Advent Sermon Series: Gospel Beginnings

God of the Impossible

Luke 1:26-38

December 19, 2010
Prelude
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Welcome

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Prayer of Adoration

Hymn #23
Angels We Have Heard On High

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Worship Song
Go Tell It On The Mountain

chorus
Go tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a glorious light. Chorus

The shepherds feared and trembled when Lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth. Chorus

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Chorus

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Please request large-print hymnals from ushers.
Assistive listening devices are available in the balcony from the Sound Technician.
Minute For Witness

Offering of Gifts and Pledges
Light of the World

During the Offertory, please pass the Friendship Pad.
Children in the Bridges class are dismissed.

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Scripture
Luke 1:26-38

Sermon
God of the Impossible
Sermon Series: Gospel Beginnings

Hymn #31
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Benediction

Postlude
God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman

Today’s flowers are given by Stan King, in loving memory of his wife, Ann.
Prelude
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Welcome

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Prayer of Adoration

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resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

Worship Song
Go Tell It On The Mountain

*chorus*
Go tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a glorious light. *Chorus*

The shepherds feared and trembled when Lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth. *Chorus*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Chorus*

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Please request large-print hymnals from ushers.
Assistive listening devices are available in the balcony from the Sound Technician
Children’s Message (9:30)  Daryl Wright

Prayers of the People (11:00)

Minute for Witness  Bethany Hoang

Offering of Gifts and Pledges  Light of the World  David Ray

During the Offertory, please pass the Friendship Pad.

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Scripture  Luke 1:26-38  Page53/56 NT

Sermon  God of the Impossible  Pete James

Sermon Series: Gospel Beginnings

Hymn #31  Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Benediction

Postlude  God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman

Today’s flowers are given by Stan King, in loving memory of his wife, Ann.
Prayers

Hospitalized: Jay Tyroler; Susan Christopher's friend Tony; Connie Eden's father; William Krisko/Wendy Rose's friend Kathryn (14); Stephanie Sefcik's friend Anabel (2-1/2) & family; Mary Ann Singlaub's mother Linda

Facing Tests or Surgery: Mona Flinn; Myra Gillum; Judy Sommerfeld; Kathryn Gilchrist's brother, Hunt Cooley; Stuart Hoffman's mother; Wendy Rose's friend Linda

Homebound: Cathie Becker

Ill or Convalescing: Emily Anderson (15); Bea Blasdell; Sheila Breuer; Dee Burns; Louise Findlay; Alan Haas; Gordon Hamlet; Myrna Ives; Charles Killion; Mildred Kratovil; Phil Kratovil; Adriana Manik; Bill Phillips; Kamal Rahal; Jerry Schnell; Rick Thompson; Jack Warner (3); Joanne Werman; Bill Windle; Dan W. Wright

Family and Friends: Jeanne Bingham's friend Jim; Liz Brooke's husband Ty; Ruth Anne Buterbaugh's friend Walter; William Buterbaugh's sister-in-law; Beth Crowder's brother; Christa Davidson's mother, former member Jacque Jeutter; Larry Dowdy's mother; Marieke Ertel's friend Kieran (newborn) & family; Mary Flounlacker's friend Tammy; Kathryn Gilchrist's brother, cousin Caroline (4), and friend Amy & father; Nina Graves's brother-in-law; Brian Hays's friends Laurie & Pat; Rebecca Huffman's father; Connie Kanady/Gary Kanady's niece/cousin; Tana Leasure's father, mother and friend Robert; Sharon Lewis's husband Howard; Lindsey Loving's newborn cousin Conner; Mary Monie's mother; Chris Nelson's cousin Melissa; Janet Schuchmann's mother; Ginny Smoot's friend Amy; Bev Strean's goddaughter and friends Louise & Jim; Dick Strean's friend Bruce; Mary Wisenbaugh's son

Other: Betty Jo Dickson; Greg Coats; Kurt Gilchrist; Mike Hughes; Melinda Mayes; Wendy Rose's friend Cindy; Debbie Scozzie's mother; Christine; the people of Haiti, Indonesia & Pakistan; Haymarket Crossroads Mission

Missions/Missionaries of the week: Denise Hoover, Wycliffe, Chad (International); Johnson C. Smith Seminary, Atlanta (National); Homestretch, Inc., Northern VA (Local)

We give God thanks for Fay Morrison, who joined VPC on 12/12/54 (56 years), and for Thelma Haslam, who joined VPC on 12/19/54 (56 years).


