

# Vanderbilt

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent



## Philippians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

<sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

<sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything  
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving  
let your requests be made known to God.

<sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

**Preludes:** Prelude in C and F Major

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

### Advent Candle Litany (*Responsive*)

The Carver 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.*

**1. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart, and soul, and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before Him bow,  
And He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!**

**2. Good Christian friends, rejoice,  
With heart, and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!**

**He hath opened heaven's door,  
And we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!**

**3. Good Christian friends, rejoice,  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all,  
To gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!**

### **Call to Confession**

#### **Prayer of Confession**

**What shall we do, O God? We can never do enough to deserve your love. We confess that we are not always truthful. We have defaced the purity of your love for us. We have embraced ugliness and oppression rather than loveliness and grace. We have distorted your cries for justice in order to benefit ourselves. We have given less than our best to others and to you. Forgive 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

**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

Zephaniah 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. <sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Solo:** "O Jesulein Süß" (O Jesus So Sweet)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Michele Byrd, *Soprano*

(1685-1750)

O Jesulein süß, o Jesulein mild! Deines Vaters Willen hast du erfüllt, bist kommen aus dem Himmelreich,  
uns armen Menschen worden gleich. Mit Freuden hast du die Welt erfüllt. Du kommst herab vons Himmels  
Saal Und tröstest und in dem Jammertal.

*O little one sweet, O little one mild, thy Father's purpose thou hast fulfilled; thou cam'st from heav'n to mortal  
ken equal to be with us poor men. With joy thou hast the whole world filled; thou camest here from heaven's  
domain to bring men comfort in their pain,*

## The Gospel Reading

Luke 3:7-18

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." <sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup> He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." <sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." <sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message: Sermon Series: *Coming Home for Christmas*: “The Joy of Home”**

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

**Solo: “All Through the Night”**

Welsh Carol

Michele Byrd, *Soprano*

arr. Ruth Elaine Schram (b.1956)

Sleep, my child, and peace attend thee, all through the night. Guardian angels God will send thee. Soft the drowsy hours are creeping, hill and vale and slumber sleeping, I my loving vigil keeping. While the moon her watch is keeping. While the weary world is sleeping. Over thy spirit gently stealing, visions of delight revealing. Breathes a pure and holy feeling. All through the night.

**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.**

**\* Affirmation of Faith (unison)**

(From the “Book of Common Worship”) Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39

**We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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 #23 “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

GLORIA

**1. Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains.**

***Refrain:***

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

**2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song?**

***Refrain:***

**3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.**

***Refrain:***

**\* Commission and Blessing**

*God, who has blessed you, commissions you for service.*

*Shout and sing for Joy; praise God in all you do.*

**God has renewed and refreshed us this day.**

**God's strength will be our song wherever we 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: "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"**

arr. Wilbur Held  
(1914-2015)

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





**SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR  
NEXT WEEK**

**December 19:**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a**  
**Gospel Reading:**  
**Luke 1:39-45**  
**Sermon Series:**  
**Coming Home for Christmas**  
**Sermon: "The Blessing of  
Home"**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF  
**ADVENT**

The flowers on the chancel are  
donated to welcome back  
**Julie & Greg Borden!**  
Love, the Westerlund Family



**This morning, our fellowship hour  
treats are sponsored by  
Leslie Loughran in honor of Jo Rist  
and the Heifer Fair.  
Come and join us!**

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

**The Rev. Robert J. Marrow, Pastor**  
**Bill Payne, Virtual worship Liturgist**  
**Emily Lienesch, Youth 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**  
**Michele Byrd, Soprano for virtual worship**

**The Chancel Choir, for Sunday worship**  
**Julie Carver, Pianist for Sunday worship**  
**Carter Mikes, Youth Acolyte**  
**Greeters:** Priscilla Kutler & Jan Fern  
**Ushers:** Claudia Polzin and Carolyn Magarro  
(*Head Ushers*), Bill & Geri Payne, Gwen Salyer,  
Dianne Westerlund, Tim Hall  
**Soundboard Operators:** Victoria Bonavita & Jim  
Hart

## VPC NEWS

**TODAY AT FELLOWSHIP HOUR:** Come see the Gingerbread Houses and vote on your favorite! Have a treat! See your friends and take part in the Heifer activities. We hope to see you there!



**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. Call the church office (239) 597-5410. **December 12**, after Family Led Worship, our church family and friends will vote on their favorite Gingerbread house in Fellowship Hall. The winner will be announced at Wednesday Night Lights on Wednesday, **December 15** - Youth Group Pajama Party and Game Night. December 15 is our final WNL until January 12. Enjoy the holiday break with your family!



