



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

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

*20 December 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Advent – at 12 Noon
VCC Online Service*



WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Tomasz Piętak

Prayer

VOICE: Last Sunday we lit the candle of **joy**. We light it and the candles of **hope** and **peace** again as we remember that Christ will come again and bring us everlasting peace and joy.

VOICE: The fourth candle of Advent is the Candle of **Love**. It's light is meant to remind us of the love that God has for us.

VOICE: Jesus shows us God's perfect love. He is God's love in human form. The bible says that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

VOICE: Love is patient, love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful or conceited, rude or selfish. Love is not quick to take offense, it keeps no records of wrongs, it does not gloat over other people's troubles, but rejoices in the right, the good, and the true. There is nothing that love cannot face, there is no limit to its faith, to its hope, to its endurance. Love never ends.

VOICE: We light this candle today to remind us of how God's perfect love is found in Jesus

Advent Third Candle Lighting

Family Varghese

• #132 *When God Is A Child*

3. Love is a flame that burns in our heart.
Jesus has come and will never depart.

Refrain: When God is a child
there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first
and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.



VOICE: LET US PRAY. Loving God, we thank you for your gift of love show to us perfectly in Jesus Christ our Lord. Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Bless our worship. Help us to hear and do your word. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen

Greeting/Announcements

Rev. Dr. Neil Parker

• #136 *Christmas All, Your Lord Is Coming*

1. Christians all, your Lord is coming, drawing near in holy birth. Ring the bells and sound the trumpets, let your music fill the earth. Dance and move to show God's glory; kneel and pause to hear God's word. Alleluia! Alleluia! Rise and let your songs be heard.

2. (*Spoken*) Christians all, your Lord is coming, calling you to serve in deed. See the ones who hurt and suffer, hear their cry and act with speed. Set all selfish ways behind you. Purge your hearts of sinful greed. Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ in you will meet their need.

4. Christians all, your Lord is coming, hope for peace is now at hand. Let there be no hesitation, walk in faith where life demands. Bear the word that God has given; share the birth that stirs your soul. Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ will come and make you whole.

WE HEAR THE WORD

Scripture Reading

Alexander Varghese

Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, **27** to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. **30** But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. **31** You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called^[a] the Son of God. **36** Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. **37** For no word from God will ever fail."

38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Footnotes: (a) [Luke 1:35](#) Or So the child to be born will be called holy,

Responsive Psalm

Luke 1:46-55 (NIV)

Mary's Song

46 And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.

50 His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost
thoughts.

52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

53 He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

54 He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful

55 to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”

Soloist

O Come, O Come Emanuel

Kristin Lewis

Sermon

**Loving
When Feeling Alone**

Rev. Dr. Neil Parker

WE RESPOND IN THANKS AND PRAYER

Responsive Song

Shine On Me

Chanda Rule
(live Online)

Refrain:

Shine on me, Shine on me.
Let the light from the lighthouse,
Shine on me.
Shine on me. Shine on me.
Let the light from the lighthouse
shine on me.

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Offering

Ave Maria
Bach-Gounod

Kristen Lewis

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Announcements / Sharing

WE GO INTO GOD'S WORLD WITH BLESSING

• #144 *On Little Town Of Bethlehem*

1. 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.

3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of the heav'ns.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still
the dear Christ enters in.

2. For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing—let "Glory!" ring
with peace to all on earth!

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray,
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

• **Blessing / Commissioning**

• #312 *Amen*

- Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Tomasz Piętak

REMEMBERING RAINER ZIMMERMANN

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39



Dear VCC Family!

How Rainer is already missed! He was a father, husband, grandpa, friend, good acquaintance, tour guide, volunteer on the Constitutional Review Committee some year's back, and VCC photographer, playing such a crucial role in documenting VCC's church life - the cheerful face rounding us up for photographs and providing descriptions of who, what, and where. He took the time to attend the numerous VCC events and the majority of VCC photographic history for at least the

last 10 years is primarily due to Rainer. He freely offered his time to organise his legendary tours, using his growing knowledge of Viennese history to train in his 2nd profession as a tour guide, after retiring as a lawyer. I would guess that many of us over the years have joined one of Rainer's informative and interesting tours, which he did with passion, enthusiasm, and a commanding depth of knowledge on Viennese history!

It was Rainer's wish that VCC be involved in his spiritual journey out of this life. Rainer's family is very appreciative of Pastor Neil who officiated at Rainer's funeral yesterday, making it a celebration of Rainer's life. Cassandra McConnell (Choir Director) and David Corcoran (Music Chair), accompanied by VCC's organist, Tomasz Pietak, added to the contemplative, but upbeat atmosphere, filling the halls with an organ prelude and Cassandra's and David's heart stopping renditions of some favourite hymns, "Take me Home" and the "Irish Blessing", ending the service with "I'll Do It My Way" - a motto certainly lived by Rainer.

Although Rainer was almost always behind the camera, former members, Jakob (Jake) and Christine Dyk, caught him on camera. Thanks to Mary Geissler for sharing this.



Phenomenal!

- Seven group tours
- Five personal tours
- Hundreds of pictures
- In 11 years
- We only lived in Vienna 2 years.

You have enriched our lives!

**You will be sadly missed
but not forgotten!**

