon Library. "September Song" is a concert featuring Michele Byrd and Brice Gerlach taking you on a tour of Broadway—from the 1930's to present day. The second part of the concert is presented by James Cochran and William Marshall performing some of their Broadway favorites. We hope you enjoy this musical feast!



## New Classes

### SIGN UP FOR THIS TIMELY STUDY IN CHRISTIAN CARE AND COMFORT:

This five-week class will examine how to relate to those who are suffering based on the book by Kenneth C. Haugk, PH.D. (Founder of Stephen Ministries in St. Louis) entitled, *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart*. We will discuss and explore how we can relate to those suffering in ways that will ease their pain and show we care. We will also explore words and actions to bring God's loving presence to hurting people when they need it most. As we are all called to care; this book gives us the tools and understanding we need to help and comfort

others. This course will be facilitated by Jill Peterson and Sterling Desorcy, both Stephen Leaders at VPC. Join us on Monday afternoons from 2:00 to 3:00 pm beginning October 12 and ending November 9, 2020. Participation will be via Zoom with assigned study questions for active group discussion. Book cost is \$15 each. Books will be ordered in advance, so please sign up by September 28 to ensure we have enough for everyone. A Zoom link will be sent to all course participants prior to the first class. No prep needed for the first class on October 12 at 2:00 pm....just sign up in advance and show up via Zoom. To sign up, please call the office at 239-597-5410 or email Heather Mikes, [hmikes@vpcnaples.org](mailto:hmikes@vpcnaples.org).

### NEW CHRISTIAN EDUCATION RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

The Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church Library has been gifted a series of theological books and CDs by church member, Ronald Shaffer. Each CD and accompanying book contains lectures taught by well-known and respected theology professors at educational institutions across the country, published by *The Great Courses*. Topics include "The History of Christian Theology", "The Old Testament", "The New Testament", etc. They will be available to borrow for any of our lifelong learners. Please email Heather Mikes if you are interested, [hmikes@vpcnaples.org](mailto:hmikes@vpcnaples.org). We can arrange pick up at the church office. Thank you, Ron, for sharing these wonderful resources in Christian education.



*"Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ.  
No Christian community is more or less than this."*

*— Dietrich Bonhoeffer*



## OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP



### **THE COVID-19 RELIEF FUND:**

We have received another very generous \$10,000 challenge grant to the COVID-19 Relief Fund. Please send in your donations to match the new challenge grant! To date, we have received \$48,784 for the fund (including both \$10,000 grants). We have disbursed \$46,440 to local charities to help with housing and hunger. Please indicate "COVID" in the memo area of your check or donate online. Thank you in advance for your gift to help others in need.

### **MISIÓN PENIEL UPDATE AND VIDEO:**

The farm worker ministry of Misión Peniel in Immokalee, a mission belonging to our Peace River Presbytery, continues to serve during the COVID-19 pandemic. Given a rise of COVID-19 cases in Immokalee, the mission has revised some of its routine operations to focus on providing the critical support needed during these difficult days. This includes a weekly distribution of a variety of food, and financial assistance with rent and utility payments for those affected by the virus and unable to work. The generous financial support provided by our church and many others have made it possible for this assistance to continue without any interruption. Donations can be made by sending a check to the church payable to VPC with the note "Peniel COVID Relief" on the check; or directly on the Misión Peniel website at [www.misionpeniel.org](http://www.misionpeniel.org) by using the "Donate" button and indicating "COVID Relief" in the optional memo section. Thank you for all your support! Any questions please email Pete Rodino at [pyrodino@aol.com](mailto:pyrodino@aol.com). Click on this link to get a short visit to the mission!



[https://youtu.be/3BlbNI2lw\\_4](https://youtu.be/3BlbNI2lw_4)



### **THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR BLESSINGS WITH PINECREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!**

VPC has generously donated more than \$1,500 in back to school supplies and monetary gifts for teachers, staff, students and families at Pinecrest Elementary School in Immokalee. Thank you for giving them the tools they need to learn and grow! The link to order supplies will remain active for as long as anyone would like to provide them. Please visit the Amazon Wish list at [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3ILXQTCIUMP6T?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3ILXQTCIUMP6T?ref=wl_share) and select items to purchase. Choose to ship them directly to Pinecrest Elementary School (NOT to VPC).

