



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 31, 2023 10:00 am
The First Sunday of Christmas**

The flowers on the chancel are sponsored in celebration of a blessed year and a beautiful New Year by the Grider Family.

Join us for Fellowship Hour after worship.

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*
Ellen Tanner, *Liturgist*

Julie Carver, *Pianist*
The Chancel Choir
Victoria Bonavita, *Audio/Visual Technician*
Greeters: Jan Fern & Barbara Hebert
Ushers: Pat Rose (Head Usher), Price & Carol Lindsay, Ben Hood, Dianne Westerlund, Henry Gaylord

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Psalm 148

- ¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!
² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!
³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!
⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!
⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.
⁶ He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.^[a]
⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!
⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!
¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
¹² Young men and women alike, old and young together!
¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Prelude: "The Old Year Has Passed Away"

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Announcements

* Call to Worship:

Praise the Lord!

Praise God from the heavens.

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let us praise the name of the Lord,

Whose name alone is exalted above earth and heaven.

Alleluia!

Let us worship God.

* Hymn #29: "Go, Tell it on the Mountain"

GO TELL IT

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain

Over the hills and everywhere;

Go, tell it on the mountain,

That Jesus Christ is born.

1. **While shepherds kept their watching**

O'er silent flocks by night,

Behold throughout the heavens

There shone a holy light. Refrain

2. **The shepherds feared and trembled,**

When lo! above the earth,

Rang out the angels chorus

That hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain

3. **Down in a lowly manger**

The humble Christ was born,

And God sent us salvation

That blessed Christmas morn. Refrain

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children. We have kept silent in the midst of prejudice and hatred. We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice. We have not been a light to the nations, and our lives have not revealed your glory. Forgive us, Merciful God. Repair the ugliness of our sin and restore in us your beautiful grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *(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 61:10-62:3

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my whole being shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. ⁶² ¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn and her salvation like a burning torch. ² The nations shall see your vindication and all the kings your glory, and you shall be

called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³ You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the LORD and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

Luke 2:22-40

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." ³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too." ³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: "Favor in the New Year"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

*** The Affirmation of Faith:**

from the Declaration of Faith

Jesus Christ stands at the center of the biblical record. The Bible is the account of God's word and action in history, together with his people's response in faith. It tells how the Lord has moved with Israel and the church towards the kingdom of God, his just and loving rule over all. It is the story of the one God, who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. That story is still unfolding, and in faith, we make it our own. It forms our memory and our hope. It tells us who we are and what we are to do. To retell it is to declare what we believe. Amen.

Offering

Offertory: "Three Kings from Persian Lands"

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

The Chancel Choir

In Bethlehem, that noble place, Of the Virgin Mary, full of grace, In a stable, all forlorn, The Savior of the World was born. Be we merry in this feast, Salvator mundi natus est. *In which the Savior, Christ, is born.*

Three kings from Persian lands afar, Following the distant star: And this the quest of travellers three, Where the new born king may be. The star shines out with steadfast ray, The kings to Bethlehem make their way, And there in worship, they bend the knee, unto the child they'd come to see. The star of mercy, the star of grace, Shall lead thy heart to its resting place: God, incense, myrrh, thou cannot bring, So give thy heart unto the king.

*** 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 #53: "What Child is This?"**

GREENSLEEVES

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. What Child is this who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?</p> <p>Refrain: This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!</p> | <p>2. Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading. Refrain</p> <p>3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him. Refrain</p> |
|--|---|

*** Commission and Blessing**

Go forth into the world rejoicing. Spread the good news of Christ our light and our redeemer.

May God, redeemer of Israel, dismiss us in peace;

May Jesus Christ, Son of God, Son of Mary, uphold us in love;

May the Holy Spirit, the power of God, guide us in truth.

