



November 28, 2021  
First Sunday of Advent



**Psalm 25:1-10**

- <sup>1</sup> To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.  
<sup>2</sup> O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.  
<sup>3</sup> Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.  
<sup>4</sup> Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.  
<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.  
<sup>6</sup> Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.  
<sup>7</sup> Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!  
<sup>8</sup> Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.  
<sup>9</sup> He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.  
<sup>10</sup> All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

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**

Welcome to Vanderbilt! We rejoice that you are here to worship God with us. Children are important members of our faith community and are welcome in worship. Nursery ministry is also available. Please ask an usher if assistance is needed. As a courtesy to others, please turn off cell phones during the service. The asterisk (\*) in the bulletin indicates that the congregation is asked to stand as able. 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**.

**Announcements**

**Prelude:** "Angels' Serenade"

Colin Gerlach, *Violin*

Gaetano Braga  
(1829-1907)

**Advent Candle Litany (*Responsive*)**

James Cochran, *Godfather* & Colin Gerlach, *Godson*

*Advent is a time of waiting, of holy expectation, a time of preparing our hearts and home for Christmas joy.*

**During Advent we remember the incarnation of Jesus, born to a young woman who, but for God's love, would have been an outcast.**

*The God who created the heavens and the earth becomes flesh in Jesus and dwells among us, God with us.*

**The God we meet in Jesus is a God of compassion, righteousness and a radical love like no other.**

*There was a man named John who quoted an ancient prophecy: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall be made straight, the rough ways smooth. And all humankind will see God's salvation."*

**We light this candle in gratitude for God's divine and perfect love, made visible in Jesus, and our imperfect and sometimes clumsy ways of sharing it.**

*We light this candle as a symbol of God's light shining in the darkness.*

**The light has come into the world and darkness shall not overcome it.**

**\* Hymn #9 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

VENI EMMANUEL

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain:*

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

*Refrain*

3. O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

*Refrain*

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

God of promises and possibilities, we admit that we color the world according to our own limited vision. We are often unjust in our judgments and faithless in our relationships. We are haunted by sins we have not confessed. Hear us as we entrust them to your forgiving care. Help us to let go of our transgressions, to renew our covenant with you, and to live constructively with one another. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, whose coming among us we await with great expectation. 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

We invite children to gather up front for a special children's message. After we sing "Jesus Loves Me," children and youth ages PreK-3 through High School may go study, serve, pray and play together during Sunday school.

**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.**

## Prayer of Illumination

### The First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Solo: "Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming"

Michael Praetorius

Michele Byrd, *Soprano*

(1571-1621)

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung. It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind, with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

### The Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-36

<sup>25</sup> "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." <sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup> "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message: Sermon Series: *Coming Home for Christmas*: "Time to Go Home"**

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

**Solo:** From Messiah "Come Unto Him"

G. F. Handel

Michele Byrd, *Soprano* & Colin Gerlach, *Violin*

(1685-1759)

Come unto Him, all ye that labor, come unto Him that are heavy laden, and He will give you rest.

Take his yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

## Offering

### \* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 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.

### \* Hymn #8 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

TRURO

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,  
Behold, the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here!

3. Redeemer, come! I open wide  
My heart to Thee: here, Lord, abide.  
Let me Thy inner presence feel;  
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

2. Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
Make it a temple, set apart  
From earthly use for heaven's employ,  
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

### \* Commission and Blessing

*Watch and pray, seeking the strength Christ offers.*

*Live as thankful stewards of all God's gifts.*

**Our souls are lifted up to trust in God;**

**Our spirits rejoice to learn God's ways.**

*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: "Adoration"

Colin Gerlach, *Violin*

Felix Borowski  
(1872-1956)

*Please be seated until the end of the Postlude.*



## SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK

December 5:

Second Sunday of Advent

First Reading:

Malachi 3:1-4

Gospel Reading:

Luke 3:1-6

Sermon Series:

Coming Home for Christmas

Sermon: "The Fear of Home"

The flowers on the Chancel are donated from Sally & Jim Muir to celebrate a wonderful life and a task completed & in loving memory of our parents, Leslie & Ebba Daggett. They filled our lives with joy. From JoAnne Lepore and Andrea Daggett.



This morning, our fellowship hour treats are sponsored by Molly Godley. Why don't you stop by and greet your fellow VPC friends after church? Come to Fellowship Hall after the service! See you there!



