



Vanderbilt

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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. 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**.



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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



December 24, 2022

Christmas Eve — 7pm

Worship Participants

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow, Pastor

The Woodring Family, Christ Candle Liturgists

Jerry Grandey, 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.

The Chancel Choir

Julie Carver, Pianist

Greeters: Steve & Mary Lynn Myers

Ushers: Rebecca Beavers (Head Usher),

Tom & Pat Peters, Nellie Cummins, Carol Jorgenson, Pat Rose, Dick Hilton, Pete DeBaun, Mary Lynn Myers

Audio/Visual Technician: Victoria Bonavita

THE POINSETTIAS WERE DONATED BY:



Ron & Linda Addaman

In memory of **our parents**

Arnold G. Alexander

in memory of "**Jamma**"

Barbara Bonavita & Family

In loving memory of **my Dad, Domenico Paglia, and beloved family and friends**

Carolyn Burger Magarro

In loving memory of

Tom Magarro and

Ruth, Andrew & Randy Burger

Bob & Madge Bush

In memory of **loved ones**

Molly Godley

In memory of **Bill Godley**

Martha "Jean" Gordon

In memory of

Paul L. Gordon, my husband

Timothy E. Hall

In memory of

Carolyn Wasson Hall

Jim & Deane Hawkins

In memory of **our parents**

Elaine Hinkle

In memory of

Samuel F. Hinkle, Jr.

Heidi & Chuck Holley

In memory of **our parents**



Carol Jorgensen & Pat Rose

In memory of

William & Dorothy Rose

Peggy Landon

In memory of **Bob Landon**

David & Beth Lee

In memory of **Finley & Jean Lee**

Barbara Lieber McElwaine

In memory of

Robert & Wilma Lieber

Rob & Wendi MacKinlay

In memory of our brothers,
Gord Ewek & Bert MacKinlay

Rob & Beth Marrow

In honor of

VPC staff and membership

Robert & Doris Martin

In memory of
departed family members

Robert Charles Miller

In memory of
beloved family & friends

Nancy Miller In memory of
Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany

Steve & Mary Lynn Myers

In memory of **our parents**

Jean Rawson

in memory of **Annette Kocal**

Sue & Bill Van Fossen

Lance & Margaret Waters

In memory of **our parents**



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude: Organ Noels from the 17th and 18th Centuries

Claude Balbastre (1724-1799) & Jean François Dandrieu (1682-1738)

Welcome

Lighting of the Candles

Steve, Jackie and Zach Woodring

Advent hope moves us; Advent love leads us; Advent joy stirs us; Advent peace stills us, that we might affirm our King Jesus. It is time we set flame to this Advent affirmation by lighting the Christ Candle.

We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. He was the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied. The same Jesus lives today in our hearts. He deserves our highest loyalty and total commitment. In Jesus Christ, our hope is fulfilled; our love is consummated; our joy is complete; and our peace is sealed.

Rejoice, a Savior is born.

A savior is born, indeed. Joy to the world!

*** 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!
<i>Refrain:</i> 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! <i>Refrain</i> | 3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven
above!
Glory to God, all
Glory in the highest! <i>Refrain</i> |
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Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

God of light, we are frightened by what you might expect of us if we get too close to the manger. Many enticements draw our attention away from this holy place. Our worldly passions have led us into comfortable ruts. We admit that some are mere time-killers but others seem to have real value to us. What more can a baby offer us? Of what use is a Messiah who ends up on a cross? O God, teach us what salvation is all about. Heal the emptiness that gives rise to our misplaced loyalties and distorted dreams. We want to be whole people, experiencing wholesome relationships, giving ourselves to worthy causes. *(silence)* Amen.

Affirmation of Forgiveness

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Special Music: "The Wexford Carol"

arr. David Downes (b. 1975)

Andrea Daggett, Alto

Prayer of Illumination

The First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

² *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. ³ You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.⁴ For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Great will be his authority, 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. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music: “He Shall Feed His Flock” from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Stephanie Lorenz, Soprano

The Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Caesar 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 in the guest room. ⁸ Now in that same 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!”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: “God of the Dark and the Light — Part I”

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

Choir Carol: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

arr. Robert Lau (b. 1943)

The Chancel Choir

*** 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

Offertory Music: "O Holy Night"

David Curtiss, *Baritone*

Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

arr. Josh Groban (b. 1981)

The Lighting of the Candles (*Seated*) **HOT WAX CAUTION:** Hold flame upright. Tip the unlighted candle into the flame.

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

STILLE NACHT

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| 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. | 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. |
| 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!" | 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. |

The Christmas Prayer (*Please extinguish your candles after the Prayer.*)

*Commission and Blessing

God's truth will prevail.

The Child of Bethlehem will lead us.

Then we will follow where Christ leads.

Glory to God and peace on earth!

Alleluia!

Amen!

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

ANTIOCH

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|---|---|
| 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. | 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. |
| 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. | 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. |

Postlude: "An Old Noel"

César Franck (1822-1890)

Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.