



May 15, 2022 **The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Psalm 148**

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!  
<sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!  
<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!  
<sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!  
<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.  
<sup>6</sup> He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.  
<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,  
<sup>8</sup> fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!  
<sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!  
<sup>10</sup> Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!  
<sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!  
<sup>12</sup> Young men and women alike, old and young together!  
<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup> He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!



**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 words in **bold print**.

**Green Friendship Pads** - We invite you, members and visitors, to sign our Green Friendship Pads and pass it down your pew and back, to welcome those with whom you are worshipping.

**Announcements**

**Prelude:** "Prelude in D Major"

Johann Caspar Ferdinand Fischer (1646-1716)

**\* Call to Worship**

*Come to praise God, all you faithful people!*

*Come, for God welcomes you and offers to draw close.*

**Praise to God, who rules over all the earth.**

**Praise to God, who is as near as our next breath.**

*Sun and moon and stars shine in praise to God.*

*God created them and established for each a place.*

**God has a place for us in this world;**

**We have come that God may instruct and equip us.**

*Let us worship God.*

1. **All creatures of our God and King,  
Lift up your voice and with us sing,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,  
*Refrain:* Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**
2. **Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,  
O sing ye! Alleluia!  
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!  
*Refrain***
3. **Thou flowing water, pure and clear,  
Make music for thy Lord to hear,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou fire so masterful and bright,  
That givest man both warmth and light,  
*Refrain***

### **Call to Confession**

#### **Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession**

**We admit, holy God, that we find it hard to hear your promise of new life. Even when we are dissatisfied with our lives, it is easier to cling to what we know than to risk the unknown. You challenge us to accept people who are different from us, but we are not eager to associate with them. You command us to love one another, but some people are not lovable. O God, melt our defenses so we can accept your love and let it flow through us. Grant us courage to embrace newness.**

#### **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.**

#### **A 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

Revelations 21:1-6

*<sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." <sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.*

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### Solo: "Be Thou My Vision"

Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Michele Byrd, *Soprano*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;  
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
Both waking and sleeping thy presence my light.  
Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;  
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;  
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;  
Be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.  
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart;  
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.  
Great heart of my own heart,  
whatever befall, Still be thou my vision,  
O Ruler of all.

### The Second Reading

Acts 11:1-18

*<sup>1</sup> Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup> saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" <sup>4</sup> Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup> "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup> As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup> I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' <sup>8</sup> But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' <sup>9</sup> But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' <sup>10</sup> This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup> At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup> The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup> he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' <sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup> If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord*

*Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?"<sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."*

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message:** "New Life in Christ"

The Rev. Melana Scruggs

**Solo:** "Spirit of God, Unseen as the Wind"

Traditional Scottish

Michele Byrd, *Soprano*

arr. A.D. Miller (b. 1972)

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind, Gentle as the dove; Touch us with love and teach us to sing Joy to you, Lord above. Your voice the sound, heard in the wind, O'er fields and hills you sing; Now I can hear the joy, my Lord, the peace your song will bring. Love in our hearts, praise in our prayers, We follow on your way; Lord of the sky, Lord of the earth, Answer us when we pray.

**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**

From A Brief Statement of Faith

**This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. 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 #322: "Spirit of the Living God" (*Please sing twice.*)**

LIVING GOD

**Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me:  
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.**

**\* Commission and Blessing**

*We go out as disciples of Jesus Christ.  
The world will recognize you by your love.*

**Love has created us and makes us whole.**

**We grow in love when we share love.**

*Alleluia.*

**Amen.**

**\* Benediction Response: "Irish Blessing"**

Owen Goldsmith  
(1932-2015)

Michele Byrd, *Soprano*

May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back; may the sun shine warm upon your face, may the rain fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

**Postlude: "Prelude in D Minor"**

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

*Please be seated until the end of the Postlude*

**WORSHIP LEADERS**

**The Rev. Melana Scruggs,**

*General Presbyter of the Peace River Presbytery  
and Guest Pastor*

**Molly Godley, Liturgist for virtual worship**

**Jerry Grandey, Liturgist for Sunday 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**

**Michele Byrd, Soprano for virtual worship**

**Sherry Hardgrove, Soprano for Sunday worship**

**The Chancel Choir, for Sunday worship**

**Julie Carver, Pianist for Sunday worship**

**Greeters:** Beth & David Lee

**Ushers:** Claudia Polzin & Carolyn Magarro

(Head Ushers), Karen Chappler, Becky Wheat,  
Dianne Westerlund, Gwen Salyer, Patti Runkel

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



The flowers on the  
chancel are given in  
loving memory of my  
husband, Richard Eliot,  
by Louise Eliot.

