

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
Greeters:	Rick & Cintia Sue
Ushers:	Bettina Hartlieb
Reader:	Phyllis Wieser
Flowers:	Sheila E. Philip

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

1 December 2019 – 1st Sunday Advent

————— **11:55 A.M. SILENT MEDITATION** —————

Prayer before Service

They watch for Christ, who are sensitive, eager, apprehensive in mind, who are awake, alive, quick-sighted, zealous in honoring him, who look for him in all that happens, and who would not be surprised, who would not be over-agitated or overwhelmed, if they found he was coming at once.....

This then is to watch:

to be detached from what is present, and to live in what is unseen; to live in the thought of Christ as he came once, and as he will come again; to desire his second coming, from our affectionate and grateful remembrance of his first. - *John Henry Newman, 19th Century* -

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude

Tomasz Pietak

Choral Invocation

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

VCC Choir

Greeting

Rev. Dr. Neil Parker

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the power presence of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Candle Lighting (Advent reading on page 4)

The Sue Family

Child: Hope is like a light shining in a dark place.

As we light this candle, we celebrate the hope of God's People and the hope that we have in Jesus Christ.

All: **We continue to hope in God's promise that Christ will come again to fill our lives and the life of the world with love and joy and peace.**

Candle Lighting Hymn

"One Candle Is Lit"

#128 (vs. 1)

● Call to Worship

Leader: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

People: For in God's house we shall find hope and healing.

Leader: In God's house we shall find forgiveness and friendship.

People: May peace be within the walls of this house of God.

Leader: Come, let us go to the house of the Lord.

People: Come, let us sing our praises to God who loves and redeems us. AMEN.

● Opening Hymn "Come, O Long-expected Jesus" #125

● Opening Prayer

God of Amazing Surprises, we are rushing headlong into this season of buying, giving, greed, and struggle. We want to think of the holiday as delightful, but we have a tendency to make it a time of the highest stress. We over-schedule our time, overdraw our resources, ignore those moments in which we could just relax and have quiet time with our families and with you. We blame it on everything else but our own decision-making. We speak of obligations, of the need to be constantly busy, of the pressure to purchase things to make people happy. The reality is that your love should be our foundation, the base from which we celebrate. Forgive us for our stubborn insistence on maintaining schedule rather than focusing on your love. Heal us. Strengthen us and make us watchful over our faith in you. For we ask this in Jesus' Name, 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.

WHAT'S ON Continues

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.

VCC Volunteers

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

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



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:

1 DECEMBER – Songs On A Sunday, 14:00 (see page 7)

Donations will go towards the VCC Music budget. 'Songs on a Sunday' offers songs to uplift and revitalize your spirit from our beloved choir, plus soloists Traude Fritz, Cassandra McConnell and Chanda Rule among several others.

1 and 8 DECEMBER – No After-worship Fellowship

While there will be no after-worship fellowship on 1 and 8 December, you are encouraged to enjoy a drink and bite to eat at the charming Henriettenmarkt in the Church courtyard.

SAVE THE DATE!

- 15 DECEMBER Children's Christmas Pageant
It will take place during Sunday Service
- 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

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.

Time with the Children

"Jesus loves me, this I know"

#113

Change for Change

Hearing the Word of God

Bible Reading (see page 5)

"Matthew 24:36-44"

Phyllis Wieser

Sermon *"Sermons You Probably Shouldn't Preach"* Rev. Dr Neil Parker

Responding to God's Word

• Responding Hymn

"When God Is A Child"

#132

Offering

"Organ Meditation"

Tomasz Pietak

"Doxology"

#47

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Meditation

Lord's Prayer

Closing

Welcome and Congregational News

• Closing Hymn

"Creating God, Your Fingers Trace"

#335

• Congregational

"Amen"

#312

• Benediction

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

1st Sunday Advent

Child: Today is the first Sunday in the season of Advent. Advent means “coming”, and in this season we prepare for the coming of Christ. One of the ways we can celebrate Advent is by making an Advent Wreath and lighting its candles to remind us of the gifts Christ brings to the world.

Adult: The Advent wreath includes many symbols. The wreath is in the shape of a circle, with no beginning and no ending. This reminds us that there is no beginning and no ending to God, and that God’s love and caring for us never ends. The evergreen branches are a sign of ever new life. The candles tell us of the light which came into the world with Jesus Christ. The traditional colours of the Advent candles, three violet and one rose, are penitential colours, reminding us of our need for God’s help to be the people we’re meant to be. The white candle which we light on Christmas Eve signifies the coming of Christ.

Child: Today we light the first candle, the candle of hope.

Adult: The people of Israel heard of God’s promises through the prophets. The prophet Jeremiah spoke words of hope to Israel. He proclaimed the coming of Shalom would be fulfilled. We too hope and pray for a world of peace and harmony.

Child: Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we light this candle, we celebrate the hope of God’s People and the hope that we have in Jesus Christ.

All: We continue to hope in God’s promise that Christ will come again to fill our lives and the life of the world with love and joy and peace.

Scripture Reading – Matthew 24: 36-44 (NIV)

The Day and Hour Unknown

³⁶ “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son,^[a] but only the Father.” ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴² “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

Footnotes: [a] [Matthew 24:36](#) Some manuscripts do not have *nor the Son*.

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>