



Vanderbilt

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

December 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent

Psalm 126



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

*¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
² Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."
³ The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.
⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.
⁵ May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.
⁶ Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Prelude: "Largo" from Sonata No. 2 for Violin

Glenn Basham, *Violin*

Jean-Marie Leclair

(1697-1764)

Call to Worship

God is in our midst; do not fear.

God rejoices to renew our lives in steadfast love.

God gathers us for this time of worship.

God claims us and promises us a home.

Trust in God who is our strength and life.

Give thanks to God, the source of our salvation.

We will sing praises and exalt God's name.

With joyous shouts, we will tell of God's glorious deeds.

Let us worship God.

Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

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

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. | 2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo. | 3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. |
|--|---|--|

Advent Candle Litany (Responsive)

The Klein Family

Isaiah says, "He tends his flocks like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart." In Advent, we remember that God cares for us as lambs; and we know we belong to the household of God!

We light this candle celebrating that God does not shut out, but welcomes in.

God said, "Let there be light." And there was light. We light these three candles as symbols of God's light shining in the darkness. Let us pray.

God of Advent, you are the light of the world. In you, there is no darkness at all. There are no outcasts, no one who is not good enough: all have a place at the table. As we continue our journey through Advent, help us remember that those who the world says do not belong, you welcome with open arms.

In the name of your son, who represented your open arms to us. Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

All-knowing God, we confess our worry and anxiety over unimportant matters. We admit the fears that make us defensive instead of loving. We acknowledge our resentment over losses we have sustained and oppression we have suffered. We recognize that we have been far more concerned for our own welfare than for the building up of Christ's body, the church. In our congregation, we have focused on survival more than service. We look for what we can gain more than for what we can give. Re-establish your rule among us, we pray, and save us from ourselves. 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.

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 First Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²² abstain from every form of evil. ²³ May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Solo: "O Men From the Fields"

Michele Byrd, *Soprano*

Arnold Cooke
(1906-2005)

Prayer for Illumination

The Gospel Reading

John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

"The Light of Christ"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

Offering

Offertory: "O Lord Most Holy"

Michele Byrd, *Soprano* & Glenn Basham, *Violin*

César Franck
(1822-1890)

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

God is faithful and will stand by you.

You are valued in God's covenant community.

We are filled with joy as we go out to serve.

We are thankful for the good news we carry.

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: "What Child is This?"

Glenn Basham, *Violin*

arr. Rich Heffler

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow, *Pastor*
Susie Hilton, *Liturgist for Thursday recording*
Molly Godley, *Liturgist for Sunday worship*
Heather Mikes, *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.
Glenn Basham, *Violin*
Michele Byrd, *Soprano for Thursday recording*

David Curtiss, *Baritone for Sunday worship*
Greeters: Priscilla & Steve Kutler
Ushers: Carolyn Magarro & Claudia Polzin (*Head Ushers*), Karen Chappler, Tim Hall, Terry Mountford, Harley Ruppert, Jerry Warnken, Becky Wheat
After Church Goodies: Membership & Involvement Team
Soundboard Operator: Victoria Bonavita

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK

December 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent
New Testament Reading: Romans 16:25-27
Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38



VPC NEWS

IN-PERSON WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY:

This 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 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.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS INFORMATION:

Advent has begun! We welcome this opportunity to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. To guide us on our journey together through Advent this year, we are using the great tradition of the Jesse Tree created by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS). Information was emailed on Wednesday. If you need assistance or did not receive the email, call us at 239-597-5410.

CHRISTMAS SANCTUARY DECORATING:

Our Sanctuary will be decorated for Advent/Christmas again this year: that's right, 2020 is not taking that away from us! We are offering you the opportunity to dedicate poinsettias in honor or memory of your loved ones. Members and friends wishing to assist in funding the cost (any amount is appreciated) may do so by completing the form available in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or simply sending in donations marked "Poinsettias". Donors names and dedications will be included in the Virtual Christmas Eve worship service bulletins. This year the poinsettias cannot be distributed after Christmas Eve. You may pick up your plant on Wednesday, December 23rd (10am to 4pm) and Thursday, December 24th (10am to 3pm). To be included in the bulletin, please send your check by TODAY! We appreciate your generosity!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

JOIN US IN JOYFUL CELEBRATION!

