



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



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent

December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Psalm 89:1-4

*¹ I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.*

*² I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.*

*³ You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:*

*⁴ I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations."*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Prelude: Four Variations on "Come, Savior of the Nations, Come!"

Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau
(1663-1712)

Call to Worship

Come apart to this place of rest and renewal;

Let your spirits rejoice in the presence of God.

We will sing of God's steadfast love for all people.

We will proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations.

Blessed are those who walk in God's light.

Blessed are all who say 'yes' to God's call.

Let the heavens proclaim the wonders of God.

Let all the earth rejoice in Christ's coming.

Let us worship God.

Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

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

1. O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him,
Born the King of angels!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord

2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all
Glory in the highest!

Refrain

Advent Candle Litany (*Responsive*)

The Vayda Family

Isaiah wrote: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given: and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Jesus was born into a time of turmoil, but God promises that someday the fighting will end. Warriors will "beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks."

Nations will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. The peacemakers will be blessed indeed.

We light these candles longing for God's peace for ourselves, our families, our nation, and for the whole world.

In the name of the One who brings God's peace to the world.

Let us pray:

God of Advent, we eagerly await the birth of the Prince of Peace. We long for Jesus' coming again when swords will become plowshares. Teach us to be peacemakers in our own relationships, our own families and workplaces, and in the world. Help us to be blessed as peacemakers in your name.

In the name of the One who brings God's peace to the world. Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, in whom all things are possible, we confess that we have doubted what we cannot explain. We have sought strength and enjoyment apart from you. We haven taken pride in ownership more than giving praise through stewardship. We have neglected to thank you, either in good times or when you have supported us during days of uncertainty. We have resisted the newness you offer. Forgive us, we pray, for installing ourselves as reigning deities. Lead us, rather, in paths of trust and obedience. 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

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵ Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but is now

disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Solo: “Song of Mary”

Richard Shephard

Michele Byrd, *Soprano*

(b. 1949)

My Lord and Saviour is my song, He fills my spirit with delight To raise me up his arm is strong, The lowly precious in his sight. Magnificat anima mea Dominum. (*My soul doth magnify the Lord.*) My name shall live from age to age, And every tongue his servant bless, For mercy is their heritage Whose hearts the Holy One confess. He feeds the hungry at his board And sends the rich unfilled away, And mindful of his promised word Has answered Israel's prayer today.

Prayer for Illumination

The Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

“Saying Yes to God”

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

Offering

Offertory: “Ave Maria”

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Michele Byrd, *Soprano*

Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

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 has granted a beautiful earth for our home.

God appoints us as care-givers of the land and its people.

We are a covenant people, shaped by love.

Wherever God sends us, we will go.

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: “Basse et Dessus de Trompette”

Louis-Nicolas Clérambault

(1767-1749)

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow, *Pastor*

Karen Chappler, *Liturgist*

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.

Michele Byrd, *Soprano for Thursday recording*

David Curtiss, *Baritone for Sunday worship*

Greeters: Priscilla & Steve Kutler

Ushers: Carolyn Magarro & Claudia Polzin (*Head Ushers*), Jim Hawkins, George Morton, Joe Trees, Bill Van Fossen, & Molly Godley.

After Church Goodies: Membership & Involvement Team

Soundboard Operator: David Curtiss, *for Thursday recording* & Pete DeBaun, *for Sunday worship*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24: Christmas Eve

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)



Christmas
EVE



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. Call us (597-5410) if you need assistance of any kind.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS INFORMATION:

Advent is coming to a close! 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.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE CHRISTMAS CONNECTION!

We hope that you enjoyed our Christmas Connection yesterday! It was wonderful to see so many of our VPC family in person! Thanks to the Mission & Involvement Team (especially, Priscilla Kutler, Jan Fern, Beth Lee, Nancy Miller and June Peterson) for helping to assemble the gift bags, our youth orchestra musicians; Colin Gerlach, *Violin*, Alondra Damian-Noyola, *Viola*, and Osei Allen, *Cello* for providing the beautiful Christmas music and YOU for attending! MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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!

