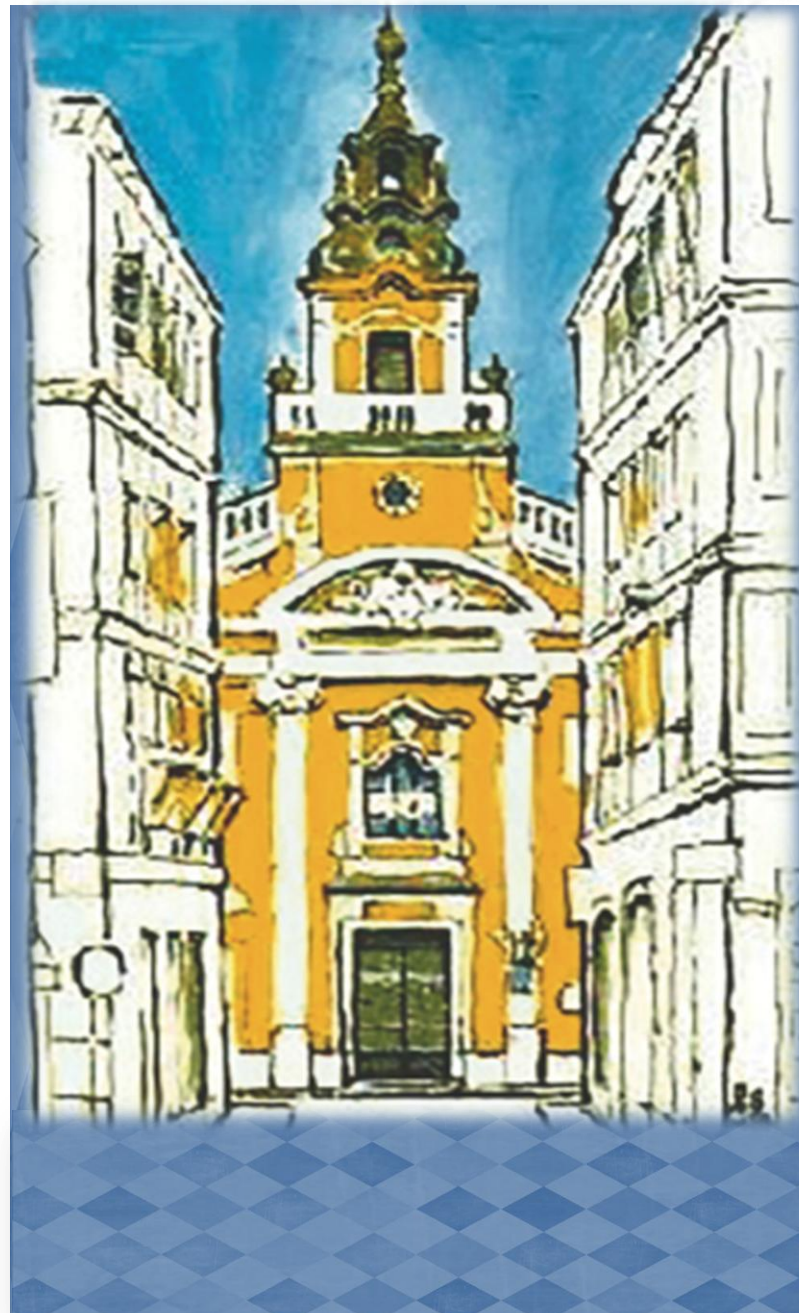




*We are a Bible-based, English-speaking, international, interdenominational, ecumenical, friendly and welcoming community.*

## **PRAISE AND WORSHIP**

*3 January 2021 – Second Sunday after Christmas Day – at 12 Noon  
VCC Online Service*



## WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

### Meditation

### Prelude

*Once In Royal David's City*

**Tomasz Piętak**

### Greeting/Announcements

**Rev. Dr. Neil Parker**

#### • #162 *What Child Is This?*

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?

2. Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading:

**[Refrain]**

**Refrain:** This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him laud  
the babe, the son of Mary.

3. So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,  
come, rich and poor, to own him,  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.

**[Refrain]**

## WE HEAR THE WORD

### Scripture Reading

#### John 1 1-9; 10-18 (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<sup>[a]</sup> 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

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<sup>[a]</sup> is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

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

## Responsive Psalm

### Psalm 147:12-20 (NIV)

**12** Extol the Lord, Jerusalem;  
praise your God, Zion.

**13** He strengthens the bars of your gates  
and blesses your people within you.

**14** He grants peace to your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest of wheat.

**15** He sends his command to the earth;  
his word runs swiftly.

**16** He spreads the snow like wool  
and scatters the frost like ashes.

**17** He hurls down his hail like pebbles.  
Who can withstand his icy blast?

**18** He sends his word and melts them;  
he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow.

**19** He has revealed his word to Jacob,  
his laws and decrees to Israel.

**20** He has done this for no other nation;  
they do not know his laws.<sup>[a]</sup>

Praise the Lord.

Footnotes: [a] [Psalm 147:20](#) Masoretic Text; Dead Sea Scrolls and Septuagint nation; / he has not made his laws known to them

**Soloist**

*I wonder As I wander*

**Cassandra McConnell**

**Sermon**

**Before The Beginning  
Was The Dream**

**Rev. Dr. Neil Parker**

**WE RESPOND IN THANKS AND PRAYER**

- # --

**Prayers of the People**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Offering**

**Doxology**

- **#35 Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

**Announcements / Sharing**

**WE GO INTO GOD'S WORLD WITH BLESSING**

• ***Shine, Jesus, Shine***

Lord, the light of your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness, shining  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us  
Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations With grace and mercy  
Send forth your word Lord,  
And let there be light

Lord, I come to your awesome presence  
From the shadows into your radiance  
By the blood I may enter your brightness  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness  
Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word  
Lord, And let there be light

As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
So our faces display your likeness  
Ever changing from glory to glory  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story  
Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word  
Lord, and let there be

Send forth your  
Send forth your word  
Lord, and let there  
Send forth your word  
Send forth your word  
Lord, and let there be light

- **Blessing / Commissioning**

- **#312 Amen**

*Congregational Amen*

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

**Postlude**

**Tomasz Piętak**

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A graphic with the text "Happy New Year" in a colorful, stylized font. The word "Happy" is in green, red, white, yellow, and purple. "New" is in white, orange, and blue. "Year" is in red, green, and blue. The text is set against a grey background with a green border and a red glow.