



**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**.

**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.

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

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. If you are visiting, please fill out the blue card and leave it in the green pad.



1225 Piper Blvd., Naples, Florida 34110

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 # A-719387



**December 18, 2022  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

The flowers on the chancel are given in loving memory of the Bevilacqua and Sciascia Families.

The Fellowship Hour is sponsored in loving memory of the Bevilacqua and Sciascia Families.

**Worship Participants**

**The Rev. Robert J. Marrow, *Pastor***  
**Dave & Stacia Hinkler and Sloane & Scarlett Mullen, *Advent Wreath Liturgists***  
**Molly Godley, *Liturgist***  
**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***

**The Chancel Choir**  
**Julie Carver, *Pianist***  
**Ayden Carver, *Youth Acolyte***  
**Greeters:** Nadine Gaylord & Priscilla Kutler  
**Ushers:** Bill & Geri Payne (Head Ushers),  
 Becky Wheat, Joan Butler, Nancy Guthy,  
 Patti Runkel, Pete DeBaun, Mary Lynn Myers,  
 Dick Hilton  
**Audio/Visual Technician:** Victoria Bonavita

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

<sup>1</sup> Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

<sup>2</sup> before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

<sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

<sup>4</sup> O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

<sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

<sup>6</sup> You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

<sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

<sup>17</sup> But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

<sup>18</sup> Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

<sup>19</sup> Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**Prelude:** Christmas Carols

Olivia Carver and Sebastian Aguilar

### Announcements

#### Advent Candle Litany

The Hinkler Family and Mullen Sisters

*Isaiah said that the Lord spoke to the king and said, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven" (Isaiah 7:11 NRSV). But when the king refused, God would not be stopped.*

*"Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel" (Isaiah 7:14 NRSV).*

**God wants us to know, even when we aren't sure ourselves. God wants us to experience God's presence, even when we think we can handle life on our own. God sends us signs of God's presence with us; all we need to do is keep our eyes open and look.**

*"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, 'god is with us.' "When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus (Matthew 1:23-23 NRSV).*

**We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, of deep everlasting joy, and today of presence that speaks of love, as a sign that no matter our circumstance, we know we are not alone.**

\* **Hymn #22:** "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

REGENT SQUARE

**1. Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.**

**Refrain:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

*Continued*

2. **Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
Yonder shines the infant light:  
*Refrain***

4. **All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the eternal Three in One.  
*Refrain***

3. **Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations;  
Ye have seen His natal star.  
*Refrain***

### **Call to Confession**

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

**O God, you have called us to be apostles of your grace, but we have been judgmental instead of gracious. We condemn in others what is also, all too often, in us. We refuse to listen to others' pain or to understand the source of their tears. We avoid those who are angry or scornful or embittered. It is easier to dismiss the feelings of others than to offer true empathy. We would rather reject than encounter them. Yet you come to us, Emmanuel, and we want to repent. You reach out to us, and our hearts melt. We want to embrace this new life. *(silence)* Amen.**

#### **Affirmation of Forgiveness**

*Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.*  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

#### **\* Gloria Patri**

Henry Greatorex (1816-1858)

**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 to Sunday school or families may choose to worship together in the Sanctuary.

**Special Music:** "Jingle Bells" "Tapping, Tapping," "Bells are Ringing," Jesus Loves Me"  
The Alleluia Choir

**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

Isaiah 7:10-16

*<sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.*

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### The Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

*<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.*

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message:**      **Sermon Series:** *Advent Songs of Ascent*

**Sermon:** "A Sign Like No Other"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

### Offering

**Offertory Anthem:** "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

The Chancel Choir

arr. Robert Lau (b. 1943)

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago. Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign: In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed, and there the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ. Angels and archangels gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; but his Mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him, give him my heart. — *Christina Rossetti*

**\*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.**

**\*Offertory Prayer**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

From the Confession of 1967

**Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world. 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**

*Surely God's face shines on us to strengthen us.*

*Gifts of grace and peace are ours to receive.*

**God helps us turn away from doing evil.**

**God equips us to choose what is good.**

*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:** "Grand Dialogue from the First Organ Book"

Pierre DuMage (1674-1751)

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

### VPC NEWS



### Christmas Eve Worship

4 pm Family Service

7 pm Candlelight Service

\*No Communion during worship

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24:

First Reading:

Isaiah 9:2-7

Gospel Reading:

Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Sermon:

"God of the Dark and Light—Part I"

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK

December 25:

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-14

Sermon:

"God of the Dark and Light—Part II"



### OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION

- **ADVENT DEVOTIONALS:** available in the office or narthex and are coming via email.
- **MIDWEEK SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY:** Will resume on **January 11, 2023.**
- **YOUTH ADVENT:** Middle, high school and college students....we need you! Email Heather to help lead the Advent reading **Christmas Eve at 4pm.**
- **VPC BOOK CLUB** lunch at Seasons 52 on **12/19 at 11:45.** Gather for fellowship, lunch and planning for 2023. Email Peggy Landon [mldandon711@gmail.com](mailto:mldandon711@gmail.com).



### TODAY AT FELLOWSHIP HOUR:

Come see the Gingerbread Houses that were decorated at WNL and vote for your favorite. Have a treat! Connect with friends! We hope to see you there!