Thank you to Lee Weeks  
for sponsoring our  
Fellowship Hour  
treats today.



**SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK**

May 22: The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Hebrew Scripture: Psalm 89:1-5

Christian Scripture:

St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 15:1-6, 9-13

The Rev. Louis S.

Thompson,

Parish Associate

Homily:

"Awesome and  
Awful"



## VPC NEWS

**THE NEXT CONCERT IS TODAY! AT 2PM:** Gulfshore Opera Recital: Art Song plus French Mélodie. This special concert begins with art songs, followed by Opera arias and finally ends with a full, comic scene from a French operetta. Regional artists will join Steffanie Pearce for this performance. Translations will be provided. You won't want to miss this beautiful afternoon of chanson. *Musique - C'est bon pour vous!*



**The Wholistic Health Team**, with the approval of the Session and the support of the Building and Grounds and the Education Teams, has committed to educate ourselves and to help others understand the links between climate, health and prosperity through **Growing Climate Solutions**, an initiative sponsored and funded by the Collier County Community Foundation, the Conservancy of SW Florida, FGCU and the Kapnick Family Foundation. By partnering with **Growing Climate Solutions**, we join a network of local organizations and individuals in supporting and protecting the natural environment, the prosperity and health of our community, and the education and empowerment of all community members. We recognize the importance of engaging, encouraging and supporting solutions in the face of a changing climate and its impacts on SW Florida. To care for Creation is not a political, economic or scientific issue but, first and foremost, a moral responsibility laid before us by God. (from the PCUSA Commitment to Act on Climate Change, adopted in 2018). As we move forward together, we will suggest and encourage sustainable choices that each of us can easily make that will collectively contribute to addressing and lessening the impact of climate challenges.



**HELP US CELEBRATE GRADUATES!** If you have a senior graduating from high school, college, grad school or beyond, we want to help mark these significant educational milestones. This includes grandchildren! Also, if you have a student moving up from preschool, kindergarten, fifth grade or eighth grade, we need to hear from you, too! Send us a picture and short paragraph including their name, school and grade they are graduating from and the school they are heading to. Please include family information of proud parents, siblings and/or grandparents. Then tell us something fun like a hobby or sport played or a special talent. You could even include a favorite Bible verse! We will honor them on Moving Up **Sunday, June 5**. Please email submissions **by May 21** to Heather Mikes at [hmikes@vpcnaples.org](mailto:hmikes@vpcnaples.org).



**CHICKS WITH STICKS** meetings in May are cancelled. Meetings will resume in the fall. Questions? Contact Molly Cochran at [mollyknits53@yahoo.com](mailto:mollyknits53@yahoo.com) or 757-291-4034. Enjoy your summer break!

**PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE:** We are accepting donations to help the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Program which will send funds where the need is most urgent. Send a check to VPC and put Ukraine in the memo or donate online at [www.vpcnaples.org](http://www.vpcnaples.org).



**UPDATE ON STEPHEN MINISTRY MAY CONTINUING EDUCATION;** At the May meeting of Stephen Ministers and Leaders, we had continuing education on "Caring for People Experiencing a Major Medical Crisis." We discussed the emotional, relational, and spiritual challenges that our care receivers may be experiencing during this difficult time. Then we shared ways a Stephen Minister can help with those challenges at the onset of the crisis, during the decision-making process as well as during the treatment and subsequent outcome of the crisis. Next month at the June meeting, Stephen Ministers will continue with this topic discussing a variety of scenarios. Remember to be on the Lookout for those in need of a Stephen Minister!

**CAN YOU LEND A HAND?** We need more help on the Parish Life Team with our Fellowship Hours after worship on Sunday mornings. We need more helping hands! Please email Leslie Loughran at [leslie.loughran@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.loughran@gmail.com) if you are interested.