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR HELP

### **VPC STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE HERE TO HELP:**

Know someone in need? Maybe you? Maybe a family member, friend or neighbor? Needs can be short-term or long-term...we want to help and are still available in these COVID-19 times! Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers that are a phone call or email away to walk beside you, listen and provide ongoing support. We currently have 15 active Stephen Ministers at VPC, some with care receivers and others waiting to help when called. Call for yourself or someone in need. To get started, call our Stephen Leader Referrals Coordinators: Don Sherman at 239-777-0847 ([dsherman249@gmail.com](mailto:dsherman249@gmail.com)) or Kay Beernink at 239-238-1526 ([leskaybee@aol.com](mailto:leskaybee@aol.com)).



### **VETERANS:**

Avow has an upcoming Zoom webinar for Veterans and those who serve Veterans. **Veterans Benefits at a National Cemetery presented by John Rosentrater on September 24, 2020 at 12:00-1:00pm.** For more information, go to [www.https://avowcares.org/?s=veterans](https://avowcares.org/?s=veterans). You can also click the link on this week's Epistle from Pastor Rob.

**ZOOM!**  
**Facebook!**

[www.vpcnaples.org](http://www.vpcnaples.org)  
**VPC Kids & Families YouTube!**



*Weekly Epistle!*  
*Reach out to someone!*  
*Say a prayer for a friend!*  
*Share the love of Christ!*

## FINANCIAL UPDATE—OPERATING FUND: August 2020:

	August	YTD	Budget
Operating Income	\$ 50,383	\$984,485	\$854,000
Expenses	\$ 87,071	\$721,892	\$795,800
Deo Mortgage Balance	8/31/2020	\$1,703,980	

**YOUR GIVING MATTERS!**

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING OUR COUNTRY

If you have a relative or friend in the military, please let the Church have their name/address.  
We think it is important to keep in contact with those who serve our country. Thank you.

#### **ENSIGN Francis Alvares**

US Navy, Pensacola, FL  
(Friend of Jay & Mary Chesslo)

#### **MSgt Kristopher Chesslo**

USAF  
(Jay & Mary Chesslo's nephew)

#### **CPTN Sterling W. Dawley**

US Navy, Pacific Fleet  
(Loren & Debbie Dawley's son)

#### **LTJG Wyatt R. Dawley**

US Navy Intel  
(Loren & Debbie Dawley's grandson)

#### **LT Adam Endrelunas**

US Navy  
(Cherie & Dave Baines' son-in-law)

#### **CPTN Allen Fujinaka**

US Army  
(LaVerne Perrollaz's grandson)

#### **CPTN Jennifer Giles**

USMC, Philippines  
(Mary Giles' granddaughter)

#### **CPTN Jeremy Giles**

US Army Special Forces,  
Ft. Bragg, NC

(Mary Giles' grandson)

#### **LT Col. Jessica D. Grasseti**

(Claudia Polzin's niece)

#### **MAJ Robert Gruber, USMC**

**LT CDR Marjorie Gruber, US Navy**  
Camp Pendleton, CA

(Bob Gruber son & daughter in law)

#### **E-3 Jacob Guzman**

US Army—USA  
(Cesar Guzman's son)

#### **Lt. Devon Hennessey**

Just returned to Texas from Afghanistan  
(Toni Hubbard)

#### **Christian Kurz**

US Navy, USS Nitze  
(Joyce Geary's great nephew)

#### **LCDR Michelle Lea**

US Navy  
(Cherie & Dave Baines' daughter in law)

#### **LT Kevin McCormick**

US Army - USA  
(Friend of Dick & Sharon Learn)

#### **Austin Schwartz**

USMC, Camp Pendleton, CA  
(Patricia Schwartz's grandson)

#### **MAJ Matthew Smith,**

USMC, Kuwait  
(Son of Linda Smith)

