



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**.



1225 Piper Blvd., Naples, Florida 34110

Office: 239-597-5410

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).

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**December 24, 2023 — 4pm
Christmas Eve**

Worship Participants

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow, Pastor
VPC Youth Group, Advent Wreath Liturgists
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
Julie Carver, Pianist

**Isabella & Sebastian Aguilar, Olivia Carver,
Lillian Day, Hattie Mikes, Evelyn, Annelise &
Parker Whittington, The Alleluia Choir**
Sloane Mullen, Youth Acolyte
Ushers: Bill & Geri Payne (Head Ushers),
Greg & Julie Borden, Reggie Smith, Sonja
Cookson
Audio/Visual Technician: Victoria Bonavita

Pageant Participants

Narrators: Devon Grider & Riley Mikes
Mary: Charlotte Freeland
Joseph: Parker Whittington
Lamb: Collins Finch
Star: Annelise Whittington
Angel: Evelyn Whittington
Three Wise People:
Carter Mikes, Scarlett Mullen, Jack Roberts
Little Drummer Boy and Drum Corp:
Macalister Davies with Callahan Davies,
Capriana Davies and Coco Short
Greeters/Candles: VPC Children & Youth
Costume Volunteers: Lauren Freeland, Amber
Grider, Caitlin Whittington



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude: Traditional Carols Traditional
Olivia Carver and Sebastian Aguilar, *Piano*
"Joyful and Triumphant" J.G. Wade, arr., Jack Bullock
Emily Beynon, *Flute*

Welcome

Lighting of the Candles

The VPC Youth Group

To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared, 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...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.

(Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy, and love, and we find these things in a child. God made flesh as a baby in a manger. A baby who is both the beginning and the end of our salvation, who dwells with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with us.

Congregation: We live as people in the in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day when we will live in the fullness of God's kingdom.

We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come!

Amen.

***Congregational Carol #41: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

ADESTE FIDELIS

**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!
Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!
Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! Refrain
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest! Refrain**

The Christmas Offering

Special Music: "Sing We Now of Christmas" A Musical Nativity for Young Voices

Ruth Elaine Schram, Carol Huffman Dickerson, Nan Grantham, Lynn Shaw Bailey & Becki Slagle Mayo

"Sing We Now of Christmas"

"Little Donkey"

"No Room"

"For You"

"Have You Heard the Good News?"

"Christmas Bells are Ringing"

Olivia Carter and Sebastian Aguilar, Narrators

The Alleluia Choir

Prayer of Dedication

Congregational Carol #56: "The First Nowell" (*Seated*)

THE FIRST NOWELL

**The first Nowell the angels did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

The Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant

Mary, Joseph and the Lamb process into the sanctuary.

Congregational Carol #44: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (*Seated*)

ST. LOUIS

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by: yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

***(On cue from Mrs. Mikes, please help your child come to the manger scene on the Chancel.
Stable animals first, angels later, and then shepherds.)***

Stable animals are called forward.

Congregational Carol #25: "Away in a Manger" (*Seated*)

MUELLER

**Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

Angels are called forward.

Congregational Carol #23: "Angels We Have Heard On High" (*Seated*)

GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.**

Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds are called forward.

Congregational Carol #23: "Angels We Have Heard on High" (Seated)

GLORIA

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Star, Angel and Wise People process into the sanctuary.

Congregational Carol #66: "We Three Kings of Orient Are" (Seated)

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

**We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

Little Drummer Boy processes into the sanctuary.

Once all participants are in place, we will pause a moment for photographs.

The Christmas Prayer

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

Lighting of the Candles

Please turn on your candle. Parents please assist your children. Return the candles as you leave.

Christmas Carol #60: "Silent Night, Holy Night" (Seated)

STILLE NACHT

**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.
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!"
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.**

***Commission and Blessing**

The love of God, the light of Christ and the joy of the Holy Spirit

Abide with you this holy night and forever.

Alleluia!

Amen!

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

ANTIOCH

**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.
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.
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)