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Funding of VCC comes solely from the gifts of members, friends, and visitors. If you would like to support this congregation's ministry, please put your gift into the offering-basket: envelopes on the pew-racks are provided for your use. **All currencies** are welcome, as are **electronic transfers** to VCC's account:

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at the ERSTE Bank, (Bank Code / BLZ 20111) and **checks (cheques)**. For **U.S.A. tax credit**, please make checks **payable to AFCU (American and Foreign Christian Union)** and write "Vienna Community Church" on the memo line. Checks may also be **mailed to AFCU, AFCU Treasurer, 2885 Sanford Ave. SW #29934 Grandville, MI 49418 U.S.A.** (note new address)

CONTACT US

You can contact our pastor on: pastor@viennacommunitychurch.com For questions or information about our church, please contact us via email: info@viennacommunitychurch.com

MEETING POINT

39/3 Untere Donaustraße, 1020 Vienna

THANK YOU TO ALL SERVING IN WORSHIP

Guest Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Neil Parker
Choir Director:	Cassandra McConnell
Organist:	Tomasz Pietak
Sunday School:	Edson Dorneles
Bulletin Editor:	Ngozi Okpalaugo
Greeter:	Anne Storey
Ushers:	Sita Weinrich & Anne Storey
Reader:	Louise Pickart
Flowers:	Sita Weinrich

Goodbye, Auf Wiedersehen, Totsiens, さようなら Paalam, Tchau,

Kwaheri, Vizsontlátásra!

Many Cultures, One Faith - Praising God by Reaching People for Christ!

<http://www.viennacommunitychurch.com>

Pastor Neil can be reached at pastor@viennacommunitychurch.com

If you would like to book an appointment with Pastor Neil, his online calendar is at <https://doodle.com/mm/neilparker/book-a-time>



We are a Bible-based, English-speaking, international, interdenominational, ecumenical, friendly and welcoming community.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

8 December 2019 – 2nd Sunday Advent

11:55 A.M. SILENT MEDITATION

Prayer before Service

With the drawing of this Love and the voice of this Calling.
We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time. - T.S. Eliot -

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude

Tomasz Pietak

Choral Invocation

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

VCC Choir

Greeting

Rev. Dr. Neil Parker

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Candle Lighting (Advent reading on page 4)

The Grujcic Family

Child: We light this second candle to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. His light helps us find ways to share God's peace with others. The prayer of St Francis asks God to help us be peacemakers. Let us say it together.

All: Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is sadness, joy;

And where there is darkness, light.

Grant that we may seek not so much (continues on page 4)

Candle Lighting Hymn

"One Candle Is Lit"

#128 (vs. 2)

● **Call to Worship** (Isaiah 11:6-9, from *The Message*)

Leader: The wolf will romp with the lamb, the leopard sleep with the kid.

People: Calf and lion will eat from the same trough, and a little child will tend them.

Leader: Neither animal nor human will hurt or kill on my holy mountain.

People: The whole earth will be brimming with knowing God-Alive, a living knowledge of God ocean-deep, ocean-wide.

● **Opening Hymn** "Lift Up Your Heads" #129

● **Opening Prayer**

Leader: Our hope is your saving grace, O God. Be our Saviour and feed our bodies and our souls.

People: Make your face to shine upon us and give us hope.

Leader: Our peace is your guiding truth. Rescue us and show us the path to goodness and forgiveness.

People: Make your face to shine upon us and give us peace.

Leader: Our joy is the anticipation of your coming. Plant in us the shoots of salvation and water them with the tears of your mercy.

People: Make your face to shine upon us and give us joy.

Leader: Our love is your tenderness and compassion. Warm our lives under the wings of your loving kindness.

People: Make your face to shine upon us and give us love.

Leader: We await your coming. We tend the living vine. We pray that faith will sustain us.

People: Make your face to shine upon us that we might be saved. Amen.

● **Words of Assurance**

Pastor: Watch! Wait! God is bringing to you new hope and peace. It is a gift, given especially for you--one that you cannot earn—it's a gift. Praise be to the Giver of All Great Gifts, our Lord. Hear, then, the good news of the Gospel:

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Amen!

● **Passing the Peace**

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us extend the Peace of Christ to one another.

WHAT'S ON Continues

The VCC Choir – Practice at 11:00 every Sunday Morning

The VCC_Chair is looking for new singers! If you like to sing, come join in - cassandramcconnell@gmail.com

OUR DAILY DEVOTION: <https://utmost.org>

PRAYER CHAIN: prayer@viennacommunitychurch.com

MOVIE TIME THE VCC CIRCLE OF MUSIC ART & FILM presents:

FILM & CO

The Bishop's Wife (USA 1947). An angel in human form enters the life of a bishop in order to help him build a new cathedral and repair his fractured marriage. Stars Cary Grant, Loretta Young and David Niven. Won 1 Oscar and nominated for many other awards.

