



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. 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 — www.vpcnaples.org
Office: 239-597-5410 — Learning Center: 239-594-9557
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 3, 2023 10:00 am The First Sunday of Advent

The flowers on the chancel are sponsored in loving memory of my husband, Scott Elliott, from Joan Elliott.

The Fellowship Hour is a special **Thank You** brunch for the whole congregation in thanksgiving for the response to the 2024 Giving Back to God Stewardship campaign.

Worship Participants

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow, Pastor
James Cochran, Director of Music, playing the **Richard & Patricia Fors Organ** given to the glory of God and in honor of James Cochran, Organist
Stanley Leonard, Timpani
Heather Mikes, Director of Christian Education
Ralph Miranda, Lisa Woolley, Heather Anderson & Cory Lang,
Advent Wreath Liturgists
Jerry Grandey, Liturgist
Julie Carver, Pianist

The Chancel Choir
Victoria Bonavita, Audio/Visual Technician
Youth Acolyte, Sebastian Aguilar
Greeters: Priscilla Kutler & Becky Wheat
Ushers: Jerry & Mari-Bea Warnken (Head Ushers), Carline Lobban, Gwen Salyer, Steve Blad, Anne Smith
Communion Servers: Price & Carol Lindsay, Jan Fern, Jane Repp, Michael Bevilacqua, Pete Rodino, Mary Lynn Myers, Pat Rose, Karen Chappler, Jerry Grandey

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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.

Prelude: "Trumpet Voluntary" (The Prince of Denmark's March)

Stanley Leonard, Timpani

Jeremiah Clarke (1674-1707)

arr. Stanley Leonard

Announcements

Advent Candle Litany

Ralph Miranda, Lisa Woolley, Heather Anderson & Cory Lang

In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)

In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, "Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come" (Mark 13:35).

Congregation: We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.

We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God's activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another.

Amen.

* Hymn #2: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus "

HYFRYDOL

**1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**2. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that you can seem far away. You are hidden when we need you near. In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you. Instead, we lash out — against you, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us! Let your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope is restored. After all, we belong to you, and in your hands, we can be made new. In Jesus' name we pray. *(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.

**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 64:1-9

¹ O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—² as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴ From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵ You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷ There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸ Yet,

*O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

Mark 13:24-37

*24 "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: Sermon Series - A Season of Waiting: "Keep Awake"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

*** The Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Offertory: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

The Chancel Choir

The text can be found in the hymnal, #5.

*** 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**

Pastoral Prayer

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Music During Communion: Improvisation

Julie Carver

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, how can we thank you for such a gift? For you have met us, fed us, drawn us to you, and bound us one to another. Now send us out to share your love and proclaim our hope until Christ comes again. Amen.

*** Hymn #8: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"**

TRURO

- 1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here!**
- 2. Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart**

- From earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.**
- 3. Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to Thee: here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.**

*** Commission and Blessing**

Beware. Keep alert. Keep awake.

God is doing awesome things we do not expect.

**And Christ is coming near
with great power and glory, and with tenderness.**

Alleluia.

Amen.

*** The Lord's Prayer**

Albert Hay Malotte (1895-1964)

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.

Postlude: "Trumpet Tune in D Major"

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

arr. Stanley Leonard

Stanley Leonard, Timpani

Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK

December 10, 2023 — Second Sunday of Advent

Sermon Series: *A Season of Waiting* — Sermon: "Comforting Words"

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11 — Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8

**Annual Choirs Christmas Concert
Sunday, December 10, 2023 — 4 p.m.**

This year's Christmas Concert features the Baroque masterpiece, *Gloria*, by Antonio Vivaldi.



Our choir will be joined by a small chamber orchestra and vocal soloists Michele Byrd, Daniela Pepe and Dave Curtiss. The Carillon Ringers will also be playing. There will be a cookie reception in Fellowship Hall following the concert, and everyone is invited to attend!

**Pick up a brochure for a full list of concerts.
Copies are available in the Office or the Narthex.**

TODAY

Join us for a

THANK YOU BRUNCH

in Fellowship Hall following worship. It is a thank you from the Stewardship Team for everyone's support of the 2024 Giving Back to God Campaign.



Words for Waiting

Daily Devotions
for Advent & Christmas
2023

PICK UP AN ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Words for Waiting, our Advent Devotional is available in the Narthex or the Office. Take one home and

Keep Awake!

