



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 22, 2024 — 10:00 am

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

The flowers on the chancel are sponsored by the staff of Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church. We are so grateful to the congregation and appreciate all your love and support. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

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 Berger Family, Advent Readers
Susie Hilton, Liturgist

Julie Carver, Pianist
The Chancel Choir
Victoria Bonavita, Audio/Visual Technician
Greeters: Barbara Hebert & Priscilla Kutler
Ushers: Jerry & Mari-Bea Warnken (Head Ushers), Henry Gaylord, Carolyn Magarro, Joe Trees, Becky Wheat

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Psalm 150

- ¹ Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!
² Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!
³ Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!
⁴ Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!
⁵ Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
⁶ Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Prelude: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

Announcements

Advent Candle Litany

Jeff, Meryl, William and Eliana Berger

When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day." (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, "But you, O Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, from you shall come forth for me..." What? What might God be calling forth from us?

God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

* **Hymn #38:** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

CAROL

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heaven's all gracious King":
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.</p> <p>2. Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;</p> | <p>Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.</p> <p>4. For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.</p> |
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Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession & Silent Personal Confession

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. *(silence)* Amen.

Affirmation of Forgiveness

Believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

* 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

Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, 'See, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

⁸ When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, "See, I have come

to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn #25: "Away in a Manger"

MUELLER

1. **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.**
2. **The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus,
look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**
3. **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.**

The Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39-45

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message: "Fulfilling the Promise"

The Rev. Robert J. Marrow

***Affirmation of Faith:**

from Book of Common Worship, Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

Offering

Offertory: "O Holy Light"

Mary McDonald (b. 1956)

The Chancel Choir

On a silent night, shone a holy light of joy, hope, peace and love. Sent to us from heaven above. On a quiet night, led by God's own light, Shepherds followed from afar. Led by a shining star. O star of wonder, star of night, a heavenly light! Behold His glory at the sight: God's holy Light. O Holy Light! Lord, come to us, abide with us; grant us Your peace and love. Hope and joy from heaven above. Emmanuel, God with us! His glory shining bright. Noel! Noel, For Christ is born, is come to us this night!

*** 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 #44: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

ST LOUIS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. 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. | 3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in. |
| 2. For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth! | 4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel! |

*** Commission and Blessing:**

Go in peace, trusting in the promises of God..

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: "Noel"

Jean-François Dandrieu (1682-1738)

Please remain seated until the end of the postlude.



JOIN US ON CHRISTMAS EVE:

Children are invited to worship with their families at either Christmas Eve service - 4pm or 7pm.



BE A PART OF THE STORY!

The Christmas Eve Family Service begins at 4pm on December 24 and includes our **Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant.**

Children are invited to dress as angels & shepherds, as we experience the Christmas story together.

Costumes will be available in Fellowship Hall at 3:30pm.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR NEXT WEEK

**December 29, 2024 10:00 am
The First Sunday of Christmas**

Sermon: "Jesus Increased"

First Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:41-52

IN SYMPATHY

*We are saddened to announce the death of VPC member, **Richard Grunert**, on December 15, 2024 at the age of 88. Richard was a member of Vanderbilt for over 22 years and served as a Deacon and volunteered with many of our mission partners. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers during this tender time. A card of condolence may be sent to Richard's daughter, Sharon Haverkamp at 71 Kennedy Rd., Eddyville, KY 42038. A memorial service will be held at a later date.*

Christmas Eve Worship



4 pm Family Service

7 pm Candlelight Service

Let the weary world rejoice!

For unto us a child is born!

Fellowship Hours
on December 22nd & 29th
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!

CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS THE PERFECT GIFT
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Prepare the Way
ISAIAH 40

Envelopes in the Narthex.

Friday, December 27, 2024
9:00 am
Leitner Park
26724 Nomad Dr.
Bonita Springs 34135

Email Eliza Nevin
elizanevin@comcast.net.

Donations of food and volunteers to serve are needed.

CAFÉ OF LIFE
CARING... SHARING... SERVING

Welcome to our new Anniversary Club Members!

** Jim & Carmen Campbell
7/11/1964

** Charles & Caitlin
Whittington
11/10/2012

THANK YOU!

CALL for VOLUNTEERS

Exciting news and volunteer opportunities from Grace Place.

Stop by the bulletin board to read all about it!

GRACE PLACE
For Children & Families

Sign up on the volunteer portal:
<https://volunteer.graceplacenaples.org>

Mission Opportunities
Vanderbilt PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Holidays can be a wonderful time but also a very lonely time. Stephen Ministers provide the opportunity to communicate through the care and compassion of Christ. Caring for one another is a hallmark of Christian faith.

A Family ADVENT Calendar

➔ Pick up a copy in the Narthex! ➔

Advent Devotional 2024

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.



Dick Creviston	Don Neer	Jocelyn Stein
Sigrid "Siggi"	Ivana Novelli	Erik Strandwitz
Deneke & Family	Ada Nuhn	Bruce & Heidi Stryker
John Baird	John Paalman	Jodi Reckmeyer
Alexis Bevan	Stacey & Jared Perone	Yana and family in
Hudson Boyd	Laura Piipponen	Ukraine
Joan Butler	Mary Ann Portman	Russell Vance
Steve Carsten	Father Monty Sayers	Yvonne & Tony Van Rooyen
Adriana Caruso	Marilyn & Sam Schellar	Jay Wilson
Tom Clark	Ron Shaffer	Chris Wood & Family
Pat Colby	Sue Shields & Family	Rita Yeager
Bob & Jan Conrad	Vaughn Siegenthaler	

Happy Birthday!

Derek Millard	12/22
Chloe Cornell	12/23
Lauren Franklin	12/23
Claudia Polzin	12/23
Kristina Hauschild	12/23
Robert Schmidt	12/26
Joanne Bowser	12/27
*Bobby Crown	12/27
*Doris Martin	12/28
Jerry Grandey	12/28

* Birthday Club Members

give one dollar for each year of their life and

**** Anniversary Club Members** give two dollars for each year of their marriage to celebrate or commemorate these special events. The Education Team may annually request up to 5% from the Club for Youth and Education Ministry!



Happy Anniversary!

Wayne & Joyce Peters	12/22
David & Susan Aufderhaar	12/22
Clive & Nancy Ozard	12/24
Barbara & Edgar Dominguez	12/24
George & Margaret Mackie	12/26
Greg & Julie Borden	12/28
Jason & Heather Mikes	12/28

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)

PVT E2 Joshua Fowler,

US Army, Columbus, GA
(Joe & Sharon Doggett'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-Tennessee
(Cesar Guzman's son)

CPTN Devon Hennessey

Korea (Toni Hubbard)

SGT Wesley Kennedy

USMC - Ft. Myers, FL

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)