

ST GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Prelude

Call to Worship

Reader: The season of Advent begins, and we celebrate the hope we find in the good news of the Gospel.

All: Through the birth of a tiny and helpless child, God comes to save the world.

Reader: While we watch and wait for Jesus, we join God's mission by bringing grace and mercy to those who need it most.

All: We engage the poor and the poor in spirit, letting Christ's light shine through us.

Reader: We speak words of comfort and love to a world in need of hope and healing, as we share our stories of God's transforming Spirit.

All: Together, we are a sign of God's hope for the world.

The candle is lit

Reader: Let us pray:

All: God of surprising grace, when we least expect it you bring fresh new life; and where we feel that all is lost, you bring redemption. Give us courage as we share all you have done, all you are doing, and all you will accomplish through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn: Oh Come, oh come Emmanuel

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**1. Oh come, oh come Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here,
until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain: **Rejoice, rejoice!**
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. **Oh come, oh come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain***
3. **Oh come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and cause us in her ways to go. *Refrain***
4. **Oh come, thou Branch of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from the depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. *Refrain***
5. **Oh come, thou Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery. *Refrain***
6. **O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain***
7. **Oh come, desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart, one mind;
bid envy, strife and discord cease,
and be thyself our source of peace. *Refrain***

Unison Prayer of Confession

Redeeming God, we confess that waiting is difficult for us.

We want to be comfortable in this festive season, but the pandemic keeps us anxious and unhappy.

We complain about our own troubles and close our eyes to the suffering of others,

Forgive us for ignoring truths we do not want to see.

Forgive us for seeking our own comfort at the cost of others.

Give us eyes to perceive the great need within our community.

Give us ears to hear the deep need of those near us.

Turn our hearts to you again and again.

Prayer — The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, the good news of Jesus Christ is for all people. There is nothing we have done, nothing we will ever do, that will separate us from the love of God made known in Jesus Christ. This love is yours! So live in love as forgiven and forgiving people. **Amen.**

Scripture

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1–9 (NRSV)

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence —
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil —
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19



- 1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
- 2 **before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.**
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!
- 3 Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
- 5 **You have fed them with the bread of tears,**
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
- 6 **You make us the scorn of our neighbours;**
our enemies laugh among themselves.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- 17 But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
- 18 **Then we will never turn back from you;**
give us life, and we will call on your name.
- 19 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

“But in those days, after that suffering,
 the sun will be darkened,
 and the moon will not give its light,
 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
 and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

1. **Open my eyes, that I may see
 glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
 place in my hands the wonderful key
 that shall unclasp and set me free.
 Silently now I wait for thee,
 ready, my God, thy will to see;
 open my eyes: illumine me, Spirit divine!**

2. **Open my ears, that I may hear
 voices of truth thou sendest clear,
 and while the wave-notes fall on my ear,
 everything false will disappear.
 Silently now I wait for thee,
 ready, my God, thy will to see;
 open my ears: illumine me, Spirit divine!**

3. **Open my mouth, and let me bear
 gladly the warm truth everywhere;
 open my heart and let me prepare
 love with children thus to share.
 Silently now I wait for thee,
 ready, my God, thy will to see;
 open my heart: illumine me, Spirit divine!**

Sermon This Time Next Year

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you. O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

Prayers of the People

****Hymn: Your strong word once cleaved the darkness 429**

- 1. Your strong word once cleaved the darkness;
at your speaking it was done;
for created light we thank you,
while your ordered seasons run:**

Refrain verses 1 to 3

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah! Praise for saving light you send!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah! Hallelujah without end!**

- 2. Now on those who dwelt in darkness,
dark as night and deep as death,
broke the light of your salvation,
breathed your own life-giving breath: *Refrain***
- 3. Your strong word declares us righteous;
bright with your own holiness,
glorious now, we press to glory,
and our lives our hopes confess, *Refrain***
- 4. God the Father, Light-Creator,
praise to you and honour be;
to you, Light of Light begotten,
praise be sing eternally;
Holy Spirit, Light-Revealer, to you glory endless be;
mortals, angels, now and ever praise the Holy Trinity.**

Announcements

Offering

Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow 830

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

Prayer of Dedication

****Hymn: Hope is a Star 119**

- 1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.**

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.**

- 2. Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth. *Refrain***
- 3. Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born. *Refrain***
- 4. Love is a flame that burns in our heart.
Jesus has come and will never depart.**

Benediction

Postlude

Hymn 119

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Events

Monday November 30 ~ 11 a.m.

Coffee Hour will meet by teleconference

Wednesday, December 2 ~ 12:30 p.m.

The Presbyterian Women will meet for a bag lunch, followed by the meeting at 1 p.m. Please note that this is the last call for mission donations.

Friday, December 4 ~ 10 a.m.

Bible Study will meet by teleconference. Please prepare chapters 40 and 41 of Isaiah.

Joining the Meeting, Conference Call or Bible Study:

1. Three to five minutes before the start time, call toll-free 1-888-884-4539.
2. You will be asked to enter a passcode number which is 7455703#.
3. Make sure to press the # after the number.
4. You will then be asked to say your name. Say it.
5. Press the # again.
6. You will then be connected.
7. You may find it preferable to put your phone on speaker.

Care Packages for Camerons in Ukraine



Two Cameron soldiers who will be spending Christmas in Ukraine will benefit from care packages from our congregation. A generous supply of home baking was sent this week. They will have enough to share with their fellow soldiers.

Special thanks to our bakers: Jean Currie, Bob and Jan Fourney, Dorothy and Kate Ferguson, and Kaye Tate.

Greeting and Welcome

Leading in worship is the Rev. Pul Wu. We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors. Let us together know the joy and wonder of worshipping God.

There are large print bulletins available. Please speak with an usher. The church is fully accessible with an elevator, ramps and a properly-appointed washroom.

A Note on Our Worship

The symbol ** means please stand if you are able

Forward in Faith — Our Vision

St Giles Presbyterian Church seeks to be a welcoming, fully-alive faith community, which shares Christ's vision for the world and responds in a Christ-like manner to the present-day challenges of our society and world in partnership with all who seek to make Christ's vision for the world a present reality.

Cover art: "This Time Next Year", by Daisy Tsai.

Acrylic and oil on terra skin paper, 34"x42".

Exhibited at Lee Contemporary Art Gallery, November 2020

St Giles Presbyterian Church

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