## WORSHIP LEADERS

**The Rev. Robert J. Marrow**, *Pastor*

**Mary Lynn Myers**, *Virtual worship Liturgist*

**Jerry Grandey**, *Sunday worship Liturgist*

**Dr. James Cochran**, *Director of Music*, playing the

**Richard & Patricia Fors Organ** given to the glory of God and in honor of James Cochran, Organist.

**Heather Mikes**, *Director of Christian Education*

**Colin Gerlach**, *Violinist*

**Michele Byrd**, *Soprano for virtual worship*

**The Chancel Choir**, *for Sunday worship*

**Julie Carver**, *Pianist for Sunday worship*

**Greeters:** Priscilla Kutler & Ruth Felipe

**Ushers:** Claudia Polzin and Carolyn Magarro

(*Head Ushers*), Bill & Mary Koppelkam, Barb

McElwaine, George Morton, Becky Wheat

**Soundboard Operators:** Victoria Bonavita & Jim Hart

## VPC NEWS

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOTICE:** The Session, at its October 25 meeting approved a CNC request to hold a Congregational meeting on Sunday, December 5, immediately following the 10am service for the purpose of electing Bob Miller and Judy Jacobs to fill unexpired terms as Deacons.

Also, the congregation will be asked to vote on four candidates, Malcolm MacDonald, Debbie Dawley, Jackie Woodring, and David Baines, to fill unexpired terms as Directors of the VPC Endowment Trust Board.



**WHAT'S UP WITH WEDNESDAY NIGHTS?** We encourage everyone to participate in all the Advent activities



on Wednesday Nights for families — adults and children of all ages, church family, friends, and community. Click the link to sign up or call the church office (239) 597-5410. **December 1:**

Green Tree Center Christmas Event 5pm-8pm. Meet up with friends for the Christmas Tree

Lighting! No Youth Group @VPC. Heather Mikes, [hmikes@vpcnaples.org](mailto:hmikes@vpcnaples.org).

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:** Our Sanctuary will be decorated for Christmas again this year.

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, may do so by completing the form in the Narthex and place it in the offering plate with the check or simply sending it in with your donation.

Donors names and dedications will be included in the Christmas Eve worship service bulletins.

**Please send your check and dedication by December 12<sup>th</sup>.** Thanks!





**SHARING LOVE:** Stephen Ministry has been part of our church for 23 years, blessing care receivers, lay caregivers, and the whole congregation. To continue and expand this ministry, we are beginning another Stephen Ministry training class on **January 6, 2022**. Take advantage of this opportunity to share the love that God has given you and be part of one of the most fulfilling and joyful ministry experiences you'll ever have! Explore at [www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org) or contact Training Coordinator, Jill Peterson at [petersji72@gmail.com](mailto:petersji72@gmail.com) or at 239-250-4483.

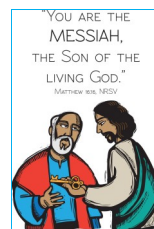
**VPC IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE RETURN OF FELLOWSHIP TIME** after church and your Parish Life Committee needs you! There are two ways you can help: 1. Sign up to help with setting up and cleaning up during fellowship time once a month or when you're in town. 2. Sign up to provide treats. Bring a fruit bowl or plate, a salty snack, and a sweet OR sponsor treats by donating \$50 to the Parish Life Committee and we'll purchase them for you. To sign up, contact Barbara Bonavita, [bbonavita@vpcnaples.org](mailto:bbonavita@vpcnaples.org) or call 597-5410.



**EDUCATION OFFERING: MENTAL ILLNESS – THEN AND NOW - Dates: November 28**

**Location:** Library - **Time:** 11:15am -12:30pm **Leaders:** Rev. Lou Thompson & Joyce Geary. Join us at 11:15am, when we will review past and current understanding and treatments for mental illness. A box lunch will be served.

**DR. LOU THOMPSON PRESENTS AN EDUCATION OFFERING FOR MEN:** Journey with Matthew as he leads us from Birth to Death of Jesus, The Messiah. A class for men on **Tuesdays 9 am beginning November 30** in Harp Hall. We will begin with Matthew's introduction of the Ancestry of Jesus, exploring the concept of Messiah, Son of David, Son of Abraham.



**ADVENT NOONTIME CONCERTS:** Wednesdays: **December 1, 8, & 15 - from 12-12.30pm**

December 1: Joshua Brusseau, Bass, December 8: Sherry Hardgrove, Soprano, December 15: Michele Byrd, Soprano - All concerts are accompanied by Jim Cochran, Pianist

**SPREAD THE VPC LOVE on Wednesday, December 1, 5-8pm** VPC will be participating in a Christmas Tree Lighting event at the Green Tree Center - right across the street! We hope to have many of our members present in their blue VPC shirts! Let's get into the spirit and share the love of VPC with our neighborhood!



