

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:

IBAN: AT08 2011 1287 5384 9700

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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
Soloist:	David Corcoran
Sunday School:	Edson Dorneles
Bulletin Editor:	Ngozi Okpalaugo
Greeter:	Kitty McKinsey
Usher:	Souwanit Sonnbichler
Reader:	Kitty McKinsey
Flowers:	Elmira Ulbrich

Happy New Year

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

29 December 2019

————— **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

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.**

● **Call to Worship – Open Prayers**

Leader: Holy One, you have guided and accompanied us throughout the year, and today, on the eve of a new year, we give thanks for your blessings

People: **Our faith draws us into the heart of life: to rejoice with those being born, to pray with those dying, to offer support and care to those who are on the threshold as life changes, as light fades, or dawn comes.**

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:

SAVE THE DATE!

- **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.

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

Prayer Thought before Scripture

To those who have seen
The Child, however dimly, however incredulously,
The Time Being is, in a sense, the most trying time of all.
For the innocent children who whispered so excitedly
Outside the locked door where they knew the presents to be
Grew up when it opened. Now, recollecting that moment
We can repress the joy, but the guilt remains conscious;
Remembering the stable where for once in our lives
Everything became a You and nothing was an It. (W.H. Auden, "A Christmas Oratorio")

Hearing the Word of God

Bible Readings "Isaiah 63:7-9, Matthew 2:13-23" **Kitty McKinsey**
(see pages 4-5)"

Sermon "The Time Being" **Rev. Dr. Neil Parker**

Responding to God's Word

- **Responding Hymn** "I Wonder As I Wander" **#161**
- **Offering** **Tomasz Pietak**
- **Doxology** **#46**

The Sacrament of Communion

- **The Apostles' Creed**
- **The Words of the Institution**
- **Communion**

Pastoral Prayer

- **Silent Meditation**
- **Lord's Prayer**

Closing

Welcome and Congregational News

- **Closing Hymn** "We Three Kings" **#172**

Benediction

- **Congregational** "Amen" **#312**

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Tomasz Pietak

Isaiah 63:7-9 (NIV)

Praise and Prayer

⁷ I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the LORD has done for us—yes, the many good things he has done for Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses.

⁸ He said, “Surely they are my people, children who will be true to me”; and so he became their Savior.

⁹ In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them.^[a] In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Footnotes:

- a. [Isaiah 63:9](#) Or *Savior*⁹ in their distress. / It was no envoy or angel / but his own presence that saved them

Matthew 2:13-23 (NIV)

The Escape to Egypt

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt,¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”^[a]

¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”^[b]

The Return to Nazareth

¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt²⁰ and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee,²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Footnotes:

- a. [Matthew 2:15](#) Hosea 11:1
b. [Matthew 2:18](#) Jer. 31:15

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>