#### **1st LT Andrew P. Vadyak**

USMC  
Okinawa, Japan

#### **Hadley Vadyak**

USNA Class of 2020

#### **EM Xzavier Whitaker**

US Navy (John & Roberts McMaster's granddaughter's husband)



### **Happy Birthday!**

*Joan Elliott	9/1
*Jonas Rockhold	9/14
Jenna Stewart	9/14
*Peggy Paulsen	9/17
Marie Walton	9/17
*Martha Fligg	9/19
*Christine Rockhold	9/19
Brooke Vayda	9/19

#### **\*Birthday Club Members**

Interested in joining the Club? Birthday Club Members give one dollar for each year of their life to celebrate their special day! The VPC Endowment Board uses the interest income from the Birthday Club funds exclusively for Youth Activities! Please consider becoming a member of the Birthday Club! Celebrate your Birthday by thanking God for your life!

### **Happy Anniversary!**

There are no anniversaries this week.



### **Happy Grandparents Day!**

*"Grandparents are a delightful blend of laughter, caring deed, wonderful stories and love."*

*Anonymous*

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Please continue to hold in prayer our members and friends facing illness, injury and hardship. If you have any joys and/or concerns, let us know as they are lifted up daily through our intercessory prayer ministry. If you are hospitalized, please let the facility know you are a member or a friend of the Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church so they can let us know! Please notice that prayer requests will be kept in the bulletin for a period of 30 days, after which a new prayer request card should be resubmitted.

David Barrientos	Michael Jeskey
Edna Benton	Sandra Johnson
Anna & Brooke	Bob Kassing
Borden	LaDonna Lass
Lilia Cagua	Judy Malone
Family of Carmen	Don Neer
Adriana Caruso	Matt Nulph
Virginia Chandley	Bonnie Olson
Vicky Crosby	Cassidy Otto & Family
Ron Davis	Domenico Paglia
Margaret Degler	Christopher Parent
Dan Dorty	Marcia Piipponen
Julie Eilers	The Power Family
David Elliott	Leah Ray
Asia Rial Elsbree	Carol Rodkey
Jim Fligg	Twila Rowe
Tom Freehan	Metty Ryan
Janel Geary	Robin Ryan
Gary Gorran	Eleanor & Gary
Richard Grunert	Shepherd
Jake Hellihan	Jim Shields
Inspired Living at	Joy Skarka
Bonita Springs	Deborah Smith

Liz Nowry Smith  
The Waskey Family  
Will & Heather & Family  
Connie Wilson

### Remember 9/11

*"We will remember every rescuer who died in honor. We will remember every family that lives in grief. We will remember."*  
- George W. Bush

*"Even the smallest act of service, the simplest act of kindness, is a way to honor those we lost, a way to reclaim that spirit of unity that followed 9/11."*  
- Barack Obama

- For the residents of California dealing with the raging wildfires.
- For all students, teachers and parents navigating the upcoming school year.
- For people in this country and throughout the world suffering and coping with the Coronavirus disease.
- For Doctors, Nurses, and Medical Teams giving their best to provide care for those suffering in hospitals and other medical facilities.
- For leaders in government making tough decisions during this difficult time.
- For our church which provides comfort to all and leads us in new ways of worship and service to each other.
- That we will seek to serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves. That we will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.

**AMEN.**

## VPC MISSION

Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church is called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live like Christ in a broken world.

- To Proclaim the Gospel
- To Glorify God in worship and deed
- To Equip our congregation for ministry
- To Serve others in Christ's name.

## VPC VISION

A congregation...

- ...so grounded in scripture and sustained by prayer,
- ...so committed to spiritual growth and faithful discipleship,
- ...so inviting, welcoming and inclusive,
- ...so nurturing and healing,
- ...so mission-minded,
- ...so vibrant, energetic and open to opportunities to share the Gospel that lives are transformed by the love of Christ.



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Learning Center: 239-594-9557 [www.vpcnaples.org](http://www.vpcnaples.org)  
The church is a member of the Peace River Presbytery, the Synod of South Atlantic, and the Presbyterian Church (USA). OneLicense.net 3 A-719387