**CHRISTMAS COFFEE, MUSIC AND GIVING:** JOIN US for coffee and live Christmas music on **Friday, December 10** on the patio from 8am-10:30am. Bring a lawn chair and your Angel Tree donations! Visit the Heifer Fair table. Enjoy fellowship, coffee and breakfast treats available for purchase. **ALL are welcome.**

**SIGN-UP FOR THE BLOOD DRIVE!** Sunday, December 12 from 9am-noon. Call 597-5410 or email [bbonavita@vpcnaples.org](mailto:bbonavita@vpcnaples.org). Thank you for saving a life!



**FRIENDS IN FAITH - WINTER STUDY INVITE:** Friends in Faith is a caring group of women who support one another through exploring God's word together. The group has will resume on **January 12**. Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 10-11:30am. All ladies are welcome to come read and discuss *"Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World"* by Max Lucado. We will order books through the church office for \$10. Please contact Barbara Bonavita at (239) 597-5410 or [bbonavita@vpcnaples.org](mailto:bbonavita@vpcnaples.org) before December 12<sup>th</sup>.



**VPC WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** - Join us on **Saturday, December 18 at 12 pm**. Enjoy a VandeReaders presentation, carol singing, and a catered lunch by LBD - Leslie Loughran. \$25 per person. Sign up in the church office (597-5410) or Sunday mornings.





## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSIONS

- **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:** Every Wednesday morning, a group of men and women meet in the VPC parking lot at 7:30am and take the church van to Immokalee to build homes. No special skills or tools are required, just bring a bag lunch. At 2pm we return to the church. For more information call **John Paalman at 818-642-2976**.
- **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:** Each year during the Advent and Christmas seasons, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. "Christmas Joy" envelopes are available in the Narthex.
- **December 5, 12, and 19,** we will have a table set up in the Narthex for donations to **HEIFER INTERNATIONAL** which supports families worldwide by giving them an animal to start a small business providing wool, milk, eggs, and more. Your donation to VPC-Heifer goes straight towards these animals and gives families a hand up towards a school and a sustainable livelihood. Heifer gift cards are available for any contribution of \$10 or more and may be passed on to those you wish to honor with your contribution. Don't miss this wonderful mission opportunity and fine VPC tradition!
- **SALVATION ARMY:** On **December 15 & 16** volunteers are needed to assist families in choosing gifts for their "Angels." Meet at the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Shop, 3725 Tamiami Trail East. Maria Ramos, Salvation Army Volunteer Coordinator, is scheduling volunteers in two-hour shifts.



- **THE SALVATION ARMY "ANGEL TREE"** is in the Narthex. Choose a tag and purchase an age-appropriate gift for their "Angel." Please bring the unwrapped children's gifts to VPC by Sunday, **December 5**.
- **CAFE OF LIFE:** On **Friday, December 17**, VPC volunteers will provide and serve a meal at Cafe of Life in Lightner Park, Bonita Springs, FL. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Eliza Nevin at: [Elizanevin@comcast.net](mailto:Elizanevin@comcast.net) This is a wonderful way to fight hungry in our community!

## FINANCIAL UPDATE—OPERATING FUND

	October	YTD	YTD Budget
Operating Income	\$ 96,552	\$1,061,191	\$1,106,700
Expenses	\$ 99,969	\$ 976,184	\$1,071,800
Deo Mortgage Balance    10/31/2021	\$ 336,017		



## 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 Afghanistan  
(Toni Hubbard)

### Nolan Kelly

US Army - Private First Class  
Fort Sill, OK

### Christian Kurz

US Navy, USS Nitze  
(Joyce Geary's great nephew)

### 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)





### \*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!

Sara Wells	11/28
*Mary Jane Williams	11/28
*Mary Lynn Myers	11/30
Ruth Bethem	12/1
Oscar Lowe	12/1
Ali Frimpter	12/2
Judy Davis	12/3



### Happy Anniversary!

Steve Blad & Judy Malone
11/28
Madge & Bob Bush
11/28
Gayle & Rob Kaderly
11/28
Haley & Richard Hood
12/02

## 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. 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 note that prayer requests will be kept in the bulletin for a period of 30 days, after which a new prayer request card should be submitted.

Cynthia Arnold	Dawn Marie	Jonathan	Marciadee Newman
Ava	Bob Diederich	Chester Kauffman	Judy Oehler
Angel Barillas	Jim & Wealtha Flick	Ellis Lee Kline	Athena Partin
Teresa Barrett	Jim Fligg	Michelle Lea	Marjorie Renth
Tracey Barry	Ali Frimpter	Mark Madden	Twila Rowe
Adriana Caruso	Gail	Lonnie Mahan	Harold Soule
Dick Creviston	Bee Getman	Judy Malone	Lake Walton
Ron Davis	Fran Gray	Bridgette Negri	Geraldine Wearsch
Gretchen Davison	Sandra Johnson	Joseph Negri	Ann West



## 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](http://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*