**MUSICAL OFFERINGS IN DECEMBER: Nine Lessons and Carols: TODAY! Sunday, December 12 at 2pm.** Each December, the Chancel Choir and the VandeReaders present the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Soloists, Choir, Trumpet, and Organ will help to put you in the Christmas Spirit!  
**Advent Noontime Concert:** Wednesday: **12-12:30pm December 15:**  
Janie Spangler, *Violin*, Glenn Loontjes, *Viola* and John Marcy, *Cello*

**TWINKLE, TWINKLE CHRISTMAS STAR:** VLC Christmas Concerts in the Sanctuary on Tuesday, December 14 at 5:15pm and 6:15pm. Come to see and hear what the students have been working on this Advent season!

**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 TODAY! - December 12.**

**CALLING ALL STEPHEN MINISTR RECRUITS:** As you know, Vanderbilt will be starting Stephen Minister training on **January 6, 2022**. At this point, we have 4 church members signed up to begin the training which is so exciting! As we have been recruiting for awhile now, for those of you who have been contemplating joining this ministry, we need your commitment by **December 15** to order the training supplies. Think about it! Do not hesitate to call to ask about the program. Jill Peterson is the training coordinator and can be reached at [Petersji72@gmail.com](mailto:Petersji72@gmail.com) or 239-250-4483. Join the Team!



**VPC IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE RETURN OF FELLOWSHIP TIME** after church and we need you! Sign up to help with setting up and cleaning up during fellowship. OR Sign up to provide treats OR sponsor treats by donating \$50 to the Parish Life Committee and we'll purchase them for you. To sign up, contact Leslie Loughran, [leslie.loughran@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.loughran@gmail.com) or (239) 580-9069. ***Stop by and sign the Joys and Concerns card for our friends in need of our thoughts and prayers.***

**"STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT . . . WHAT WAS THE STAR THAT HOLY NIGHT?"** Scholars and theologians, historians and astronomers, believers and skeptics — they've all had something to say about that wondrous "Star of Bethlehem." Most Christians associate it with Christmas Eve but the Church celebrates it on Epiphany, January 6. If you too are curious about that Star, plan to attend Dr. John Braun's illustrated presentation following morning worship on **January 9** in Harp Hall. Masks recommended. 11:15am-12:15pm.

**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 at 9 am** in Harp Hall.

**VPC WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** - Join us on **Saturday, December 18 at 12pm**. 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.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSIONS

- **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:** Every Wednesday morning, meet in the VPC parking lot at 7:30am to go to Immokalee to build homes. No special skills or tools are required, just bring a bag lunch. Questions? Call Karen Chappler at 592-6434.
- **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:** This Offering supports our Presbyterian leaders, including leadership development for communities of color, and support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. Envelopes are in the Narthex.
- **COLLIER HARVEST/FEED 5000: PLEASE HELP!** Only a few people have signed up to help pack groceries on **December 13 - 5:15pm** at the Collier Harvest warehouse. It's a great way to help feed the needy! Email: [ctfl.baines@gmail.com](mailto:ctfl.baines@gmail.com) - Cherie Baines.
- **HEIFER INTERNATIONAL:** December 12, and 19, we have a table set up in the Narthex for donations. Heifer gift cards are available for any contribution of \$10 or more. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity!
- **SALVATION ARMY:** On December 15 & 16 volunteers are needed to assist families in choosing gifts for their "Angels." Salvation Army Christmas Toy Shop, 3725 Tamiami Trail East. Maria Ramos, is scheduling volunteers.
- **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, contact Eliza Nevin at [Elizanevin@comcast.net](mailto:Elizanevin@comcast.net).

# MISSIONS

## Offerings

### 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		

\*This includes \$125,700 Grant from the Payroll Protection Program.

Without this one-time grant, our Year-to-Date income would be \$935,491



### 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







### Happy Birthday!

\*Jean Hahm 12/12  
George Mackie 12/13  
\*Mary Jane Stoner 12/13

\*Mary Lou Gast 12/14  
\*Ada Nuhn 12/14  
\*Chris DeBruyckere 12/15  
Sterling R Desorcy 12/15  
\*Dick Watts 12/16  
Nicole Smith 12/17  
Gerry Greenblatt 12/18  
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. 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. 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	Jim Fligg	Lonnie Mahan
Ava	Richard Grunert	Judy Malone
Tracey Barry	Dick Hardgrove	Bridgette Negri
Adriana Caruso	Cherry & Phil Jacobus	Joseph Negri
Mason & Pat Colby	Sandra Johnson	Marciadee Newman
Dick Creviston	Jonathan	Judy Oehler
Ron Davis	Chester Kauffman	Athena Partin
Gretchen Davison	Ellis Lee Kline	Harold Soule
Dawn Marie	Keira Krumbine	The Walton Family
Bob Diederich	Michelle Lea	Geraldine Wearsch
Jim & Wealtha Flick	Mark Madden	Ann West

*We are saddened to announce the death of **Lake Walton** on December 2, 2021. Lake was a member of Vanderbilt for 10 years. Please keep his wife, Marie, and his family in your prayers. A private Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. If you wish to send a card to Marie, please use the following address: 7432 Treeline Drive, Naples, FL 34119*

## 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