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: "Prelude in F Major"

Bach

Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK

January 7, 2024 — Baptism of the Lord

Sermon Series: *Becoming the People of God* — Sermon: "And There Was Morning"

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5— **Gospel Reading:** Mark 1:4-11

A Prayer for the New Year

God of our past, present and future, as the calendar turns and we greet another year, we ask not so much for answers to those questions that perplex us, but for confidence in your never-failing care for us. As we reflect on the year we leave behind, we begin with gratitude for the moments in which we experienced your presence. As we look to the year ahead, we start with hope for a kinder, more just, lavishly loving world. Through all the years, we depend on the abundance of your grace, the generosity of your mercy and the unwavering promise of your compassion. Guide us, Triune God, all the days of this new year, and indeed, every day of our lives until that time when we see you face to face. Amen.



Are you interested in joining our church family?



Adventures In Membership

Sunday,

January 7 - 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

January 7, 2024 — 4 p.m.

Duo Formosa

Huifang Chen, Violin

Catherine Lan, Piano



The concert will feature a variety of works, including Johann Strauss' *Sonata in E-flat major* for Violin and Piano, Op 18 and Max Bruch's *Scottish Fantasy* Op 46.

WE NEED SPONSORS FOR CHANCEL FLOWERS AND FELLOWSHIP HOUR!

THANK YOU

Have you considered sponsoring the Chancel Flowers on a Sunday morning for worship?

What about sponsoring the Fellowship Hour following the worship service?

Take advantage of these options for remembering a special event (anniversary, birthday, etc.) or the memory of a loved one.



Call Barbara at 597-5410 to schedule a date!



NEW 2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE IN!

If you requested GIVING ENVELOPES for 2024, please check the table outside the LIBRARY



for your new packet when you come for worship on Sunday. You can also pick them up on weekdays during normal business hours (9am to 4pm) by the front desk.



Have you signed up for Lunch Bunch yet? Join us! Our next lunch is on Sunday January 14th!

After Fellowship Hour, small groups will meet for lunch at a restaurant around noon.

Psalm 34:18

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted,

and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

The Lord manifests himself in a special manner, a gracious way, binding up broken hearts.

stephen MINISTRY.

Extended Communion for Homebound Congregants

If you are unable to attend church and would like to receive communion at home, please call Michael Bevilacqua at 612-803-0767.

If you are an ordained Elder or Deacon and would be willing to help with this important ministry, please contact Michael to volunteer.

Other questions?

Call the office - 597-5410



Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.

JOHN 6:56, NRSV

Join us at the next WNL on January 10, 2024

EMAIL HEATHER MIRES HMIRE@VPCNAPLES.ORG

YOU'RE INVITED

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS FELLOWSHIP HALL 5:30-7:15PM

DINNER STUDY SERVE PRAY PLAY

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.

Prayer List

The Albers Family	Molly Cochran	Bunny Heitmann	Ivana Novelli
Ron Bartlett	Bob & Jan Conrad	Sandra Johnson	Joanna O'Kelley
Linda Bauer	Dick Creviston	Chester Kauffman	Judy Peabody
The Bearden & Carver Families	Mindy Deliso	The John Kennedy Family	Laura Piipponen
Linda Boyles	Nancy Diederich	John Lacher	Jack & the Rock Family
Adriana Caruso	Jim & Marlene Everson	Liz Lynn	Sam & Marilyn Scheller
Dick Clark	Jean & Alan Fletcher	Robbie Landon	Pete Schwiars
	Marie Geiser	Doris Martin	Ron Shaffer
	The Dave Glynn Family	Jane Montana	Margaret Waters
	Lynn & Gerry Greenblatt	Joan Mountford	Dan Westerlund
	Kate Hafner	Cathy Nathan	Chris Wood and Family

Happy Birthday!

Gracia Schmidt	12/31	Bill Cornell	1/3
Phyl Auman	1/2	Russell Vance	1/4
Molly Godley	1/2	Peter DeBaun	1/5
*Bill Reckmeyer	1/2	Diana Woodward	1/6
Joan Haller	1/3	Heather Monda	1/6
Carol Loeb	1/3	Phyllis Macbeth	1/6
*Ron Sieling	1/3		

Happy Anniversary!

Chuck & Connie Lewis	12/31
Rick & Ruth Bethem	12/31
Lois Ann & Jim Folliard	1/2
Joe & Sharon Doggett	1/5



***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!

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**
- Go to www.vpcnaples.org/live/ to view our Livestreamed worship.