Wednesday, 11 December 2019
19:00-21:00 (Doors open 18:30)

VCC MEETING POINT
Untere Donaustraße 39/3, 1020

BRING ALONG SNACKS, POPCORN AND A FRIEND!

A Vienna Community Church Fellowship Activity

Data Protection Waiver Notice:

Please note that by attending our Sunday Service or VCC organised event you expressly agree to the publication of photographs, film and sound recordings that arise during this event for VCC-related purposes only. We ask that you make a request to the photographer before or after the Sunday Service or event if you do not wish any photos with you to appear in any VCC or VCC-related publications.

WELCOME VISITORS/Prayer Request/Volunteer Forms

can be found at the ends of the pews. Please print your request clearly and place the completed form in one of the offering baskets. **Thank you!**

Join us for coffee hour across the courtyard after the service!

WHAT'S ON:

11 DECEMBER – Film & Co Happening on Wednesday (see page 7)

Join us for a classic Christmas film to ease you into Christmas, 19:00-21:00 (doors open 18:30).

8 DECEMBER – No After-worship Fellowship

While there will be no after-worship fellowship on 1 and 8 December, you are encouraged to enjoy a drink and bite to eat at the charming Henriettenmarkt in the Church courtyard.

15 DECEMBER Children's Christmas Pageant

It will take place during Sunday Service.

DECEMBER, TUESDAY AFTERNOONS during Advent

Pastor Neil has unearthed his collection of Nativity scenes (Krippe) from around the world, and they are on display at the Meeting Point. If you have a nativity scene that you would like to share, bring it along and add to the display.

The Meeting Point will be open from 1400 to 1600 (or a bit later) every Tuesday. Pastor Neil is learning to bake Christmas cookies, and requires the help of volunteers to eat them. This is a ministry to which you may be called. Or just drop in and have a decent cup of coffee or tea and enjoy the display, the music, and the quiet.

SAVE THE DATE!

- 24 DECEMBER - Candlelight Service, 21:00

Join us for our Christmas Eve celebration of the Birth of Christ, with the singing of traditional and new hymns, prayer, praise, candles and the sharing of the Christmas Story, always new and always familiar. This will be a family-friendly service, so invite those you love to be with you on this holy evening.

- 28 FEBRUARY – 1 MARCH 2020 VCC Retreat in Drosendorf

For more information, contact Anne Storey: astorey8@gmail.com

VCC Volunteers

Would you like to lend a hand in VCC activities? Sign up as a Volunteer.

Special Music

“Maria Durch Ein Dornwald Ging“ Folkssong
Sandra Nel & Tomasz Pietak

Time with the Children

- *“Jesus Loves Me, This I Know”* #113

Hearing the Word of God

Bible Reading (see page 5) *“Matthew 24:36-44”* Louise Pickart

Sermon *“More non-Christmas-y Sermons”* Rev. Dr Neil Parker

Responding to God's Word

- **Responding Hymn** *“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”* #153 vs. 1,2,4

Offering *“The Coventry Carol”* VCC Choir

- **Doxology** #47

Pastoral Prayer

- **Silent Meditation**

- **Lord's Prayer**

Closing

Welcome and Congregational News

- **Closing Hymn** *“Go, Tell It On The Mountain”* #167

Benediction

- **Congregational** *“Amen”* #312

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

2nd Sunday Advent



Child: Last Sunday, we lit the first candle in our Advent Wreath, the candle of hope. Let us light it again, remembering that the light of hope shines for us in the darkness.

Adult: Peace is one of God’s gifts to us. John the Baptist was a prophet calling the people of Israel to repent, to find peace with God. May we by our actions help to prepare the way for the coming of Peace.

Child: We light this second candle to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. His light helps us find ways to share God’s peace with others. The prayer of St Francis asks God to help us be peacemakers. Let us say it together.

All: Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is sadness, joy;
And where there is darkness, light.
Grant that we may seek not so much
to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
In pardoning that we are pardoned,
And in dying that we are born to
eternal life.
Amen.

Scripture Reading – Matthew 3: 1-12 (NIV)

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

¹In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ²and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”^[a]

⁴ John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with^[b] water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with^[c] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

Footnotes: ^[a] Matthew 3:3 Isaiah 40:3; ^[b] Matthew 3:11 Or in ^[c] Matthew 3:11 Or in

Sermon Notes

Sunday readings are chosen from an ecumenical cycle of readings from the Bible. If you would like to read ahead from the Scriptures Pastor Neil is studying this week, they can be found at <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu>