



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

WELCOME TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Just a few reminders as we gather together for in-person worship. The following guidelines have been established for the health and safety of our congregation:

- Bring an open heart, mind and spirit.
- Hand sanitizer is available as you enter the church.
- Masks are required and must cover your nose and mouth for the entire service.
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet apart. Pews are marked to help.
- Please use the sliding glass doors at the porte-cochere for entry/exit.
- Ushers will seat you at the beginning of the service and dismiss by row following the postlude.
- There will be no congregational singing, however, you may join in the spoken responses with the liturgist.
- We use responsive or unison readings and prayers at different times. The leader will read the words in *italics*. The congregation reads the words in **bold print**.
- You are encouraged to take your bulletin home for reference.
- The East and West wings are closed.
- Offering plates are in the Narthex. You may also donate online.
- Restrooms will be open however, please limit to 2 people at a time and keep the main doors propped open.

November 8, 2020
23rd Sunday After Pentecost



Psalm 78:1-7

¹ Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

² I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,

³ things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

⁴ We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

⁵ He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children;

⁶ that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children,

⁷ so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Prelude: Prelude on A Swedish Folk Hymn

David Christensen
(b. 1950)

Call to Worship

Put away the things you have substituted for God.

Let your worship of the one true God be genuine.

We seek to know God and to rejoice before our Creator.

We know that God is beyond all our false images.

Our hope is in God's grace beyond all judgment.

Our trust is in God's love, greater than our feeble imitation.

We welcome the light God promises us.

We seek to respond with faithful service.

Let us worship God.

Hymn: "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

LLANGLOFFAN

Please remain seated and enjoy as the soloist sings the hymn.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising And soon He will draw nigh;
Up, watch with expectation, At midnight comes the cry. | 3. Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus now appear;
Arise, Thou sun so longed for,
Above this shadowed sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted,
We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption,
And ever be with Thee! |
| 2. See that your lamps are burning, Replenish them with oil;
Look now for your salvation, The end of sin and toil.
The marriage feast is waiting, The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory, The Bridegroom is at hand! | |

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

If sin means cutting ourselves off from you and being unprepared to respond to your presence, surely we have sinned. Our lamps are not trimmed; our lives are not ready for your trumpet call. We have not listened well or encouraged one another in the faith. The distraction of many things has kept us from meditation and prayer. We are witnesses against ourselves, for we have vowed our loyalty and then have gone our own way. Merciful God, we seek your forgiveness. Amen.

Affirmation of Forgiveness

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Gloria Patri

Henry Greatorex

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.

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 Old Testament Reading

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

¹ Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ² And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. ³ Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac; ¹⁴ "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." ¹⁶ Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷ for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸ and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God." ¹⁹ But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. ²⁰ If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." ²¹ And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" ²² Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." ²³ He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." ²⁴ The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." ²⁵ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Solo: "Keep Your Lamps!"

Michele Byrd, *Soprano*

Traditional Spiritual
 arr. Andre Thomas (b. 1952)

Prayer for Illumination

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:1-13

¹ "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.

⁸ The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹ But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹ Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹² But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

"Lesson on Waiting"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

Offering

Offertory: "Thankful"

David Curtiss, Baritone

Carole Bayer Sager, David Foster
and Richard Page

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

May worship continue wherever we go.

May our service extend God's love to all we meet.

We will serve the God we have met here.

We know that God goes with us everywhere.

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: "Psalm 19"

Benedetto Marcello
(1686 – 1739)



WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow, *Pastor*
Jim Muir, *Liturgist for Thursday recording*
Molly Godley, *Liturgist for Sunday in-person worship*
Heather Mikes,
Interim Director of Christian Education
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*
David Curtiss, *Baritone*
Greeters: Priscilla & Steve Kutler
Ushers: Carolyn Magarro & Claudia Polzin (*Head Ushers*), Jim Hawkins, George Morton, Jean Rawson, Rebecca Beavers, and Nellie Cummins
After Church Goodies: Jill Peterson
Soundboard Operator: Victoria Bonavita

Scripture Passages for the following week:
November 15—24th Sunday After Pentecost
Old Testament Reading: Psalm 123:1-4
Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30



The Parable of the Talents

VPC NEWS

IN-PERSON WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY:

This new worship opportunity continues today at 10:00 am. ***It is not intended to replace our ongoing virtual worship.*** Individuals in our community who are not feeling well or are included in other at-risk categories are asked to stay home and worship virtually. You must sign up **EACH** week if you wish to attend. Call us (597-5410) if you need assistance of any kind.

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?

If you are looking for a church home in Naples and would like to find out more about Vanderbilt? We would love to tell you about our church and learn more about you. If you have any questions or would like to learn about membership options at VPC, please contact the church office (597-5410). Pastor Rob would love to talk with you!!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

ZOOM IN FOR FELLOWSHIP HOUR—This morning, Sunday, October 25, from 11—11:30am, join the meeting to connect with 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!