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

On **December 24th & 31st**, the Parish Life Team will be providing coffee & tea. You are invited to bring a plate of cookies or breakfast treats to share.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **WEEKEND POWER PACK:** Accepting financial donations for our next packing event on **Thursday, December 7th at 10:30am** in Fellowship Hall. Mark donations with WPP. Email Becky Wheat at sportbroad@comcast.net.
- **MISION PENIEL:** Volunteers are needed to serve on **Friday, December 8th & 15th**. Email Karen Chappler at kchappler@aol.com.
- **CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE:** Bring a new, unwrapped toy to the office, church or school by **Sunday, December 10th**. All donations will go to The Salvation Army and Mision Peniel.
- **BLOOD DRIVE:** This holiday season, give the gift of life! **Sunday, December 17th, 9am-12pm**. Call the office to schedule your time! [597-5410](tel:597-5410).
- **COLLIER HARVEST:** Our next packing event is **Monday, December 11th at 4:15pm** (heavy lifting) or **4:45pm** (packing) at 4451 Mercantile Ave, Naples. Email Pete Rodino pvrodino@aol.com.
- **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:** provide assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develop our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Envelopes are available in the pews or Narthex through **December 24th**.



hosted by

VPC
WEDNESDAY
NIGHT
LIGHTS

DECEMBER 15TH
5:30PM

SIGN UP IN
FELLOWSHIP HALL
OR EMAIL
HEATHER
BY DEC. 10

HMIKES@VPCNAPLES.ORG

All are welcome to our **Annual Gingerbread House Decorating Party!**

RSVP by Dec. 10, so we can reserve your house with icing and basic candies. You'll have **ONE HOUR**, after dinner, to decorate your house any way you'd like.

You may come up with a theme in advance and bring extra candies and items to make your entry unique. Completed houses will be displayed in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, Dec. 17**, during Family Led Worship. Our church family and friends will vote on their

favorites! Winners will be announced in the bulletin. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

HEIFER FAIR!



For more information or to make a donation, go to the Heifer Table in the Narthex, through December 10.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We invite you to dedicate poinsettias in honor or memory of loved ones. Complete the form in the Narthex and place it in the offering plate with payment or return to the office with your donation (any amount).

Donors names will be included in the Christmas Eve worship service bulletins.

Please send your donation and dedication by 12/10.

Heifer is a non-profit organization that provides needy families around the world with animals, trees and education. Families who receive Heifer animals are trained in their care and give offspring to other needy families in the community, providing training and a gift that keeps on giving. Consider donating to Heifer this year. Let your family be the one to give a helping hand to another family.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please continue to hold in prayer our church family and friends facing illness, injury and hardship. Also, if you have any joys or concerns, let us know. They are lifted up daily through our intercessory prayer ministry. Prayer requests will be kept in the bulletin for 30 days, after which a new prayer request card should be submitted.

Loraine Atkinson	Nancy Diederich	John Lacker	Judy Peabody
Linda Bauer	Jim & Marlene Everson	Liz Lynn	Laura Piipponen
Bob Bearden	Lynn & Gerry Greenblatt	Robbie Landon	Jack & the Rock Family
Adriana Caruso	Kate Hafner	Doris Martin	Pete Schwiers
Dick Clark	Bunny Heitmann	Joan Mountford	Ron Shaffer
Molly Cochran	Sandra Johnson	Cathy Nathan	Dan Westerlund
Dick Creviston	Chester Kauffman	Ivana Novelli	Chris Wood and Family

Happy Birthday!

Judy Davis	12/3
*Adam Day	12/3
*Jean Rawson	12/5
Judy Deme	12/7
Chad Brodbeck	12/8
Nadine Gaylord	12/9

Happy Anniversary!

Joseph & Christine Bostater	12/4
Dave & Stacia Hinkler	12/7

Advent Concerts

Wednesday concerts begin at 12pm and last 30 minutes.

Wednesday, December 6

Susan Norbeck, Flute

Wednesday, December 13

Sherry Hardgrove, Soprano

Wednesday, December 20

Andrew & Jeanne Snedeker & Tom May
Oboe, Soprano & Cello

***Birthday Club** Members give one dollar for each year of their life to celebrate their special day. The Education Team may annually request up to 5% from the Club for Youth and Education Ministry!

1 Peter 5:7 — "Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you."

We reach out our hands to a wobbling toddler and lift them up again, and again. We know our heavenly father will never tire of picking us up when we have fallen, Or just holding us close, when we need him to.



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). Thank you for your continued prayers for these military personnel.

ENSIGN Francis Alvares US Navy, Pensacola, FL (Friend of Jay & Mary Chesslo)	MAJ Allen Fujinaka US Army (LaVerne Perrollaz's granddaughter's husband)	SGT Wesley Kennedy USMC - Okinawa, Japan
MSgt Kristopher Chesslo USAF (Jay & Mary Chesslo's nephew)	COL Jessica D. Grasseti (Claudia Polzin's niece)	MAJ Rex Rafferty USAF—Alabama (Norm & Linda Parker's granddaughter's husband)
LT Wyatt R. Dawley US Navy Intel/SEAL Team (Debbie Dawley's grandson)	1st LT Jacob Guzman US Army-Seattle, WA (Cesar Guzman's son)	LCPL Michael Russell USMC - Cape Lejeune, NC (Heather Anderson's son)
	CPTN Devon Hennessey Korea (Toni Hubbard)	

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE:

- Please let the office know if you are in the hospital. **239-597-5410**
- Go to www.vpcnaples.org/live/ to view our Livestreamed worship.
- Questions? Check our weekly email: "**Week at a Glance!**" every **Monday** morning.