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUSIC AND WORSHIP

- **MUSICAL OFFERINGS FOR DECEMBER: 12/21 at 12pm** - Advent Concert - Michele Byrd, Soprano.
- **CHRISTMAS EVE: Be a part of the story!** The Christmas Eve Family Service begins at **4pm** on **12/24** 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 **3:30pm**.
- **CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S WORSHIP:** Children are invited to worship with their families on Christmas Eve at the **4pm** and **7pm** worship services. No nursery provided. We encourage families to participate in the Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant at **4pm** on Christmas Eve.
- There is no programming for children and youth on **12/25** or **1/1**. Our staff and volunteers will be enjoying the blessings of family at home. There will be a worship service at 10am. Families are invited to worship together. Children's bulletins will be in the Narthex. Nursery ministry and Sunday school will resume on **1/8**. WNL on **1/11 at 5:30pm**.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR FRIENDSHIP AND COMMUNITY

- **VPC QUILTING SISTERS:** We will gather **12/22 at 9am** in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. Email Sharon Messmore for more information, [sharonmessmore@hotmail.com](mailto:sharonmessmore@hotmail.com).
- **STEPHEN MINISTRY:** Know someone in need? Maybe you? Maybe a family member, friend, or neighbor? Needs can be short-term or long-term...we want to help and are available! Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers that are a phone call or email away to walk beside you, listen and provide ongoing support. We currently have 14 active Stephen Ministers at VPC, some with care receivers and others waiting to help when called. Call for yourself or someone in need. Contact a Stephen Leader or Stephen Minister. See the bulletin board on the way to Fellowship Hall for more information.
- **MAH JONGG:** Contact Geri Payne at 593-5529 or [paynegnb@comcast.net](mailto:paynegnb@comcast.net).
- **BRIDGE:** Contact Nadine Gaylord at 740-816-1628 or [nanjan69@gmail.com](mailto:nanjan69@gmail.com).

- **FELLOWSHIP HOUR SPONSORS:** We are in need of sponsors for the Fellowship hour. If you would be willing to pick a date, call Barbara in the office. Thank you! 597-5410.

### BE SURE TO PICK UP THE SEPARATE SHEET WITH MISSION OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU!

- **HEIFER FAIR:** Our annual Heifer Fair was a wonderful event and a huge success. As of 12/18 we raised **\$5205** for this worthy organization. Thank you for your generosity!
- **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:** Provides assistance to current and retired church workers and for future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools & colleges equipping communities of color. Envelopes are in the Narthex through **12/18**.
- **CAFÉ of LIFE:** The VPC Mission Team is hosting a meal on **Friday, 12/30 at 9am** at Leitner Park, 26724 Nomad Dr., Bonita Springs 34135. Donations of food and volunteers to serve are needed. Email Eliza Nevin [elizanevin@comcast.net](mailto:elizanevin@comcast.net).

### PRAYER CONCERNS

Please continue to hold in prayer our church family and friends facing illness, injury and hardship. If you have any joys 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 30 days, after which a new prayer request card should be submitted.

Rich Annunziata	Eva	Jonathan	Eric Muir
Leo Barrett	Marlene Everson	Chester Kauffman	The Paolini Family
Ron Bartlett	Jim & Wealtha Flick	Barbara Lang	Carol Schwiers
Charlyn Bonk	Jim Folliard	Elizabeth Lepore	Ginger Sheldon
Adriana Caruso	Gail & Gary Goran	Judy Malone	Al Starr
Ron Davis	Joan Haller & Family	Zachary Mazzola	Barbara & Russ Thomas
Dawn Marie	Mary Hart	Marilyn McKee	
Annette & Bill Dietrich	Sandra Johnson	Joan Mountford	

#### Happy Birthday!

Gerry Greenblatt	12/18
Paul Higbee	12/21
Jacqueline Woodring	12/21
Chloe Cornell	12/23
Lauren Franklin	12/23
*Claudia Polzin	12/23
Kristina Hauschild	12/23



#### Happy Anniversary!

Norman & Linda Parker	12/18
Wayne & Joyce Peters	12/22
Clive & Nancy Ozard	12/24

#### \*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 PRAY FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING OUR COUNTRY

If you have any additions or corrections to the list below, please email Michele Byrd ([mbyrd@vpcnaples.org](mailto:mbyrd@vpcnaples.org)). Thank you for your continued prayers for these military personnel.

<b>ENSIGN Francis Alvares</b> US Navy, Pensacola, FL (Friend of Jay & Mary Chesslo)	<b>CPTN Jennifer Giles</b> USMC, Philippines (Mary Giles' granddaughter)	<b>CPTN Devon Hennessey</b> Korea (Toni Hubbard)
<b>MSgt Kristopher Chesslo</b> USAF (Jay & Mary Chesslo's nephew)	<b>CPTN Jeremy Giles</b> US Army Special Forces, Ft. Bragg, NC (Mary Giles' grandson)	<b>Nolan Kelly</b> US Army - Private First Class Fort Sill, OK
<b>LT Wyatt R. Dawley</b> US Navy Intel/SEAL Team (Debbie Dawley's grandson)	<b>COL Jessica D. Grassetti</b> (Claudia Polzin's niece)	<b>SGT Wesley Kennedy</b> USMC - Okinawa, Japan
<b>MAJ Allen Fujinaka</b> US Army (LaVerne Perrollaz's granddaughter's husband)	<b>1st LT Jacob Guzman</b> US Army—South Korea (Cesar Guzman's son)	

#### NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Please let the office know if you are in the hospital. If you or a member of your family are hospitalized, please call the church office. **239-597-5410**



[www.vpcnaples.org/live/](http://www.vpcnaples.org/live/)

  
got questions?  
Check our weekly email:  
"Week at a Glance!"

#### Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church November 30, 2022 YTD

	YTD Actual	December Projections
Income	\$ 1,059,063	\$ 87,500
Expenses	\$ 1,176,504	\$ 115,000
Net	<b>(\$117,441)</b>	