



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**.



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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, 2024 — 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

Olivia Carver, Soloist
Sebastian Aguilar, Youth Acolyte
Ushers: Becky Wheat (Head Usher), Sonja
Cookson, Dick Hilton, Price & Carol Lindsay, Joe
Trees
Youth Ushers: Devon Grider & Riley Mikes
Audio/Visual Technician: Victoria Bonavita

Sing We Now of Christmas

Narrators: Evangeline Mikes & Scarlett Mullen
The Alleluia Choir: Isabella Aguilar, Sophie
Baker, Hattie Mikes, Colette & Emmy Vayda,
Juliette White, Annelise, Evelyn & Parker
Whittington, JoAnne Lepore, **Assistant**

Pageant Participants

Narrators: Devon Grider & Riley Mikes
Mary: Alice Riddick **Joseph:** William Berger
Star: Charlotte Riddick **Angel:** Hattie Mikes
Three Wise People:
Evva Crown, Lena Crown, Evangeline Mikes
Little Drummer Boy and Drum Corp:
Matthias Mobley & Henry Riddick
Greeters/Candles : VPC Children & Youth
Costume Volunteers: Amber Grider, Brooke
Vayda & Caitlin Whittington

The
Unrehearsed
Christmas
Pageant



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude: Traditional Carols

Welcome

Lighting of the Candles

The VPC Youth Group

Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, "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 9:6).

Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. "His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this" (Isaiah 9:7).

We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God's salvation wherever we go. Amen.

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

ADESTE FIDELIS

**1. 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!**

**2. 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***

**3. 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"

Schram, Dickerson, Grantham, Bailey & Mayo

"Sing We Now of Christmas"

"Little Donkey"

"No Room"

"For You"

"Have You Heard the Good News?"

"Christmas Bells are Ringing"

Prayer of Dedication

Solo: "Mary, Did you Know?"

Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene

Olivia Carver, soloist

The Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant

Mary and Joseph 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 (3 times).**

**Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: let us our songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, (3 times).**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, (3 times).**

Postlude: "An Old Noel"

César Franck (1822-1890)