



Vanderbilt
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

December 24, 2021 - 5 & 7pm **Christmas Eve**

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. We encourage families to worship together on Christmas Eve. 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**.

1225 Piper Blvd., Naples, FL 34110-1252 Office: 239-597-5410 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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

The Christmas Eve Prelude: "No Golden Carriage, No Bright Toy"

Michele Byrd, *Soprano*

Gilbert M. Martin

(b. 1941)

Call to Worship

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

The grace of God has come to save us.

For our sakes, God sent the child of Bethlehem.

For our salvation, Jesus came to live among us.

Glory to God in the highest.

Peace on earth to all who please God.

We seek to honor God in this time of worship.

We want to see for ourselves what God has done.

Let us worship God.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Manring Family

Though the candles of waiting and anticipation are lighted, and the Advent wreath is ablaze, still there is one more prophecy to hear: On this night, these words are fulfilled in our hearing and in our living, for the promise of God has come to us: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; his authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore." (Isaiah 9:2, 6a, 7)

* **Hymn #41: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

ADESTE FIDELES

**1. O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him,
Born the King of angels!
*Refrain: O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!***

**2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

**3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all
Glory in the highest! *Refrain***

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of the commonplace, we confess that we have been impressed by power and authority. We do not expect to meet you in the poor of the land, in cold barns, or on lonely duty watches. We are slow to hear the angels or to embrace the “good news of great joy.” We hesitate to leave our chosen tasks to share in your larger purposes. We settle for idols of material security even as you thrust us into the battles of life, where we have nothing on which to rely other than our faith in you. Forgive our lack of trust. Renew us in the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Affirmation of Forgiveness

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Choir Carol: “The Sussex Carol”

The Chancel Choir

arr. June Nixon
(b. 1942)

Prayer of Illumination

The Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-20

² ¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: *Coming Home for Christmas:* “Welcome Home!”

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

Solo: "A Christmas Blessing"

Michele Byrd, *Soprano*

Philip Stopford
(b. 1977)

*** A Christmas Creed**

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem. I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small. I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today. I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts. I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible. I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God. I confess my everlasting need of God: the need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold. I believe in God who gives us the best of himself. I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem that night, for me and for the world. Amen.

The Christmas Offering

Solo: "O Holy Night"

Michele Byrd, *Soprano*

Adolphe Adam
(1803-1856)

The Lighting of the Candles (*Seated*)

HOT WAX CAUTION: do not tip the flaming candle. Tip the unlighted candle into the flame.

Congregational Carol #60: "Silent Night" (*Seated*)

STILLE NACHT

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| <p>1. Silent Night! Holy Night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.</p> <p>2. Silent Night! Holy Night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!"</p> | <p>3. Silent Night! Holy Night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.</p> <p>4. Silent Night! Holy Night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.</p> |
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The Christmas Prayer

(Please extinguish your candles after the Prayer.)

Choir Carol: "In the Bleak Midwinter"

The Chancel Choir

arr. Robert Lau
(b. 1943)

*** Commission and Blessing**

Carry the peace of Christ into the world.

Glorify and praise God in all you do.

We will tell of what we have seen and heard.

The good news of great joy is for all people.

Alleluia.

Amen.

*** Christmas Carol #40: "Joy to the World"**

ANTIOCH

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| <p>1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.</p> <p>2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.</p> | <p>3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.</p> <p>4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.</p> |
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Postlude: "In Dulci Jubilio"

Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

Please be seated until the end of the Postlude.

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow, Pastor
Jim Muir, Liturgist for Virtual Worship
Jerry Grandey (5pm) & Susie Hilton (7pm),
Liturgists for Worship
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
Julie Carver, Pianist for worship
Ushers 5pm: Carolyn Magarro (*Head Usher*), Greg &
 Julie Borden, Jim Hawkins, Pat Rose
Ushers 7pm: Carolyn Magarro (*Head Usher*), Jerry
 Warnken, Dick Clark, Bob Miller, Joyce Geary
Soundboard Operators: Pete DeBaun, Jim Hart &
 Dave Curtiss

THE POINSETTIAS WERE DONATED BY:



Rick & Ruth Bethem
 In memory and honor of
Thomas & Bernice Walker

Dixie Bibb
 In memory of **Joyce Bibb**

The Bonavita Family
 In loving memory of
Domenico Paglia & Jeff O'Brien

Dr. & Mrs. Ellsworth T. Bowser
 In memory of our son,
Captain David E. Bowser, USMC

Babs Brock
 In memory of **Neal Brock &
 Bill, Elsie, & Bill Jr. Romoser**

Bob & Madge Bush
 In memory of
Jerilyn Helm Bush & Dottie Carter

Jan & Bob Conrad
 In memory of **Loved Ones**

Molly Godley
 In memory of **Bill Godley**

Timothy Hall
 In loving memory of
Carolyn Wasson Hall

Joan Haller
 In memory of **Ed Haller**

Heidi & Chuck Holley
 In memory of **Our Parents**

The Klein Family

Friends from Bentley Village
 In memory of **Frank Schmitt**

Joanne & John Lepore
 In loving memory of our parents,
**Leslie & Ebba Daggett and
 John & Josephine Lepore**

Carolyn Magarro
 In loving memory of **Tom Magarro and
 Ruth, Andrew & Randy Burger**

Robert & Doris Martin
 In memory of **Family Members**

Barbara McElwaine
 In memory of **Robert & Wilma Lieber**

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Nathan & Family
 In memory of **Russ Geldmacher**

Pete & Karen Rodino
 In memory of **Jim Davison**

Erik Steiner
 In memory of **Loved Ones**

Jean Rawson
 In memory of **Annette Kocal**

John & Rosemary Ufheil
 In memory of **Our Parents**

Bill & Sue Van Fossen

Lance & Margaret Waters
 In memory of
Charles & Gertrude Montgomery

