



May 2, 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Psalm 22:25-31

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.

May your hearts live forever!

²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

²⁸ For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.

²⁹ To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.

³⁰ Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord,

³¹ and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.



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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Prelude: "There is a Green Hill Far Away"

Gordon Black, *Piano*

arr. Lani Smith
(1934-2015)

Call to Worship

Come to worship God whose love was revealed in Jesus.

Let all the ends of the earth turn to our God.

We will worship the almighty and sing praises.

We will proclaim good news to others.

Remember that you have been baptized.

God claims you and has high expectations of you.

Christ is the vine; we are the branches.

We will bear fruit when we abide in the vine.

Let us worship God.

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Love, divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart. | 3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love. |
|---|---|

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God, we have ignored our origin in you and denied your rule over the nations. We have pursued illusions of self-interest rather than abiding in your love. We have turned away from brothers and sisters as if they were enemies to be hated. We are afraid to love those who differ from us or who have the power to harm us. We hesitate to take the risks of caring for fear that we may be hurt. Discipleship seems too demanding. O God, release us from our fears and failures to trust your love and live with bold generosity. 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

Drake DeBaun

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.

First Scripture Reading

1 John 4:7-21

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who

confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Solo: "God is Love, Let Heaven Adore Him"

Cyril Vincent Taylor
(1907-1991)

Michele Byrd, *Soprano*

God is Love, let heaven adore him; God is Love, let earth rejoice; let creation sing before him and exalt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foundation, God who spread the heaven above, God who breathes through all creation: God is Love, eternal Love. God is Love; and Love enfolds us, all the world in one embrace: with unfailing grasp God holds us, every child of every race. And when human hearts are breaking under sorrow's iron rod, then we find that selfsame aching deep within the heart of God.

Prayer for Illumination

The Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

"Never Waste a Good Crisis"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

Offering

Offertory: "The Gift of Love"

American Folk Tune

Michele Byrd, *Soprano*

arr. Hal Hopson (b. 1933)

Though I may speak with bravest fire, And have the gift to all inspire, And have not love, my words are vain, As sounding brass, and hopeless gain. Though I may give all I possess, And striving so my love profess, But not be given by love within, The profit soon turns strangely thin. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, Our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed; By this we worship, and are freed.

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 God, we give you thanks that by the witness of your word and the sharing of this meal you have opened our hearts and eyes to the presence of Christ among us. Now send us forth by the power of your Spirit to tell this good news to the world: the Lord has risen indeed! Amen.

Commission and Blessing

Live for God every moment of every day.

Take time to bow down in gratitude for God's love.

We seek to live as people who know God.

Because we are loved, we dare to love others.

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: The Emperor's Fanfare

Antonio Soler
(1729 - 1783)

Please remain seated until the end of the Postlude.



The flowers on the chancel are donated in loving memory of Jo Rist
by her husband, John, and her daughter, Leslie.



WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow, *Pastor*
Bill Payne, *Liturgist for virtual worship*
The Rev. Louis S. Thompson, *Parish Associate,*
Liturgist for Sunday worship
Dr. James Cochran, *Director of Music*, playing the
Richard and Patricia Fors Organ given to the
 glory of God and in honor of James Cochran,
 Organist.
Drake DeBaun, *Christian Education Intern*
Gordon Black, *Piano for worship*
Michele Byrd, *Soprano for virtual worship*

Sherry Hardgrove, *Soprano for Sunday*
worship
John Weiss, *Cello for Sunday worship*
Greeters: Priscilla & Steve Kutler
Ushers: Carolyn Magarro & Claudia Polzin
(Head Ushers), Steve & Priscilla Kutler, Rebecca
 Beavers, Nellie Cummins, Jerry Warnken, Becky
 Wheat, Nancy Guthy, David & Cherie Baines,
 George Morton
Soundboard Operator: Victoria Bonavita

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK

May 9: Sixth Sunday of Easter
First Reading: Acts 10:44-48
Gospel Reading: John 15:9-17



VPC NEWS

IN-PERSON WORSHIP: As we continue to navigate our Sunday morning worship services, it is important that we have a good handle on the number of people planning to attend. Each week, emails are sent with instructions on how to register online, or you may always call the church office (597-5410) during the weekdays, to sign-up. If your plans change before 3pm on Friday, please call and let us know.



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The Congregational Nominating Committee has called a meeting of the congregation on **May 16, 2021** for the purpose of electing a Deacon to fill an unexpired term. The meeting will be held live, in-person in the Sanctuary at 11 am immediately following the 10 am service.

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**. We hope to see you there!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION

ZOOM LUNCH WITH YOUR PASTOR AND BIBLE STUDY: Join us for lunch or Bible Study....or both! Tuesday at noon, have lunch with Pastor Rob. Wednesday at 7pm is the Zoom Bible Study.

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP WITH MISSIONS

HELPS OUTREACH: Please donate nonperishable food to Helps Outreach by dropping it off at VPC or taking it to Helps Outreach, 2025 J & C Blvd. Especially needed are canned tuna, salmon, chicken, fruit, peanut butter, diapers, and women's hygiene products. Donations can be dropped off at Helps on Monday, Tuesday,



Thursday, and Friday from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Also, volunteers are needed to help sort and arrange donated items, pick up furniture, and assist clients in the office. For additional information, to donate or volunteer, please contact Joe or Angie Valentini at helpsoutreach@hotmail.com or call (239) 593-3226.

REMEMBER...WE ARE ROOTED IN FAITH AND GROUNDED IN LOVE!

As we begin to think about what our worship looks like in the future, with more and more of our membership getting vaccinated and rejoining us in person, we are reminded that our first responsibility is to treat one another with kindness and love. We will continue to listen to the words of Christ, ***"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."*** (John 13:34).

