



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

December 6, 2020
Second Sunday of Advent

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13



¹ *LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.*
² *You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.*
⁸ *Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.*
⁹ *Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.*
¹⁰ *Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.*
¹¹ *Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.*
¹² *The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.*
¹³ *Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Prelude: "Tous Les Bourgeois de Châtres"
"Quand Jésus naquit à Noël"

Jean-François Dandrieu (1682-1739)
Claude Balbâtre (1727-1799)

Call to Worship

*Comfort, comfort my people, says our God.
Speak tenderly to my suffering people.*

We will prepare the way for One who is coming.

We look forward to baptism in the Spirit.

*God will feed us like a shepherd.
God will gather us in gentle, caring arms.*

God's hand is upon us in blessing.

We are welcomed by God's steadfast love.

Let us worship God.

Hymn: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

WINCHESTER NEW

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

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!
2. Then cleansed be every life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.
3. We hail You as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge, and our great reward;
O let Your face upon us shine
And fill the world with love divine.

Advent Candle Litany (*Responsive*)

The Beynon Family

Jeremiah prophesied, "The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the gracious promise I made to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah... I will make a righteous branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land." (Jer. 33:14-15)

We light this candle for every child of God who is far from home. We light this candle committed to making the world a safe home for all people.

We light these candles to proclaim that God's light has come into the world and the darkness will not overcome it. Let us pray.

God of Advent, you are our heart's home: safe, loving, and eternal. You chose to incarnate yourself into a family that had little else but love on the night you were born. Help us see and touch the lost and needy people around us. Draw us closer to your light as we draw closer to Christmas.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of glory, we confess that we have not recognized you in our midst nor listened for your voice. Our faith is fragile, and our iniquity goes unrecognized amid our massive self-concern. We have lived as if we have no need to account for the life we have been given. Our church is focused more on our own survival than on its mission in the world. We come to you today with sincere repentance for our neglect. We have failed to prepare the way for Christ's entry into our everyday environment. Pardon and change us, we pray. 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

2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸ 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. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹ Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³ But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Solo: "Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending"

Michele Byrd, *Soprano*

Thomas Olivers

(1725-1799)

Prayer for Illumination

The Gospel Reading

Mark 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

"A New Beginning"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

Offering

Offertory: "He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd" *from Messiah*

Michele Byrd, *Soprano*

G.F. Handel

(1685-1759)

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

Gracious and abundant God, even as we wait for the fulfillment of your creation, you meet us in Christ at this table, in this meal. We thank you for feeding us with the bread of life and quenching our thirst with the cup of salvation. Now send us out into the world by the power of your Holy Spirit to share your life and salvation with all whom we meet.

Amen.

Commission and Blessing

Lead lives of holiness and godliness;

Enjoy treasures of heaven and earth that God offers.

God's Word brings us both comfort and challenge.

We are accepted by God and commissioned for duty.

Alleluia!

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte

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!

Postlude: "Vieux Noël"

César Franck
(1822-1890)



WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow, *Pastor*
Suzanne Zelinka, *Liturgist for Thursday recording*
The Rev. Dr. Louis S. Thompson, *Parish Associate and 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.
Michele Byrd, *Soprano for Thursday recording*

David Curtiss, *Baritone for Sunday worship*
Greeters: Priscilla & Steve Kutler
Ushers: Carolyn Magarro & Claudia Polzin (*Head Ushers*), Terry Mountford, Jean Rawson, Harley Ruppert, Joe Trees, Rebecca Beavers & Nellie Cummins
After Church Goodies: Priscilla Kutler, Jan Fern & Geri Payne
Soundboard Operator: Victoria Bonavita

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK

December 13: Third Sunday of Advent

New Testament Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8. 19-28

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!

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 December 13th. 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.

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 RESUME THIS WEEK:

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.

ZOOM IN FOR THE LADIES VIRTUAL BRUNCH:

Ladies, celebrate Christmas with your VPC family! Saturday, December 12, 2020 from 11am—1pm. The afternoon will include a presentation by VandeReaders, music from our beloved choir, a blessing given by Rev. Dr. Fred Schulz and of course fellowship! Call Lisa at the church to sign up or Lois at lafolliard@gmail.com.

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 Immokalee - **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 on December 6th, 13th, and 20th 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.

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!

Carole Helmick	12/6
*Rick Miles	12/6
Judy Deme	12/7
Chad Brodbeck	12/8
Joseph Tutton	12/8
Edna Benton	12/9
*Jo Miles	12/9
Michael Frimpter	12/10
Carly Jacob	12/11
Dan Suci	12/11
*Jean Hahm	12/12



Happy Anniversary!

Linda & Wayne Firestone 12/7



*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.

Bob Bush
Adriana Caruso
Mason Colby
Pat Colby
Pat Counts
Dan Dorty
David Elliott
Jeffrey Elliott
Bob Fahnstock
Jim Fligg
Ali Frimpter
Quinten Hawkins
The Family of Charles Henningsen
Paul Heroy
Kay Hurley
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
Leah Ray
Charlene Roth
Carol Schweirs
Tony Shogren
Deborah Smith
Liz Nowry Smith
Scott A. Smith
Arlene Sniffen
Alan Swailes
The Tetlak Family
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.



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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