Need Prayer for Yourself or Someone You Love?

USE THE CARDS in the Friendship Pad in your pew or at the rear of the church, and place them in the collection plate or the wooden box in the lobby/narthex; or CALL the church office at 703.938.9050, x301; or E-MAIL linda.kemple@viennapres.org; or enter a prayer request via www.viennapres.org.

Please make sure that you have permission before submitting a prayer request on behalf of someone else. Confidentiality requests are strictly honored.

If requested for the weekly bulletin, prayer notices will be made for up to four weeks but can certainly be extended upon request.
VISITORS AND GUESTS – WELCOME TO VPC!
We are delighted you are here. Here are some ways to make the first steps on your spiritual journey at VPC easier. For more information, please visit www.viennapres.org/firststeps or contact Shannon Jordan at 703.938.9050 x123.

Step 1: Visit the Welcome Table in the narthex for a gift, then visit the Great Hall for coffee.

Step 2: Orientation to the Journey: Next Session, January 9. We’ll give you a brief look at who we are as a church and what we believe. Ask questions and find where you fit. Light refreshments served. Great Hall.

Step 3: “Invitation to the Journey” class: In this more in-depth look at our mission, beliefs, values and practices, discover what we mean by “learning to follow Jesus with your life” and “living your life as Jesus would.” This 3-week class is required for membership at VPC. Please contact Linda Kemple (x100) to sign up or for more information. Next series starts January 23, 2011.

Step 4: Share the Journey in a Small Group: Grow in Christ and connect with others. Next Group Link will be on Jan. 9th at 11:00 am in the Great Hall. For information, go to viennapres.org/smallgroups. New to faith, small groups, or VPC? The next Christianity Explored class will begin on Feb 13. If you have any questions, please contact Phil Kratovil at 703.938.9050 x115 or Phil.Kratovil@viennapres.org

Informing vs. Inviting…What’s the difference?

- **Invitations are personal.** One to one, an invitation comes through an existing relationship. Informing is generally impersonal, with no relationship needed.

- **Invitations are selective.** It’s a great feeling to be selected; to be included. Remember being chosen first to be on that soccer team?

- **Invitations are specific.** A newspaper informs with details about movies, show times and locations. Does this make you want to go to the movies? Or is it the invitation of a friend that inspires you?

- **Invitations are relational.** When faced with a room full of relative strangers, entering with someone is far easier and more comfortable. It’s all about relationships.

Who do you know that is waiting for an invitation?
SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Help CHO: The Committee for Helping Others distributed over 1400 beds, chairs, tables & sofas in 2010. Help is needed to drive the CHO truck and move furniture. Commit to one Saturday every two-three months. Please contact George Bergquist 703.938.4157, berggail@cox.net or Jim Larson 703.938.5683 to offer your services and enable CHO to continue this meaningful outreach.

Translators Needed: Do you speak another language? Many of the adult students in our ESOL program need help to communicate with child's school or teacher. Willing to help? Contact bonnie.grouge@viennapres.org

Bethany Women's Center: this homeless shelter needs your help. Easy-to-prepare recipes and sign-up sheet are available outside the kitchen door. Call Cindy Alls, 703.222.3657

Did you know that... there are many ways for you to help the care for members of our VPC church family? Make and/or deliver a meal, spend a few hours to help the Community Needs ministry with a home repair project, or simply pray for those in need are just a few simple ways you can care for our church family without being a Deacon. For more information, contact tj.funkhouser@gmail.com

VPC Young Adults: Volunteers needed to deliver grocery items to God's children in need. What an opportunity to spread Jesus' love to others, TODAY. Contact vpcyoungadults@gmail.com

Dreaming of summer? Adults interested in going on SMP the summer of 2011, contact Barry Hill at barry.hill@viennapres.org

Ushers Needed: Do you attend the 8am service? We welcome your help one Sunday every 4 weeks. Contact Steve Haracznak, 703.909.7912, steveh5pit@aol.com or Clark Kattenburg, 703.620.9114, N2refin@aol.com

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Gifts from the Heart in the Great Hall between services—help your less fortunate neighbors. See pg 8.

