Sermon Series: Life Is Messy

Impossible

Luke 1:26-38

December 9, 2012


Sunday Worship 8:00

Prelude
The Little Drummer Boy

Celebration Ringers
Waldrop

My Soul Magnifies the Lord

Good news of great joy, for every woman, every man. This will be a sign to you, a baby born in Bethlehem.
Come and worship. Do not be afraid.

A company of angels, glory in the highest. And on the earth peace among, those of whom His favor rests.
Oh, come and worship. Do not be afraid, no, no.

(Chorus) My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord. My soul magnifies the Lord.
He has done great things for me, great things for me

Unto you a child is born, unto us a Son is given.
Let every heart prepare His throne, and every nation under Heaven.
Come and worship. Do not be afraid, no, no. (Chorus 2x)

Wonderful, Counselor, Everlasting Father. Wonderful, Counselor. His name shall be Everlasting Father.

My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord. My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord
He has done great things for us. He has done great things for us.
He has done great things for us. He has done great things for us.

My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord. My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord.
My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord. My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord. (Chorus 2x)
He has done great things. He has done great things.

Lighting of the Advent Candle
Jenna Robinson and Katie McCall

O Come, All Ye Faithful, Hymn #41

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon
David Jordan-Haas

Offering
Baloche/Shipps

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star while angels sang to lonely shepherds.
Three wise men seeking truth traveled from afar, hoping to find the child from heaven.
And falling on their knees, they bowed before the humble Prince of Peace.

Chorus: I bring an offering of worship to my King. No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing.
Jesus, may You receive the honor that You’re due.
O Lord, I bring an offering to You. I bring an offering to You.

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love. There is no shadow in Your presence.
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne, before the holy One of heaven.
It’s only by Your blood and it’s only through Your mercy. Lord, I come. (Chorus 2x)

I bring an offering of worship to my King. No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing.
Jesus, may You receive the honor that You’re due. O Lord, I bring an offering to You.
I bring an offering to You. Praise His name Emmanuel.

Please request large-print hymnals from ushers.
Assistive listening devices are available in the balcony from the Sound Technician.
A hearing loop is installed under the rear balcony. Please switch your hearing aid to T-coil.

2
Moment for Mission

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Offertory
Advent Hymn

During the Offertory, please pass the Friendship Pad.

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Scripture
Luke 1:26-38

Sermon
Impossible
Sermon Series: Life Is Messy

Pete James

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Hymn #31

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King. Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time, behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Benediction

Postlude

Today’s flowers are given in loving memory of Ann O. King by Stan King.

What did you love about worship today? Share your feedback.
Please contact Elder Martha Strauss at worshipfeedback@viennapres.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 and 11:00

Prelude
The Little Drummer Boy

Celebration Ringers
Waldrop

Lighting of the Advent Candle
(9:30) Gibb Family
(11:00) Rice Family

O Come, All Ye Faithful, Hymn #41

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem! Come, and behold Him,
Born the King of angels!

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given; Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!

Prayer of Adoration

David Jordan-Haas

Offering

Baloche/arr. Shipps

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And falling on their knees, they bowed before the humble Prince of Peace.

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I bring an offering to You.

© 2002 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music Paul Baloche CCLI #206597

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Assistive listening devices are available in the balcony from the Sound Technician.
A hearing loop is installed under the rear balcony. Please switch your hearing aid to T-coil.
Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Children’s Message
Rebecah Shepherd

Children’s Message
9:30am Children in Bridges and Gateways are dismissed.
11am Children’s Choirs are dismissed.

Moment for Mission
AK Scott

Offertory
Sanctuary Choir
Simeone

Offertory
Do You Hear What I Hear?

During the Offertory, please pass the Friendship Pad.

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Scripture
Luke 1:26-38

Sermon
Sermon Series: Life Is Messy
Pete James

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Benediction

Postlude
Veni Emmanuel
Terry Sisk, Organist
Adolphus Hailstork

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Prayers

Grieving: Wendy Culberson (father); Lynn Lotocki (aunt); Amy MacDonald (mother); Sherry Moseley (father); the family of Audrey O'Shea; Trish Sandercock (mother); the family of Rick Shirley; Mary Beth Savary Taylor (father)

Hospitalized: Barbara Carlson's cousin; Kaila's friend Amira

Facing Tests or Surgery: Chaz Mateer; Charles Geschiere's father; Maggie Karnis's mother; Pamela O'Connell's father

Homebound: Hans Anspach

Ill or Convalescing: Tom Addams; Beverly Bender; Bea Blasdell; Bill Comerford; Chuck Garland; Kyle Hard; Austin Murga; Audrey Neeson; Kate Parthum; Bill Phillips; Marvin Price; Sabrina Remy (2); Larry Root; Joan Sansone; Margaret Takesian; Nancy Thiel; Roger Woodin; Carol Yates

Family and Friends: William Buterbaugh's sister-in-law; Ruth Anne Buterbaugh's sister; Sandra Crippen's brother; Arayanna Darst's friend Mary & family; Gail Doughty's aunt (Hospice); Bill Downer's friends Bionda & family, Carl, and Dave; Nancy & Adrian Eley's friend Kaylee (3); Mary Flounlacker's father; Bonnie Grouge's first father-in-law; Allan Kerr (Hospice); the Hamlet family's beloved Aunt Mimi; Avice Hill's aunt (Hospice); William Butlerback's sister-in-law; Lisa Kellman's mother; Karen Dunlop's & Neil Kemp's friend Mike; Frank Kifer's sister Nancy; Valerie King's brother-in-law Danny; Julie Knight's brother Jim; Lisa LeJune's mother; Linda Lyon's son-in-law; Janet McKechnie's daughter-in-law; Libby Mosher's grandfather; Pam Priester's friend Mike; Michelle Rahal's mother; Trish Sandercock's mother; Bev Strean's goddaughter; Phyllis Swenson's brother; Kelly-Anne Thomson's mother; Pamela Vining's friends Caden(2) and family, Joshua (12), and Peter; Karen Williams's friend Lauren; Daryl Wright's father

Missions/Missionaries of the week: Neil & Wannee Thompson, OMF, Asia (International); Sunnyside Retirement Communities, Harrisonburg, VA (National); FACETS, Fairfax, VA (Local)

Other: The Aki family; Matt & Amber Bergstrom; Sarah Collins & family; Mike Hughes; Carl Klunk; Gwyn Ann Taylor; Violeta Villacorta; Sandra; Haymarket Crossroads Mission; peaceful resolution of the conflicts in Africa and the Middle East; the people across the US hit hard by Hurricane Sandy and other natural disasters; persecuted Christians in Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan and the Sudan

We give God thanks for Fay Morrison, who joined VPC on 12/12/54 (58 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; CALL the church office at 703.938.9050, x301; E-MAIL linda.kemple@viennapres.org; or enter a prayer request ONLINE via www.viennapres.org/prayerrequest

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

If requested for the weekly bulletin, prayer notices will be published 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](http://www.viennapres.org/firststeps) or contact Shannon Jordan at 703.938.9050 x123 or shannon.jordan@viennapres.org

Step 1: **Get Started:** Fill out the Friendship Pad in the pews during the service and we will contact you to help you get connected at VPC and answer any questions you may have. You are also invited to visit the Welcome Table in the narthex for a gift, and then visit the Great Hall for coffee between 8-11am.

Step 2: **Get Oriented:** Orientation to the Journey class is an opportunity to look at who we are as a church, find out what we believe, ask questions, and find how to best connect. (**Next class:** Today, 11am, room 108C.)

Step 3: **Get Going:** Invitation to the Journey class is a 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.” Please go to [viennapres.org/firststeps](http://www.viennapres.org/firststeps) for information and to register, or contact Linda Kemple (x100). Next Classes: January 2013.

Step 4: **Get Connected:** Share the Journey! Being part of a group or community to grow in Christ, connect with others, and serve is critical in our faith development. We would love to help you find the best place for you! For more information contact Shannon at shannon.jordan@viennapres.org or call 703-938-9050 x123.

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**Gifts from the Heart**

**Come by the Giving Tree today.**

Select a tag, Bring tag to the gift table,  
Record your gift.

Return unwrapped gift by December 16.

**Great Hall**  
Sundays through December 16,  
9am-12:30pm

*Gift opportunities include: a variety of gift cards; adults and children’s coats, hats, & boots; toys for girls and boys; baby formula; diapers; and teens Bibles, plus much more... **Stop by to see the entire list of needs and the list of charities where your gifts will be donated.**  
Contact: Sharon Lewis at [Sharon.Lewis@cox.net](mailto:Sharon.Lewis@cox.net), 703.625.8275, Missions Department*
82% of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited.
7 out of 10 unchurched people have never been invited to church in their whole lives.

Children’s Caroling
Club 56 (5th-6th graders)
December 14, 6-8:30pm

Sunday, December 16
4 & 7pm, Sanctuary
Glorious Sounds of Christmas

Pitstop
Christmas Celebration
Friday
December 14
6:30pm
Great Hall

ReFuel
(Young Adult Community)
Thursday, December 13
7pm, 3rd Floor
Christmas Party

Join us
Christmas Eve
4 & 5:15pm Families with Young Children
7 & 8:45pm Candlelight Services
10:30pm Candlelight and Communion
Where does your money go?

Your generosity supports our worship, Sunday school, missionaries, pastors, student ministries, clean and safe church, nursery workers, evangelism, heat, air conditioning, building maintenance, ESOL, adult education, bulletins, church website, mission partners, etc.

VPC counts on significant contributions in December to meet annual expenses. In fact, each year, we receive more in the Christmas season than any other time.

This year’s actual giving is our strongest indicator of potential giving next year, and will determine our projected Ministry and Missions spending for 2013.

Did you make a pledge for 2012?
Now is a great time to get caught up…

How can you give?

Place donations in the plate at one of the services.
Give online using either debit or credit card at viennapres.org/onlinegiving
Gifts may be placed in the “Dropbox” located just outside the VPC Office, 2nd floor.
Give stock or mutual fund shares OR funds may be automatically drafted from your checking account. Call Julie at 703.938.9050 ext. 120

How can you get a tax break in 2012?

All donations received via credit or debit card must be received by December 31.
Stock transfers must be initiated by December 31.
Donations sent via US mail must be postmarked by December 31.
General Announcements

Christmas Poinsettias: Sign up for a Poinsettia Memorial in the narthex. Last chance today! Contact Barb Strite, 571-434-0799 or barbstrite@aol.com

Dr. Jim Matthews will be outside Grapevine Books today to explain the Christmas Joy Offering. This special offering is received during Advent and is divided between current and former church workers and their families and deserving students attending Presbyterian-related schools. Your generous gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will bring Good News of Great Joy to the poor in circumstance or spirit. Stop by Dr. Matthew’s display for more information!

Advent Wreath Lighters: Families or individuals interested in lighting the Advent Wreath on Sunday mornings through December 23 can contact Lee Taylor at 703.938.9050, ext. 103. First come, first served!

The Community Coalition for Haiti (CCH): Great Hall on December 9, 16, and 23. Give the gift of a pregnant goat or pig and receive a free Christmas ornament while supplies last. Other Haitian products, including crafts, Haitian coffee, and “Haiti is Hot Sauce,” will also be available. Proceeds to benefit the Primary Care Clinic in Jamal, Haiti. For more details: Wanda Vander Nat at wevn@verizon.net

Serve

Catch the Holiday Spirit at CHO: Join us on Friday, December 14, 9:30am, to set up our Christmas Store at VPC. Come back on Saturday, December 15, 8:30am, and escort a family and help them choose toys and clothing for Christmas. We still need food gift cards, gift cards for teens, and new toys for younger children. Call Carolyn Mysel at 703.938.7213 with questions or to sign up to help.

School Supplies for Haiti: The next Haiti Teacher Professional Development trip is leaving January 7. Accepting donations of lightweight blocks, Legos, puzzles, wordless picture books, color/number/ABC toys, construction toys, or dolls of color. Call Emmy Parker at 703.404.4698.

Volunteer Opportunity in Grapevine Books! Looking for a way to serve one Sunday morning a month? We'd love to have your smiling face in Grapevine Books. We'll train you! Contact Anna Whiston-Donaldson at whisdonald9847@verizon.net

Meet the Artist Event:

Grapevine Books presents: Shawnte of Holly Lane Designs

Sunday, December 16, 9am-12:30pm.

View her enormous selection of Christian jewelry and learn about the inspiration behind each piece.

Bring your Christmas lists!

Connect

Already longing for summer? Summer Mission Project leaders and volunteers can sign up now to serve in summer 2013. Please contact Barry at barry.hill@viennapres.org or Amanda at Amanda.strong@viennapres.org for more information.

High School: White Elephant Christmas Party Tonight! 6:30-8:30pm. More details can be found on the Hub Events page of vpcstudents.org

Club 56 (5th-6th graders): Christmas Caroling and house party. Friday, December 14, 6-8:30pm. Contact Daryl Wright with any questions at daryl.wright@viennapres.org.

Refuel (Young Adults) Christmas Party: Thursday, December 13, 7pm, 3rd floor. Please bring friends/neighbors and a side dish or dessert to share. Contact Kevin Miller at kevin.miller@viennapres.org or visit viennapres.org/refuel for additional information.

Pitstop Christmas Party: Dinner and Christmas celebration for families with the youngest children. Friday, December 14, 6:30pm in the 3rd Floor activity center. For further information and to RSVP, contact Shannon at shannon.jordan@viennapres.org or 703.938.9050 x123.
Grow

**Spiritual Growth Plan:** Cards/worksheets are available in the narthex or online at viennapres.org/ministries/adults/resources. Let us help you grow!

**Monday Night Men’s Group:** 7–8:30pm, every Monday, 3rd floor activity center. Senior Pastor Pete James with Rev. Ed Dawkins, Steve Garner, Phil Kratovil. For more info: viennapres.org/men

**Tuesday Morning Women’s Bible Study:** 9:30-11:30 am, third floor. The topic is Helpmates, Harlots, and Heroes: Women of the Old Testament. Childcare is available with advance registration. For more information contact Shannon at shannon.jordan@viennapres.org or 703-938-9050 x123.

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Care

**Griefshare:** Support for those grieving the death of a loved one. For information go to GriefShare@viennapres.org

**Passages:** for those going through separation or divorce. Tuesdays, 7-9pm, Room 203/204.

**Christian Cancer Companions:** Contact Rita Lockwood at 703.573.6168.

**Widows Dinner Group:** 3rd Monday each month. Contact Betty Little at 703.938.9050 x121.

**Widows and Widowers Luncheons:** 3rd Saturday each month. Linda Waters, coordinator: 703.860.8685.

**Newspring:** Contact David Jordan-Haas at 703.938.9050 x116.

**In need of a Stephen Minister?** Please contact David Jordan-Haas at 703.938.9050 x116.

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**CenterPoint**  
**Adult Enrichment Classes**

**Reason for the Hope Within:**  
**Christian Critical Thinking**  
Rev. Dr. John Y. Lee

Sundays at 7:00pm, January 6, 13, 27; February 3 & 10

Join us as we:
- Critically reflect on who we are in Christ
- Become more sensitive to living in a pluralistic society.
- Use this to reach out to our neighbors.

**Sessions:**
1. Christianity as Worldview and Life-Orienting Story
2. Christian Witness in a Pluralistic World
3. Friend or Foe? Christian Belief and Science
4. Signs of God: Beauty, Justice, and Love
5. That Which We Cannot Control: The Role of the Holy Spirit in Persuasion

For more information and registration, visit viennapres.org/centerpoint

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Advent Devotionals.
Get your copy online, by email, on Facebook or Twitter, or in the narthex.

The miracles of the first Christmas happened in the midst of the messiness of life.

Like Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the Magi, we are invited to connect our messy lives with God’s redemptive will.
Children’s Room Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Age/Grade (9:30am)</th>
<th>Age/Grade (11am)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>207</td>
<td>3s (turn 3 on/before 9/30/12)</td>
<td>3s Cherub Choir (turn 3 on/before 9/30/12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>208</td>
<td>Pre-K 4’s (turn 4 by 9/30/12)</td>
<td>Pre-K 4’s (turn 4 by 9/30/12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>310</td>
<td>Pre-K 4’s (turn 4 by 9/30/12)</td>
<td>Pre-K 4’s (turn 4 by 9/30/12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>312</td>
<td>1st Grade A Power Up</td>
<td>Kindergarten/1st grade Power Up</td>
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<tr>
<td>313</td>
<td>1st Grade B Power Up</td>
<td>Kindergarten/1st grade Power Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>317</td>
<td>2nd Grade Power Up</td>
<td>Junior Choir (4th-6th grade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>308-09</td>
<td>3rd Grade A &amp; B Power Up</td>
<td>Carol Choir (2nd-3rd grade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>322/323</td>
<td>4th Grade A &amp; B Power Up</td>
<td>2nd-4th grade Power Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>324</td>
<td>5th &amp; 6th Grade Boys</td>
<td>5th &amp; 6th Grades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>320</td>
<td>Bridges to Worship (4s-1st Grade)</td>
<td>Joyful Noise Choir (K-1st grade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>321</td>
<td>Gateways to Worship (2nd-4th Grade)</td>
<td>Joyful Noise Choir (K-1st grade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>311</td>
<td>Friendship Club (as needed)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Middle and High School Sunday Youth Services
Lower Level, Light Breakfast Served, 9-9:30am
Sunday School, 9:30-10:30
Youth Groups: Middle School, 5-7pm, Underground; and High School, 6:30-8:30pm, Great Hall

Adult Education Classes

9:30am
**Beyond Basics:** Fellowship, coffee, and a study of the minor prophets and the book *Be Amazed*. Leaders: Shun Ling and George Marling. Kate Lund, katejlund@yahoo.com. Room 205.

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

**Partners with Christ:** a study of the book of Daniel: *Determining to Go God’s Direction*. Newcomers and drop-ins always welcome. Martha Strauss, martha.strauss@me.com or 703.319.7050. Parlor.

**Foundations Class:** Join us as we build on the twin foundations of scripture and friendship. No preparation required! John and Kathy Draper, 703.539.8300 or jkdraper@ymail.com. Room 203/204.

11am
**Apprentices Class:** *The Holiness of God* by Dr. R. C. Sproul. Newcomers are always welcome. Elaine Ryan, 703.470.1338 or isaiah122elaine@aol.com. Room 205.

**ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages):** Bonnie Grouge at bonnie.grouge@viennapres.org or 703.938.9050 x102. Room 311.

**Study of Corinthians 1 & 2:** Berean Adult Bible Study. All are welcome. John and Nancy Davidovich, 703.938.4775. Room 203/204.

**Practical Christian Living:** 2nd-floor conference room. All are welcome. Contact Phil Kratovil at phil.kratovil@viennapres.org