



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 10, 2023 10:00 am The Second Sunday of Advent

The flowers on the chancel are sponsored
in honor of the Church Family by Rob & Beth Marrow.

The Fellowship Hour is sponsored in thanksgiving for my church, choir, music
and our wonderful pastor by Nancy Guthy.

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
Heather Mikes, *Director of Christian Education*
The McGuigan Family,
Advent Wreath Liturgists
Sue Van Fossen, *Liturgist*

Julie Carver, *Pianist*
The Chancel Choir
The Carillon Ringers, Gordon Black, *Director*
Victoria Bonavita, *Audio/Visual Technician*
Youth Acolyte, Addison Acx
Greeters: CC Waskey & Patricia Hebert
Ushers: Greg & Julie Borden (Head Ushers),
Tim Hall, Joe Trees, Sonja Cookson, Reggie Smith

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Psalm 85:1-2; 8-13

¹ LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

² You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.

⁸ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

⁹ Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

¹¹ Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

¹² The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps.

Prelude: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

French Carol, arr., Patricia Sanders

The Carillon Ringers – Gordon Black, *Director*

Announcements

Advent Candle Litany

The McGuigan Family

In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins."

(Isaiah 40:1)

We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

Congregation: We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

We light these candles as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

* **Hymn #9:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

VENI EMMANUEL

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

3. O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. *Refrain*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness. We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace. We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love. Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins, that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of your name. *(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 40:1-11

¹ Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶ A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers; the flower fades, [when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers; the flower fades,] but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with

might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him. ¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

Mark 1:1-8

¹ The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ. ² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way, ³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight,' " ⁴ so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: Sermon Series - A Season of Waiting: "Comforting Words"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

Special Music: "Away in A Manger"

Kirkpatrick/Murray, arr., Patricia Sanders

The Carillon Ringers – Gordon Black, *Director*

*** The Affirmation of Faith:**

In Life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Amen.

Offering

Offertory: "Carol of the Light"

David Barton (b. 1983)

The Chancel Choir

In a world which seems so dark. In a world which seems so lost. May the light of Christ this Christmas Be a beacon, be a light. May the light of Christ be a beacon. May the beacon light your way. May the light send you forth. May it journey at your side. May the love of the Christ-child be your guide. In the cold of the night, in the warmth of the day, In the stillness of a new-born child. When we can't comprehend Why our wars never end. May the peace of Christ enfold you this year. May the love of Christ flow among you. May it hold the weak and strong.

May that love never cease. May it offer signs of peace. May the love of the Christ-child hold you strong.

*** 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**

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 #20: "Watchmen Tell Us of the Night"**

ABERYSTWYTH

**1. Watchman, tell us of the night,
What its signs of promise are.
Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height,
See that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray
Aught of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day,
Promised day of Israel.**

**2. Watchman, tell us of the night,
Higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light,
Peace and truth its course portends.**

**Watchman, will its beams alone
Gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own: See, it bursts
o'er all the earth.**

**3. Watchman, tell us of the night,
For the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, darkness takes its flight,
Doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let your wanderings cease;
Hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, lo, the Prince of Peace,
Lo, the Son of God is come!**

*** Commission and Blessing**

The day of the Lord is coming;

Therefore strive to live in peace, for God's salvation is near.

May faithfulness spring up from the ground and righteousness look down from heaven.

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: Postlude on "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"

Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK

December 17, 2023 — Third Sunday of Advent — Family Led Worship
Sermon Series: *A Season of Waiting* — Sermon: "Straightening the Path Ahead"
First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 — Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28

The 2023-2024 Concert Series at Vanderbilt



TODAY!

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.

WORSHIP. EQUIP. SERVE.

Plug In To Family Led Worship

October 22, November 12 & December 17
10:00 a.m.

I am the vine,
you are the branches.
John 15:5

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.

Are you interested in
joining our church family?

Adventures In Membership

Sunday,
December 10 - 11:15am

Join us for worship and stay in the sanctuary with Pastor Rob for a brief Q&A, as we chat about Vanderbilt and what it means to be involved in the ministry of Christ's church. *Childcare Available



**Have you signed up
for Lunch Bunch yet?
Join us! Our next
lunch is on Sunday
December 17th!**

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- **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.
- **HEIFER INTERNATIONAL:** Check out the Heifer table in the Narthex today. You can sponsor a farm gift for a family in need. Lots of options and opportunities to help. Our Heifer table will be up through, **Sunday, December 10th**.
- **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.
- **MISION PENIEL:** Volunteers are needed to serve on **Friday, December 15th**. Email Karen Chappler at kchappler@aol.com.
- **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).
- **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**

**FRIDAY,
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** on **Friday, Dec. 15**. **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!



Christmas Eve Worship

4 pm Family Service

7 pm Candlelight Service



Fellowship Hours
on December 24th and 31st
following the 10am worship service

The Parish Life Ministry Team will provide coffee, water and tea after the 10am worship services. If you could bring a plate of cookies to share, we would appreciate it!

Thank you in advance!

ADVENT CONCERTS - Wednesday concerts begin at 12pm and last 30 minutes.

December 13: Sherry Hardgrove, Soprano & December 20: Andrew & Jeanne Snedeker & Tom May

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.

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

Happy Birthday!

Carol Lindsay	12/10
Carly Jacob	12/11
Mary Jane Stoner	12/13
*George Mackie	12/13
Ada Nuhn	12/14
*Mary Lou Gast	12/14
Nancy Diederich	12/14
*Chris DeBruyckere	12/15
*Dick Watts	12/16

***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!

Philippians 4:7

“And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guide your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus.”

stephen
MINISTRY.

God understands how we feel when we lose a loved one. He doesn't tell us to "get over it." We are not alone, because God keeps his promise to us. Call a Stephen Minister if you are in need.

Happy Anniversary!

There are no anniversaries this week.

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)

MSgt Kristopher Chesslo

USAF (Jay & Mary Chesslo's nephew)

LT Wyatt R. Dawley

US Navy Intel/SEAL Team
(Debbie Dawley's grandson)

MAJ Allen Fujinaka

US Army (LaVerne Perrollaz's granddaughter's husband)

COL Jessica D. Grassetti

(Claudia Polzin's niece)

E4 Brian Guzman

USAF - Colorado (Cesar Guzman's son)

Sgt Jacob Guzman

US Army-Seattle, WA (Cesar Guzman's son)

CPTN Devon Hennessey

Korea (Toni Hubbard)

SGT Wesley Kennedy

USMC - Okinawa, Japan

MAJ Rex Rafferty

USAF—Alabama
(Norm & Linda Parker's granddaughter's husband)

LCPL Michael Russell

USMC - Cape Lejeune, NC
(Heather Anderson's son)

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE:

- Please let the office know if you are in the hospital. [239-597-5410](tel:239-597-5410)
- Go to www.vpcnaples.org/live/ to view our Livestreamed worship.



**REMEMBER OUR MILITARY
THIS CHRISTMAS**