ZOOM LUNCH WITH YOUR PASTOR: All VPC members and friends are invited to join Pastor Rob for lunch every Tuesday at noon for “Zoom Lunch with Your Pastor.” There is no agenda for this 60 minute lunch gathering. I simply want to see your smiling faces and visit a while during our lunch break. To register, call the church office (597-5410) or email Michele Byrd at mbyrd@vpcnaples.org.

ZOOM IN FOR WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR ROB:

Wednesdays—7:00 pm (Open to all): Gather for Bible Study on Wednesday evenings with all who wish to attend. We will gather using Zoom meeting for a casual discussion of the Scripture passage to be examined during worship on the following week. To register, call the church office (597-5410) or email Michele Byrd at mbyrd@vpcnaples.org. The link will be provided to you via email.

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR THE VLC:

Most Fridays during drop-off (8-8:45am) and pick-up (12:15-1pm) a trio of musicians are playing for the children and parents as they go through the car line. These musicians are made up of the per-service wind players from the Naples Philharmonic who have been out of work since March. They do not know when they will be back at work and are struggling to find places to perform. Trinity-by-the-Cove Episcopal Church created a “Help Musicians Now” fund that is underwriting these pop-up performances to help the musicians and to spread some joy in our community. If you would like to help underwrite this effort go to www.trinitybythecove.com—click on “donate” and pull down to “Help Musicians Now.” If you have any questions or would like to know the schedule of performances, please email Michele Byrd at mbyrd@vpcnaples.org.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE COVID-19 RELIEF FUND:

We have raised \$52,886 to help those most affected by the pandemic. Thus far, we have disbursed \$46,440 to local charities to help with housing and hunger. Thank you for your overwhelming kindness.

“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

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) or Kay Beernink at 239-238-1526 (leskaybee@aol.com).



FINANCIAL UPDATE—OPERATING FUND: September 2020:



	September	YTD	Budget
Operating Income	\$ 34,617	\$1,019,149	\$911,200
Expenses	\$ 97,259	\$819,151	\$897,200
Deo Mortgage Balance	9/30/2020	\$1,698,576	

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. Grassetti
(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 Afganistan
(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 & Roberta McMaster's
granddaughter's husband)



Happy Birthday!

*Linda Firestone	11/8
Kelly Shields	11/8
Myrna Carew	11/9
Michael Bevilacqua	11/10
*Fred Biere	11/10
*Jim Hawkins	11/10
Barbara Henry	11/10
*Bill Payne	11/10
Lindsey Smith	11/12
Martha Broeker	11/13
*Tarie Curtiss	11/13
Susan Lefebvre	11/14



***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 Team uses the interest income from the Birthday Club exclusively for Youth Activities! Please consider becoming a member of the Birthday Club. Celebrate your Birthday by thanking God for your life!

Happy Anniversary!

Mason & Patricia Colby	11/11
Janet & Bob Kassing	11/12
Alfred & Dorothy Williams	11/13
Robert & Shirley Schwindt	11/15
Bruce & Heidi Stryker	11/18



Happy
Anniversary!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please continue to hold in prayer our church family 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 friend of 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.

The Annunziata Family	Ali Frimpter	Cassidy Otto & Family
David Barrientos	Lynn Fischer	Domenico Paglia
Edna Benton	Gary Gorran	Christopher Parent
Mary Brown and Family	Jake Hellihan	Harry Patchell
The Byrnes & Goldblatt Families	Paul Heroy	The Power Family
Lilia Cagua	Chloe Bell Indelicato	Carol Rodkey
Natalie Cantey	Inspired Living at Bonita Springs	Metty Ryan
Adriana Caruso	Jack	Robin Ryan
Mason Colby	Michael Jeskey	Carol Schweirs
Pat Colby	Sandra Johnson	Eleanor & Gary Shepherd
Pat Counts	Jonathan	Jim & Patty Shields
Dick Creviston	Bob Kassing	Deborah Smith
Vicky Crosby	Brooke Kirchner	Liz Nowry Smith
Margaret Degler	LaDonna Lass	Scott A. Smith
Dan Dorthy	Judy Malone	Alan Swailes
David Elliott	Millicent Marshall	The Tetlak Family
Asia Rial Elsbree	Marilyn McKee	The Waskey Family
Jim Fligg	Don Neer	Kathy Whitcroft
Tom Freehan	The Nelson & Sletto Families	Will & Heather & Family
	Matt Nulph	Connie Wilson
	Bonnie Olson	Diana Woodward

Prayers for the earth and the people on the earth.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for thy love's sake. 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.



1225 Piper Blvd., Naples, FL 34110-1252 Office: 239-597-5410

Learning Center: 239-594-9557 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