Come to the Christmas Connection Caravan on Saturday, December 19 from 3:00pm until 4:00pm.

Your VPC family has created a special opportunity to gather outdoors, as we prepare our hearts and minds for the arrival of Christ. Bring your own sleigh through the Porte-Cochere beginning at 3:00pm, where you will be greeted with Christmas cheer and a gift bag filled with meaningful ways to celebrate the season, including *Dough Holy Night!*



Following your drive through, please turn left along the main entrance to park in the spaces across the bridge, facing the church steeple, while staff continues to greet other visitors. A talented trio of youth musicians will play until 3:45pm. Roll down your windows or step outside your car to listen. We ask that you help us care for others by socially distancing (six feet apart) and/or wearing your mask.

At 3:45pm, Pastor Rob and staff will step out to where the musicians are to open a time of prayer and reflection. Everyone will be invited to sing "Silent Night" — a time of contemplation and preparation. After the song, we will invite everyone to excitedly ring the silver bells found in your gift bag, in joyful celebration of the arrival of Christ and Christmas. Following the bells, we will invite everyone to sing "Joy to the World." As you go, know that our hearts and the love of Christ go with you everywhere. Be sure to check your gift bag for a package marked "Do Not Open Until Christmas Eve" and join us online for the Virtual Worship Service on December 24.

BOOK CLUB:

It is December and time to think about this month's book club meeting. We will meet at 1:30pm via Zoom, Monday, December 21 and will be discussing *Still Life*, by Louise Penny. Please email Peggy Landon (mlandon711@gmail.com) to get the Zoom link. Our upcoming books are: January 18: *The Only Woman in the Room*, by Marie Benedict and February: *Rules of Civility*, by Amor Towles.

ZOOM IN FOR FELLOWSHIP HOUR:

This Sunday morning, 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 AND BIBLE STUDY:

Tuesday at noon you can Zoom in and have lunch with Pastor Rob. Wednesday at 7pm is the Zoom Bible Study. Email Michele Byrd (mbyrd@vpcnaples.org) for the link to either meeting.

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP

3 MISSION OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVENT:

Each of these worthy organizations have been selected for your consideration during the season of Advent. All monetary donations will be accepted through the church website, www.vpcnaples.org.

Be sure to note where your gift should be applied. Thank you.

- The **Christmas Joy Offering** has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. Please put "**Christmas Joy Offering**" on your check or online donation.
- **Misión Peniel Christmas Toy Drive**—Many of the farm worker families in Immokalee have been impacted by COVID-19. Vanderbilt is running a Christmas toy drive for the children of the farm workers in Immoklaee - **specifically for boys and girls ages 1-5**. The item(s) can be anything you desire as long as it does not promote violence (like toy guns or toys/games promoting fights). Please bring your unwrapped toy to the church no later than Tuesday, December 15th in a bag marked "Peniel Christmas". They will be delivered to Immokalee and distributed prior to Christmas Day. If you'd rather just donate money, simply write a check to the church or donate online by Sunday, December 13th and put "**Peniel Christmas**" in the memo. If you have any questions email Pete

Rodino at pvrodino@aol.com. Thank you!

3. VPC has a long tradition of alternative giving to **Heifer International**. Instead of purchasing another unneeded thing for a family member or friend, make a contribution to Heifer International in their honor. Heifer works to alleviate hunger and poverty around the world by providing livestock and training to needy small-scale farmers and by educating young girls in developing countries. Donations may be made before or after services today or next Sunday, OR online through the VPC website. Please put **"Heifer"** in the donation line of your check or online gift. Questions? Contact Leslie Loughran at leslie.loughran@gmail.com.