Considering making a stock donation to VPC? Please contact Rob McLallen, rob.mclallen@viennapres.org.

More opportunities: www.viennapres.org/serve

Save the Date! Church-wide Equipping Event
Mark Labberton, The Dangerous Act of Loving Your Neighbor. After loving God, loving your neighbor is our next highest calling. Consider this calling, ask what it requires, find hope in living into it with joy. Shannon.jordan@viennapres.org, 703.938.9050 x123 March 18-19, 2011
Featured Events

**Worship Services, December 26**

9:30am & 11am Only  
(No 8 am service that day)

Worship, Song & Praise

Ceremony of Carols, a choral masterwork by Benjamin Britten, performed by a select women’s chorus.

All 8am worshipers invited to attend the 9:30am or 11am service.

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**Gifts from the Heart**

There are people in our own backyard that are hungry, homeless, and/or unemployed... there is endless need for food, clothing, gifts for Christmas and more.

You can’t do everything...  
But you CAN do something...

Come to the Giving Tree in the Great Hall.  
Take a tag, buy a gift, lend a hand.

**Sundays 9-1, Nov 28 to Dec 19 and Christmas Eve**

(Return gifts & donations to the Great Hall at these times; or to the VPC OFFICE during regular business hours)

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4 & 5:15 pm  
Suitable for children through 4th grade.  
Childcare is provided

7 pm  
Candlelight Service with Sanctuary Choir  
Childcare is provided

8:45 pm  
Candlelight Service with Sanctuary Choir  
No childcare available

10:30 pm  
Candlelight Communion Service with Youth Choir  
No childcare available
Ministry and Missions Financial Update

YTD Budget: $2,837,879
YTD Actual: $2,757,837
Surplus/Deficit: (350,021)

Giving Required to Make Budget: $723,415

Capital Campaign Giving Update

Campaign Year July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011)

YTD Budget: $650,000
YTD Actual: $522,660
Surplus/(Deficit): (127,340)

Year-End Giving

“Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith…”

- Hebrews 12:1b-2a

Let us join together as a community to reach the $725,000 needed in December giving; responding to God’s call on each of us.

Thank you for faithfully fulfilling your tithes and offerings. Please prayerfully consider as well, a gift of appreciation for how God has blessed you this year.

Please submit year-end gifts by December 31.

Highpoint Children’s Ministries

See page 12 of weekly bulletin for Sunday classroom assignments.

Sign up for our weekly HighPoint Parent Information email to keep up with all Children’s Ministries’ events. Visit: viennapres.org/children


Children’s Handbells: Rehearsal times: Celebration Ringers Sunday 12:30pm; Joy Ringers, Sunday 4pm

Advent devotion books and calendars: Available in the hallway near the gathering space or upstairs on the 3rd floor—while supplies last.

Sunday classes on Dec 26 - There will be one class for Pre-K ages 3-5 years old at both 9:30am and 11am in Room 118. All children in grades K-6 should plan to attend Worship with their families. Childcare will operate as usual. All regular Sunday classes resume on January 2nd

Coming soon: Growing Your Child’s Soul workshop. We will offer a follow-up to this fall’s workshop. Here is your opportunity to interact, discuss, personalize and process through your child’s spiritual growth journey. 9:30am Room 108 A/B for newcomers and those who attended previously. No reservations needed. Feb 6 & 13

Student Ministries

Student Ministries programs:
Come for Breakfast and Sunday School from 9-10:30am in the Underground (lower level). Youth Group meets:
Middle School from 5-7pm • High School from 6:30-8:30pm
Stay on top of all the news www.vpcstudents.org/smsignups

Student Ministries needs a few good men to lead confirmation small groups, Contact Barry Hill x130

Student Ministries is collecting used cell phones. Please put phone and charger in a Ziploc bag and place them in the collection bin outside the Student Ministries Office (L-9)

Ski Liberty: Registration for Middle and High School Ski Trip now open. See www.viennapres.org/smskitrip for details. Only 25 spaces remain, register soon!

PM Underground (Youth Group) will not meet tonight, come to Glorious Sounds instead!

Underground AM (Sunday School) and Underground PM (Youth Group) will not meet next Sunday Dec 26 we will see everyone back on Jan 2.
YOUR COMMITMENT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

By the grace of God, lives are impacted everyday by your church through your gifts. Your pledge to the 2011 Ministry and Missions plan allows that work to continue. 500 individuals and families have already stepped forward to participate in God’s work here at VPC. Thank you!

There is still time to join with others in moving forward in 2011. Prayerfully consider how you are called to generous giving to feed the hungry, care for the lonely, give a firm foundation to teens and more. Please submit a pledge card to communicate your level of giving.

Pledge cards are available in the pew racks. Pledge cards and 2011 plan budgets are available at the Welcome Table and in the Gathering Space. Thank you for your covenant with God and commitment to the VPC community.
Sunday Mornings at VPC

Children’s Room Assignments
8am Bridges Class meets in Room 320

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Age/Grade (9:30am)</th>
<th>Age/Grade (11am)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>207</td>
<td>3s (turn 3 on/before 9/30/10)</td>
<td>3s (turn 3 on/before 9/30/10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>4s/Pre-K (turn 4 by 9/30/10)</td>
<td>4s/Pre-K (turn 4 by 9/30/10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
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<td>312/314</td>
<td>1st Grade</td>
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<td>317</td>
<td>2nd Grade</td>
<td>2nd Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>324</td>
<td>3rd Grade</td>
<td>3rd &amp; 4th Grades</td>
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<tr>
<td>322/323</td>
<td>4th Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>311</td>
<td>Friendship Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>308/309</td>
<td>5th &amp; 6th Grade Boys</td>
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<tr>
<td>310</td>
<td>5th &amp; 6th Grade Girls</td>
<td>5th &amp; 6th Grades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>320</td>
<td>Bridges to Worship (4s-1st Grade)</td>
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<tr>
<td>321</td>
<td>Gateways to Worship (2nd-4th Grade)</td>
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Adult Education Classes

9:30am

Beyond Basics: Discipleship in Advent passages taught by Shannon Jordan. Today, study how we prepare a place for God and God has prepared a place for us. Room 203/204

Friendship Class: For adults with intellectual disabilities. Room 108C. Teachers: Emmy Parker, Helen Neely & Beth Gourley

Lightseekers: In-depth discussion of this morning’s scripture text. Attendance at 8am service not required. Meet in Parlor. Facilitator: Judy Chelson

Searchers in the Word: In-depth study of Jesus’ ministry in the Gospel of Mark, an action-filled narrative for practical living. Conference Room. Leader: Marion Billington.

Partners with Christ: Come learn about the "I Am" sayings of Jesus in the Bible. All newcomers welcome. Questions? Martha Strauss at 703.319.7050 or wmstrauss@aol.com. Room 205

11am

Apprentices: We are studying "The Me I Want to Be" by John Ortberg. Please join us if you haven't experienced it yet! Newcomers always welcome. Questions? Contact Elaine Ryan, 703.470.1338 or Isaiah122elaine@aol.com. Room 205.


ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Bible Study: For adult ESOL students (intermediate/advanced.) Gain a better understanding of the Bible and improve English listening, speaking and reading skills. Room 317. Shun and Doris Ling, Leaders

Vienna Presbyterian Church
124 Park Street NE, Vienna, VA 22180
703.938.9050

Pastors
Peter James
Glenda Simpkins Hoffman
David Jordan-Haas
E. Stanley Ott

Teaching Pastor
David Jordan-Haas

Parish Associates
Chris Hammond
Connie Jordan-Haas
Ed Dawkins
L. Thomas Vining

Music Director
J. Kerry Wilkerson

Associate Music Director
Terry Sisk

Organist
Shannon Jordan

Adult Ministries Director
Barry Hill

Student Ministries Director
Thea Lamberson

High School Ministry Coordinator
Kim Snyder

Middle School Ministry Coordinator
Dawn Geschiere

Children’s Ministries Director
Daryl Wright

Asst. Children’s Ministries Director
Bonnie Downs

Preschool Director
Phil Kratovil

Evangelism Director
Vacant

Missions Director
Barb Jones

Connections Coordinator
Vacant

Interim Director of Finance
Rob McLallen

Executive Director
Dick Eagan

Office hours
Monday–Friday, 8:30am–5:30pm

Website
www.viennapres.org

Worship Bulletin
bulletin@viennapres.org

E-Blasts/E-Newsletters
newsletters@viennapres.org

Sermons are available at www.viennapres.org under “worship”