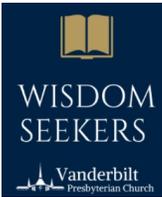




**VBS Volunteer Intro:** Join us for a brief VBS volunteer meeting on **Sunday, May 22 at 11:15am** in the Student Center (located in the West Wing). Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to serve during the Vacation Bible School “Food Truck Party” **July 18-22, 9am-12pm. Each of us plays an important role in inspiring our Chefs.** Opportunities are still available for adults, college students, high schoolers & middle schoolers. Let’s get on a roll with God! For more information or questions, email Heather

Mikes at [hmikes@vpcnaples.org](mailto:hmikes@vpcnaples.org).

**VLC SPRING CONCERT & GRADUATION:** Vanderbilt Learning Center students and their families will celebrate the end of the school year with joyful songs on **May 23 at 6pm** in the Sanctuary. Come see what they’ve been working on with Dr. Jim. Help us celebrate our preschool and kindergarten graduates!



**WISDOM SEEKERS:** Wisdom Seekers will meet on **June 1, at 12pm**, at Boston Beer Garden as a Thank You to them for sponsoring our Maundy Thursday dinner. Our topic is a discussion of the book “The Next Great Migration” by Sonia Shah. All are welcome and we hope those in town will join us.

**ADVENTURE IS OUT THERE!** Join us for Moving Up Movie Night in Fellowship Hall on **Friday, June 3, from 6-8pm**. We will be showing the movie “Up,” as we get ready for Moving Up Sunday on June 5, to celebrate graduates and educational milestones. Children and families of ALL ages are invited to stay together. If you'd prefer, children ages three and up may be dropped off. Snacks and refreshments will be served. Please email [hmikes@vpcnaples.org](mailto:hmikes@vpcnaples.org) to sign up for childcare.



**FINANCIAL UPDATE - OPERATING FUND 2022**



	April	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
<b>Operating Income</b>	\$ 92,056	\$507,373	\$536,300
<b>Expenses</b>	\$107,900	\$389,618	\$448,500
<b>Net</b>	<b>(\$ 15,844)</b>	<b>\$117,755</b>	<b>\$ 87,800</b>

**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)  
**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)  
**CPTN Devon Hennessey**  
Korea (Toni Hubbard)  
**Nolan Kelly**  
US Army - Private First Class  
Fort Sill, OK  
**SGT Wesley Kennedy**  
USMC - Okinawa, Japan

**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!

*Jim Shields	5/15
Jay Truax	5/16
*Dave Baines	5/18
*Buck Evans	5/18
*Jay Chesslo	5/19
*Amber Grider	5/21



**\*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!

## Happy Anniversary!

Elle & Gary Shepherd	5/16
Judy & Ron Davis	5/17
Jill & Joe Trees	5/17
Bill & CC Waskey	5/18
Jim & Marsha Reed	5/20



## 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.

Margaret Andreason	Dick Creviston	Mary Hart	Jeff Smith
Cynthia Arnold	Ron Davis	Don Iwaniki	Harold Soule
Ron Bartlett	Marlene Everson	Sandra Johnson	The Steiner Family
Charles Beattie	Jim & Wealtha Flick	Keira Krumbine	J. Richard Szeremany
Chris Bertler	The Fligg Family	Judy Malone	Dr. Al Tatarunius
Alexis Bevan	Jim Folliard	Marilyn McKee	The Teasdale Family
Peg Black	Annie Foster	The Moreno Family	Tony & Yvonne
Camie & North	Lori Godwin	Joan Mountford	Van Rooyen
Burmester	Gerry & Lynn	Bridgette Negri	Dan Westerlund
Tammie Carow	Greenblatt	Joseph Negri	Al Williams
Adriana Caruso	Jean Hahm	Ernie Sartorius	
Mason & Pat Colby	Blair Harlan	Carol Schwiers	

*We are saddened to announce the deaths of regular attender, Eric Steiner, on May 6 and longtime member, Jim Fligg, on May 8. Please keep the Steiner and Fligg families in your prayers. We will let you know if memorial services are planned in the future.*

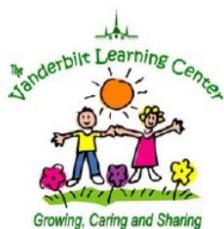
## VPC MISSION

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.



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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