We will continue to follow the recommendations of the CDC, including wearing masks and maintaining a 3-foot social distance between family units. We are still requesting that you register for worship, if you choose to attend in person on Sunday mornings. As always, you may watch the worship service anytime via our website.

The Worship Music and Liturgical Arts Team continues to discuss the concerns and questions about worship at their monthly meetings. In the coming months, they will look at new possibilities for increased participation of our families and young people and our church committees. If you feel called to help your church now or in the future, we are in urgent need of greeters and ushers. We have an opportunity to reimagine these jobs while following the CDC guidelines for safe gatherings, so if you want to be involved, let us know! We need your help! Contact Claudia Polzin: claudiapolzin239@gmail.com.

As Session approved building use for church committees/teams needing "in person" working space, we would like to remind everyone that existing building reservation procedures are still required and CDC protocols must be utilized during use of the facilities.

- As we continue to face the challenge of the pandemic of coronavirus, it is important that we continue to follow the CDC guidelines to ensure a safe environment for our **congregants** and **staff**.
- Accordingly, we are requiring that ***all visitors entering our facilities wear a face mask***, in addition to staying at least 3 feet apart: a mask is NOT a substitute for social distancing.
- Masks should completely cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of face without gaps.
- If you don't have one, a mask will be provided to you. We strongly encourage to bring your own.
- Fully vaccinated individuals are STILL required to wear a mask and maintain social distance guidelines when entering VPC buildings.

Each person has a different level of comfort when it comes to gathering together as the Body of Christ. We are doing everything we can to make sure that all our members are comfortable and feel supported and loved.

We pray for your love and compassion to abound as we walk through this challenging season.

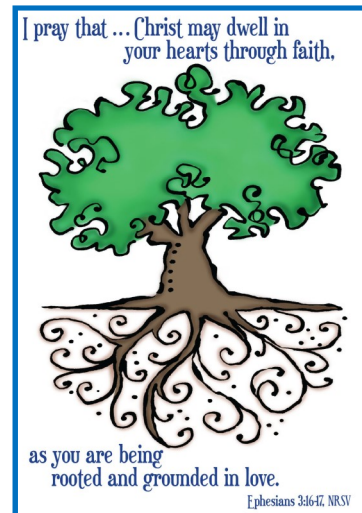
We ask for wisdom for those who bear the load of making decisions with widespread consequences.

We pray for those who are suffering with sickness and all who are caring for them.

We ask for protection for the elderly and vulnerable to not succumb to the risks of the virus.

We pray for misinformation to be curbed that fear may take no hold in hearts and minds.

As we exercise the good sense that you in your mercy provide, may we also approach each day in faith and peace, trusting in the truth of your goodness towards us. Amen.



BLOOD DRIVE

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

TODAY! Sunday, May 2nd from 9 am - 12 pm. 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!

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. Call our Stephen Leader Referrals Coordinator: Kay Beernink at 239-238-1526 (leskaybee@aol.com).

FINANCIAL UPDATE—OPERATING FUND: March 2021:

	March	YTD	Budget
Operating Income	\$107,986	\$ 360,057	\$1,363,000
Expenses	\$ 74,072	\$ 282,377	\$1,363,000
Deo Mortgage Balance	3/31/2021	\$1,661,243	

You will be enriched
in every way to be
generous in every way.
which through us will
produce thanksgiving
to God.
2 Corinthians 9:11

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)

LTJG Wyatt R. Dawley

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

LCDR Adam Endrelunas

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

MAJ Allen Fujinaka

US Army
(LaVerne Perrollaz's granddaughter's husband)

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)

PRAY FOR OUR

MILITARY



*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 Birthday!

Katherine Barkley Willis	5/2
Barbara Hurst	5/2
Joanne Whitman	5/2
Lew Bevan	5/3
David Bos	5/3
Joe Feddern	5/3
Bill Van Fossen	5/3
Kyle Vayda	5/3
Alice Lebo	5/5
Clifford Swaby	5/5
*Judy Peabody	5/6
Jane Raskauskas	5/6
*Bruce Muddell	5/7
Naseem Yousaf	5/7
*Rich Yovanovich	5/8

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Celebrating
-WITH-
you

Happy Anniversary!

Clifford & Margaret Swaby	5/1
Caroline & Michael Thomas	5/1
Mary & Scott Wollaston	5/4

THE FLOWERS
APPEAR ON
THE EARTH;
THE TIME
OF SINGING
HAS COME!

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:12, NRSV

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.



Greta Birnbaum
Adriana Caruso
Gretchen Davison
Dick Dahnke
Jeffrey Elliott
Jim & Wealtha Flick
Jim Fligg
Ali Frimpter
The Frimpter Family
Pattie Fruth
Manfred Gallwitz
Richard Grunert
Quinten Hawkins
Kay Hurley
Inspired Living at
Bonita Springs
Sandra Johnson
Larry MacDonald

Judy Malone
Don Neer
Emily Orr
Jonathan Orr
Domenico Paglia
Bruce Reyher
Twila Rowe
Ernie Sartorius
Frank Schmitt
Carol Schwiars
Sid Showalter
Ron Sieling
Deborah Smith
Liz Nowry Smith
John Spain
Alexandra Sze &
Baby Luca Ryan
Lake Walton



We are saddened to announce the death of **Mike Frimpter** on April 17, 2021. Mike and his wife, Ali, have been faithful members of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church for over twenty-six years. Ali has been a long time member of the Chancel Choir. Please keep his family in your prayers. A private memorial service will be held at a later date.



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

