

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

BIC: GIBAATWWXXX

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

Interim Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Neil Parker
Choir Director:	Cassandra McConnell
Organist:	Tomasz Pietak
Soloist:	David Corcoran
Sunday School:	Edson Dorneles
Bulletin Editor:	Ngozi Okpalaugo
Greeters:	Miriam & Serena Muhoro
Ushers:	Kelvin & Ngozi Okpalaugo
Reader:	Ronan le Bras
Flowers:	Ronan le Bras

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

2nd Sunday After Christmas - 5 January 2020 - Epiphany

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 – Opening Prayer

Leader: God of infinite love and mercy,

People: we know only a shadow of your love.

Leader: God of infinite wisdom and knowing,

People: we know only a shadow of your wisdom.

Leader: God of infinite creativity and joy,

People: we know only a shadow of your creativity.

Leader: God, creator of all,
you fashioned us in your image.

People: As we enter this new year,
may we rest in the confidence of your unending love. Amen.

● **Opening Hymn** *“Holy Holy Holy”* #4

● **Prayer of Approach / Confession**

Child of Bethlehem, the house of bread;
Man of Jerusalem, the city of peace;
You have loved us without limit or condition
In our greatness and in our misery,
In our folly and in our virtue;
May your hand be always upon us and may your heart be
within us, so that we too
May become bread and peace for one another.

● **Words of Assurance**

Pastor: It is God who forgives all our sins
and brings us healing.
It is God who redeems us
and crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.

People: Thanks be to God.

● **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.

Special Music *“Christ Be Our Light”* David Corcoran

Time with Children

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

● **Change for Change**

VCC 2019 Financials

VCC average monthly expense: €6.000

VCC average monthly income: €4.400

“As we enter the season of giving, let us celebrate that every blessing comes from God, so let us all give back cheerfully and heartily; For every giving will help God’s mission to succeed.”

Thank You for supporting our Ministry!

Vienna Community Church
IBAN: AT 082 011 128 753 849 700
<http://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:

SAVE THE DATE!

- **28 FEBRUARY – 1 MARCH 2020 VCC Retreat in Drosendorf**
For more information, contact Anne Storey: astorey8@gmail.com

The VCC Choir – Practice

The VCC_Chair is looking for new singers! If you like to sing, come join in – Practice in the Sanctuary at 11:00 every Sunday morning.

cassandramcconnell@gmail.com

VCC Volunteers

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

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 "Sirach 24:1-12; John 1:(1-9), 10-18" **Ronan le Bras**
(see pages 4-5)"

Sermon "Taking Roots And Growing Wings" **Rev. Dr. Neil Parker**

Responding to God's Word

- **Responding Hymn** "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go" **#540**
- **Offering**
- **Doxology** **#46**

Pastoral Prayer

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

Closing

Welcome and Congregational News

- **Closing Hymn** "O Thou Joyful!" **#169**
- **Benediction**
- **Congregational** "Amen" **#312**

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Tomasz Pietak

Sirach 24:1-12 (RCL)

¹ Wisdom praises herself, and tells of her glory in the midst of her people. ² In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory: ³ "I came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth like a mist. ⁴ I dwelt in the highest heavens, and my throne was in a pillar of cloud. ⁵ Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and traversed the depths of the abyss: ⁶ Over waves of the sea, over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway." ⁷ Among all these I sought a resting place; in whose territory should I abide? ⁸ "Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator chose the place for my tent. He said, 'Make your dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance.' ⁹ Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be. ¹⁰ In the holy tent I ministered before him, and so I was established in Zion. ¹¹ Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place, and in Jerusalem was my domain. ¹² I took root in an honored people, in the portion of the Lord, his heritage.

John 1:1-9 (NIV)

The Word Became Flesh

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome^[a] it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

Footnotes: **a)** [John 1:5](#) Or *understood*

John 1:10-18 (NIV)

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and^[a] is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Footnotes: **a)** [John 1:18](#) Some manuscripts *but the only Son, who*

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>