

How to Donate to the Vienna Community Church

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:	Maria Ciliberti & Dale Atwell
Ushers:	Eeva & Jari Vaehaesarja
Pageant Coordinators:	Nichole Barner, Josh Lange, Edson Dorneles
Flowers:	Dale Atwell & Maria Ciliberti (for peace on earth)

*Goodbye, Auf Wiedersehen, Totsiens, さようなら Paalam, Tchau,
Kwaheri, Vizontlátásra!*

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

15 December 2019 – 3rd 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 -



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude

Tomasz Pietak

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 5)

The Barner Family



Child: Paul reminds Christians, "Rejoice in God always." The third candle reminds us of our joy in Jesus Christ.

All: Thank you, God, for your promise of joy.
Help us to recognize the moments of joy in our lives,
And to live joyfully so that others may come to be
Filled with the joy that comes from knowing
Jesus Christ.
Amen.

- **Candle Lighting Hymn** "One Candle Is Lit" #128 (vs. 3)

WHAT'S ON (continues)

VCC Volunteers

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

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

The VCC_Choir 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



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:

TODAY, 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

- **Call to Worship**

Leader: The actors are ready.
The sheep low softly—and giggle.
The time is right for us to tell the story again.

People: **With hearts filled with joy,
we come to the stable.**

Leader: The story is old. The story is new.
A child born in a place no one would expect.
A baby born to call us to God's love again.

People: **With hearts filled with wonder, we follow the star.**

Leader: The people are ready.
We gather again.
To listen. To wonder.
To laugh and to love.

People: **To worship our God!**

- **Opening Hymn** *"People Look East"* **#142 (vs. 1,3,4)**

- **Prayer of Approach**

Leader: God of Advent surprises, awaken us.

People: **Awaken us to the possibilities forming by your Spirit within;
awaken us to those challenges that become opportunities in
faith;
awaken us to vulnerability and humility as the soil out of
which joy blossoms;
awaken us to the hope of good news that transforms fear into
self-giving;
awaken us, O God, to faith alive! 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.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism (see page 4a)

Bleuenn James Kristine Kiss

The Celebration of Baptism

Baptismal Song “The Lord Bless You And Keep You” VCC Choir

Christmas Pageant (please see insert)

Responding to God’s Word

Offering

- **Doxology** #47

Pastoral Prayer

- **Silent Meditation**
- **Lord’s Prayer**

Closing

Welcome and Congregational News

- **Closing Hymn** “Hark, The Herald Angels Sing” #150

Benediction

- **Congregational** “Amen” #312

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Tomasz Pietak

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY OF THE ADVENT WREATH

3rd Sunday Advent



Child: We have lit again the two candles in our Advent Wreath, to remind us of God’s gifts of hope and peace. Today we will light the third candle, representing joy.

Adult: As we wait for Christmas, the birth of Jesus, we look forward to the joyful celebrations we will share with those we love. The prophet Zephaniah calls us to shout for joy, because God will gather together all people and renew them in love. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the angel told the shepherds not to be afraid. The angels brought “good news of a great joy, which shall be to all people.” The good news of Jesus’ birth and the promise of Shalom are still “tidings of great joy” for us today.

Child: Paul reminds Christians, “Rejoice in God always.” The third candle reminds us of our joy in Jesus Christ.

All: Thank you, God, for your promise of joy. Help us to recognize the moments of joy in our lives, And to live joyfully so that others may come to be Filled with the joy that comes from knowing Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give our thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Gracious and Holy God,
we bless you for the gift of life,
and, within it, the gift of water.
Over its unshaped promise your Spirit hovered at creation. By
water, comes the growth of the earth. Through water, you led the
children of Israel to freedom. In the waters of the Jordan your
Child Jesus was baptized.
Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water
may be a sign for all of new life in Christ,
in whose name we pray.

Amen.

The Act of Baptism:

Baptism in the Name of the Triune God

Blessing

Marking with the Sign of the Cross

Laying On of Hands

Lighting of a Candle

Clothing in a New Garment or Baptismal Stole

Declaration and Congregational Welcome

Into the household of faith,
we welcome you with joy and thanksgiving.

We are members of the Body of Christ.

We are inheritors of God's promise.

In the name of Christ, we welcome you.

Blessing (The Lord Bless you and Keep You)

The Celebration of Baptism

Statement of Purpose

Baptism celebrates God's initiative and our response. It is God's "Yes" to us, and our "Yes" to God. It is a sign of the Divine-human covenant. Baptism flows from God's unmerited grace and pours out in lives of gratitude and commitment. As initiation into the Church, the Body of Christ, it is an act of welcoming, blessing, and belonging.

The covenant of baptism celebrates the fullness of God's grace throughout the story of salvation: in creation and in exodus, in wilderness and in exile, in birth and in death. In his baptism, Jesus received the Holy Spirit and was declared God's beloved, he opened himself to repentance and forgiveness, and marked a new beginning in his ministry. In our baptism we are similarly claimed, called, and commissioned.

Our baptismal identity is both individual and communal. Baptism honours the diversity of individuals and challenges us to be a community of equals.

*As many of you as were baptized into Christ
have clothed yourselves with Christ.
There is no longer Jew or Greek,
there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male and female;
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*

Galatians 3:27-28 NRSV

Presentation of the Child to be baptized

Sisters and Brothers,
let us celebrate God's gift of grace
given to us in the sacrament of baptism.

**There is one body
and one Spirit;
we have one hope in Christ.**

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God, Creator of us all.

**Out of the water of baptism
we rise with new life,
forgiven, renewed, and one with Christ,
members of Christ's body.**

Ephesians 4:4-6

On behalf of the congregation of the Vienna Community Church, I
present the following person for initiation into the body of Christ
through baptism:
Bleuenn James Kristine Kiss

Profession of Faith and Promises

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

I do, by the grace of God.

Will you follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
resisting oppression and evil, seeking justice,
and witnessing to God's love for all creation?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you join
with your brothers and sisters in this congregation
to share in the life, work, and ministry of Jesus Christ?

I will, God being my helper.

Questions of the Parents

* In baptism, Bleuenn marks an important step
in her journey of faith.

Will you care for her,
and help her to take her place
within the mission and witness of Christ's Church?

I will, God being my helper.

Questions of the Godparents

Recognizing that many persons nurture and influence the
life of a child, will you support this child and her parents as
they grow in faith?

I will, God being my helper.

Congregational Commitment

Let us pledge to these persons our support and care.

**As a baptized and baptizing people,
we commit ourselves to support and uphold you
within the community of faith.**

May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism.
Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostle's Creed