



December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent



Psalm 80:1-7

- ¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
- ² before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!
- ³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- ⁴ O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.
- ⁶ You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.
- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

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: "Sing We Now of Christmas"

French Carol
arr. Anna Laura Page (b. 1943)

Gordon Black, *Piano* & Jim Cochran, *Organ*

Advent Candle Litany (*Responsive*)

The Borden 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.

*** Hymn #44 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

ST. LOUIS

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

2. For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth!

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, when we sense who you are, we are ashamed. How do you tolerate our pettiness? The abundance you have given us has made us proud more than thankful. We act as if our accomplishments were all our own doing. We seldom acknowledge your generosity or let you rule our lives. We go through the forms of worship, but we try to keep you at a safe distance. We fill our lives with status-producing activity that blocks out your call and limits our response. O God, we need to change. Will you help us? 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

Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵ and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Duet: "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Carol
arr. Fred Bock (1939-1998)

Gordon Black, *Piano* & Jim Cochran, *Organ*

The Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39-45

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: Sermon Series: *Coming Home for Christmas:*

"The Blessing of Home"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

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.

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 #56** "The First Nowell"

THE FIRST NOWELL

**1. The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Refrain:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.**

**2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Refrain:**

**6. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
That hath made Heaven and earth of naught,
And with His blood our life hath bought.
Refrain:**

* **Affirmation of faith**

(from the "Book of Common Worship;" Col. 1:15-20)

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in
heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created
through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He
is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might
come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by
making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.**

*** Commission and Blessing**

God's mercy continues from generation to generation.

You are accepted and loved and sent forth.

In gratitude and joy we accept our commission.

Our spirits rejoice to share good news.

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.

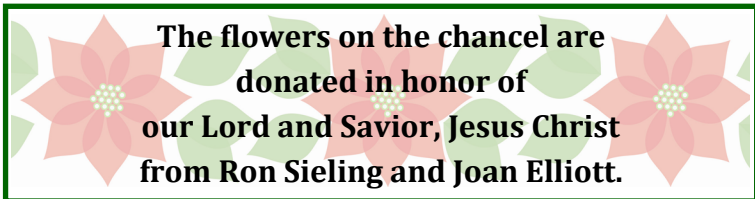
Postlude: "From Heaven Above to Earth He Came"

Wilbur Held
(1914-2015)


Please be seated until the end of the Postlude.

<p>All who heard him were amazed...</p> <p><small>Luke 2:47, NRSV</small></p> 	<p>SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK</p> <p>December 26: The First Sunday of Christmas First Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Gospel Reading: Luke 2:41-52 Sermon Series: Coming Home for Christmas Sermon: "Lost at Home"</p>
---	--

The flowers on the chancel are
donated in honor of
our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
from Ron Sieling and Joan Elliott.



This morning, our fellowship
hour treats are sponsored by
the VPC Women's Group.
Stop by and say Hello!



WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow, Pastor
Karen Chappler, Virtual worship Liturgist
Suzanne Zelinka, 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

Michele Byrd, Soprano for virtual worship
The Chancel Choir, for Sunday worship
Julie Carver, Pianist for Sunday worship
Greeters: Priscilla Kutler & Jan Fern
Ushers: Claudia Polzin and Carolyn Magarro
(Head Ushers), Jerry Warnken, Becky Wheat, Pat
 Rose, Linda & Ron Addaman
Soundboard Operators: Pete DeBaun & Jim Hart

VPC NEWS

WHAT'S UP WITH WEDNESDAY NIGHTS? Thank you for participating in our first Gingerbread Decorating event! We were thrilled to display 16 beautiful houses, made with love by more than 50 children and adults during our Wednesday Night Lights activities. We received nearly 80 votes in Fellowship Hall last Sunday!

Here are the results:



First Place

Jason, Carter,
Evangeline and
Hattie Mikes



Second Place

Bryan, Julie, Sydney,
Ayden and Olivia Carver



Third Place

Mauricio, Claudia,
Sebastian, Isabella Aguilar
& Abuelita Betty



Fourth Place

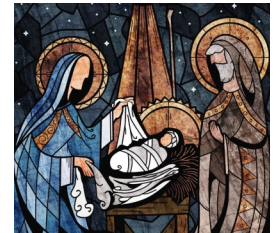
Vivian Lederer



Fifth Place

Melissa, Emily,
Lucy Lienesch &
Grandma

JOIN US ON CHRISTMAS EVE: Children are invited to worship with their families at all three **Christmas Eve services - 3pm, 5pm and 7pm**. We encourage families to worship together in the Sanctuary on December 24, 26 and January 2. Children's bulletins are available in the Narthex. Nursery ministry and Sunday school programming will resume on January 9. Wednesday Night Lights resumes on January 12 at 5:30pm.



BE A PART OF THE STORY! The Christmas Eve Family Service begins at 3pm on **December 24** and includes our Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant. Children are invited to dress as angels and shepherds, as we experience the Christmas story together. Costumes will be available in Fellowship Hall at 2:30pm.

JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP TIME after worship in Fellowship Hall! 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 or 580-9069.

Stop by and sign the Joys and Concerns cards for our friends in need of our thoughts and prayers.

WHAT CAN STEPHEN MINISTRY DO FOR YOU? With all this publicity on recruiting Stephen Ministers, you may wonder what Stephen Ministry means to you at VPC. Stephen Ministry is a ministry in our congregation in which trained and supervised laypeople, called Stephen Ministers, provide one-to-one Christian care to individuals facing life challenges. Stephen Ministers are caring Christians who listen, understand, accept, and pray for and with care receivers who are working through a difficult time in life. We are excited to train six new Stephen Ministers starting in January 2022. Jill Peterson is the training coordinator for this program and can be reached at Petersji72@gmail.com or 250-4483.



"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.

THE WHOLISTIC HEALTH TEAM PRESENTS: Stress Management Tools presented by Dr. Al Tartarunis, on Thursday, **January 13, 2022** at 10am in Harp Hall. A program of relaxation, behavior modification and letting go of negative emotions will help us to assess our current level of stress, examine our approach to coping with daily stresses of life, explore doable alternatives, and develop a personal stress management plan. A timely program as we attempt to reenter life after Covid 19. If living a healthier life is a priority for you, don't miss this seminar.

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 9am** in Harp Hall.

THANK YOU FOR DONATING! At our blood drive on December 12, we collected 17 pints of blood and saved 51 lives!

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: DONATE TODAY!** 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.
- **HEIFER INTERNATIONAL: December 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!

FINANCIAL UPDATE—OPERATING FUND

	November	YTD	YTD Budget
Operating Income	\$ 67,728	\$ 977,594*	\$1,044,400
Expenses	\$ 97,809	\$1,073,993	\$1,190,800
Deo Mortgage Balance 11/30/2021	\$ 334,013		

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

Without this one-time grant, our Year-to-Date income would be \$948,293.



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. 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 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 Anniversary!

Joyce & Wayne Peters
12/22
Barbara & Edgar Dominguez
12/24
Clive & Nancy Ozard
12/24

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



*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	Dawn Marie	Ellis Lee Kline	Athena Partin
Ava	Bob Diederich	Keira Krumbine	Harold Soule
Tracey Barry	Jim & Wealtha Flick	Michelle Lea	Bill Schwessinger
Ron Bartlett	Jim Fligg	Mark Madden	The Walton Family
Pam Botelho	Richard Grunert	Lonnie Mahan	Geraldine Wearsch
Adriana Caruso	Dick Hardgrove	Judy Malone	Ann West
Mason & Pat Colby	Cherry & Phil Jacobus	Bridgette Negri	
Dick Creviston	Sandra Johnson	Joseph Negri	
Ron Davis	Jonathan	Marciadee Newman	
Gretchen Davison	Chester Kauffman	Judy Oehler	



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