SAVE A LIFE....SIGN UP FOR THE BLOOD DRIVE:

Sunday, December 20th from 9 am - 12 pm. Call the church to schedule a time: 239-597-5410. All FDA & CDC guidelines are being followed. Donors are required to bring & wear face masks. Photo ID is required. Eat a meal before donating & be well hydrated. Thank you for your donation!

DECEMBER 2020 VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

COLLIER HARVEST/FEED 5000:

On December 14 at 5:30 pm, Collier Harvest (Feed 5000) will have a packing event at their warehouse at 4451 Mercantile Avenue. We will pack 150 bags of food for the families of needy students from Golden Gate, East Naples, and Immokalee Middle Schools. The food includes dry and can goods, fresh fruits, and vegetables. VPC volunteers have been participating for years; it's a great way to give back to the community! It usually lasts about an hour. If you are interested, please email Cherie Baines (ctfl.baines@gmail.com) or call at 239-776-5652.

CAFÉ OF LIFE:

There are two Café of Life events coming up in December. A "Fruit Blessing" is being planned for December 15 and a midday meal on December 29. Both of these events are at 10:00 am at Leitner Park, 26274 Nomad Drive, Bonita Springs. For the "Fruit Blessing," the fruit can be dropped off at the park. About 100 people, including the working poor, and homeless, attend these events. For the meal, volunteers prepare a dish (salad, pasta, fruit salad, cookies, etc.) and bring it to the park. Volunteers can stay to help serve if they desire to do so. To volunteer or learn more, please contact Eliza Nevin at elizanevin@comcast.net or Cherie Baines at ctfl.baines@gmail.com.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR HELP

VPC STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE HERE TO HELP:

Know someone in need? 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: October 2020:

	October	YTD	Budget
Operating Income	\$ 60,165	\$1,079,314	\$978,600
Expenses	\$101,152	\$ 920,302	\$998,000
Deo Mortgage Balance	10/31/2020	\$1,692,757	



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 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!

George Mackie	12/13
*Mary Jane Stoner	12/13
*Mary Lou Gast	12/14
*Ada Nuhn	12/14
*Chris DeBruyckere	12/15
Sterling Desorcy	12/15
*Pam Mitchell	12/15
Harry Brown	12/16
*Kay Schoenfuss	12/16
Dick Watts	12/16
Nicole Smith	12/17
Alison Thomas	12/17
Courtney Martinez	12/18



Happy Anniversary!

There are no anniversaries this week.



*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!

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.

Bayne Carew
Adriana Caruso
Pat Counts
Dan Dorty
David Elliott
Jeffrey Elliott
Bob Fahnestock
Jim Fligg
Ali Frimpter
Pattie Fruth
Quinten Hawkins
The Family of Charles Henningsen
Chloe Bell Indelicato
Inspired Living at Bonita Springs
Jonathan
Dennis Jones
Bob Kassing
Brooke Kirchner
Judy Malone
Millicent Marshall
Marilyn McKee
Joan Mountford
Don Neer

Cassidy Otto & Family
Domenico Paglia
The family of Christopher Parent
Harry Patchell
Marianne Rapps
Leah Ray
Charlene Roth
Carol Schweirs
Tony Shogren
Deborah Smith
Liz Nowry Smith
Scott A. Smith
Arlene Sniffen
Alan Swailes
The Tetlak Family
Pat Wesley
The Wesley Family
Dan Westerlund
Diana Woodward

Almighty, all-merciful God, through Christ Jesus you have taught us to love one another, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and even to love our enemies. In times of violence and fear, let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, so that we may not be overcome with evil but overcome evil with good. Help us to see each person in light of the love and grace you have shown us in Christ. Put away the nightmares of terror and awaken us to the dawning of your new creation. Establish among us a future where peace reigns, justice is done with mercy, and all are reconciled. We ask these things in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