NO ZOOM LUNCH WITH YOUR PASTOR OR BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK :

Lunch with the Pastor and Bible Study are canceled for this week. They will resume next week.

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP

SAVE A LIFE....GIVE BLOOD —TODAY!! - Sunday, December 20th from 9 am - 12 pm.

If you did not sign-up, you can check to see if you can be accommodated as a walk-up. 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!

2 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.

- 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 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.

CAFÉ OF LIFE: On Tuesday, December 29, 2020, VPC volunteers will help prepare and serve a midday meal at 10:00 am at Leitner Park, 26274 Nomad Drive, Bonita Springs. About 100 people, including the working poor, and homeless, attend these events. Volunteers prepare a dish (salad, pasta, fruit salad, cookies, etc.) and bring it to the park. To learn more about this opportunity, please contact Eliza Nevin at elizanevin@comcast.net or Cherie Baines at ctfl.baines@gmail.com.

WEEKEND POWER PACK: On Wednesday, January 13, VPC volunteers will pack 120 bags of food for homeless children or those living at poverty level as part of the Weekend Power Pack Program. Weekly, students in the program, receive a bag containing two breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners, and four snacks. The school guidance counselor puts the “power pack” in their backpack before leaving school for the weekend. Please contact Cherie Baines at ctfl.baines@gmail.com for more information.

COLLIER HARVEST/FEED 5000: On January 18, 2021, at 5:30 pm, Collier Harvest (Feed 5000) will have a packing event at their warehouse at 4451 Mercantile Avenue. Volunteers will pack 150 bags of food for the families of needy students from Golden Gate, East Naples, and Immokalee Middle Schools. If you are available and would like to join us, please send an email to Cherie Baines (ctfl.baines@gmail.com) or call at 239-776-5652.

MISIÓN PENIEL: On Friday, January 22, 2021, and Friday, March 19, 2021, our church is scheduled to serve at Misión Peniel, (following COVID protocols.) A group of six volunteers will serve on each of these days, and you must provide your own transportation to Immokalee. If you are interested in signing up, email the date(s) you would like to participate to Cherie Baines (ctfl.baines@gmail.com.)

THANK YOU VPC!!

You generously donated over \$4,000 and an abundance of toys to the children of Misión Peniel to brighten their Christmas! What a wondrous outpouring of Christian love to those who have so little! Thanks to each of you for your donations of cash and toys for this very worthy cause!

Due to an incredible \$5,000 matching grant, the generosity of the VPC congregation, and the Missions Team's support, VPC was able to raise \$10,000 to sponsor 200 children in the Angel Tree Project. Each child received a \$30 Walmart gift card and a \$20 Publix food gift card. Super job, everyone! Thank you!

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!

Jackie Woodring	12/21
Barbara Bonthron	12/22
Derek Millard	12/22
Chloe Cornell	12/23
Lauren Franklin	12/23
Kristina Hauschild	12/23
*Claudia Polzin	12/23
Garry Pettegrove	12/24
Robert Schmidt	12/26



Happy Anniversary!

Joyce & Wayne Peters	12/22
Clive & Nancy Ozard	12/24
George & Margaret Mackie	12/26



*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	Cassidy Otto & Family
Adriana Caruso	Domenico Paglia
Pat Counts	The family of Christopher Parent
Dan Dorty	Harry Patchell
David Elliott	Marianne Rapps
Jeffrey Elliott	Leah Ray
Bob Fahnestock	Charlene Roth
Jim Fligg	Carol Schweirs
Pattie Fruth	Tony Shogren
Quinten Hawkins	Deborah Smith
The Family of Charles Henningsen	Liz Nowry Smith
Kay Hurley	Scott A. Smith
Chloe Bell Indelicato	The family of Arlene Sniffen
Inspired Living at Bonita Springs	Alan Swailes
Jonathan	The Tetlak Family
Dennis Jones	Pat Wesley
Bob Kassing	The Wesley Family
Brooke Kirchner	Dan Westerlund
Judy Malone	Diana Woodward
Millicent Marshall	
Marilyn McKee	
Joan Mountford	
Don Neer	

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

