

# ST GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



DECEMBER 6, 2020

Prelude

Call to Worship

Reader: In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's peace.

**All: Jesus Christ, born the Prince of Peace, calls our community to justice and leads us in the way of peace.**

Reader: We call one another to honesty and humility and respond to each other with abundant grace and forgiveness.

**All: Our community values relationships. We live in harmony with one another even when we disagree, and strive to glorify God in everything we do.**

Reader: Our community longs for unity. We work together with other churches and organizations, and live out God's reconciling love for all the world to see.

**All: Together, we are a sign of God's peace in the world.**

*The candle of peace is lit.*

Unison Prayer: **God of all people and all nations, you break through the cynicism of our world and lead us like a gentle shepherd. Open our eyes to see the signs of your coming kingdom and inspire us to participate in all you are doing in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**\*\*Hymn: Come thou long-expected Jesus**

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- 1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,**

hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

2. **Born thy people to deliver;  
born a child and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever;  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Prayer of Adoration

O God of everlasting peace, you are holy and mighty and worthy of our praise. You create pathways where there is no way. You correct us when we are in need of correction. You prepare us to receive wonders beyond our imagination. In every time and every place, you have raise up leaders, who point to your glory and proclaim your greatness.

You have called us by name, baptized us with water and with the Holy Spirit. We are your people, the flock under your care. So we come to worship you and bow down before you. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with integrity of heart and purpose, we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever more.

As John the Baptizer called people to repent,  
and so we join together in the unison prayer of confession,

**We confess that we resist changing our hearts and minds,  
even when your Word compels us to reconsider cherished  
opinions. We are more comfortable remaining as we are than**

**taking up your challenge. Forgive us for being set in our ways,  
and seeing others only in light of inherited ideas and past  
experience. Forgive us our reluctance to forgive each other as  
we have been forgiven. By the power of your Holy Spirit,  
transform us by your great love and mercy. Give us new eyes  
for seeing, new ears for hearing. In Jesus' name we pray,  
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Sisters and Brothers in Christ, Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." Our Lord has come to give us shalom, the peace of God, which is everlasting and surpasses all understanding. That indeed is Good News.

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**

Scripture

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1–11

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,

lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,

"Here is your God!"

See, the Lord God comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms,

and carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead the mother sheep.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13



God of our sa - ving health and peace, turn us and us re - store.

- 1 Lord, you were favourable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- 2 **You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you pardoned all their sin.**
- 8 Let me hear what God will speak,  
for the Lord will speak peace to the people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to God on their hearts.
- 9 **Surely salvation is at hand for those who fear God,  
that glory may dwell in our land.**
- 10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
- 11 **Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**
- 12 The Lord will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 **Righteousness will go before the Lord,  
and make a pathway for God.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**\*\*Hymn: Prepare the way of the Lord 112**

**Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,  
and all peoples will see the salvation of our God.**

Sermon “A Voice Crying Out in the Wilderness”

Prayers of the People

- 1. O day of peace that dimly shines  
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
guide us to justice, truth and love,  
delivered from our selfish schemes.  
May swords of hate fall from our hands,  
our hearts from envy find release,  
till by God’s grace our warring world  
shall see Christ’s promised reign of peace.**
  
- 2. Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,  
nor shall the fierce devour the small;  
as beasts and cattle calmly graze,  
a little child shall lead them all.  
Then enemies shall learn to love,  
all creatures find their true accord;  
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,  
for all the earth shall know the Lord.**

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: It came upon the midnight clear**

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- 1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"To all the earth good-will and peace,  
from heaven's all-gracious King";  
the world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.**
- 2. Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.**
- 3. But with the woes of sin and strife,  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel strain have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong,  
but we, through din of war, hear not  
the lovely song they bring.  
Oh hush the noise, Oh still the strife  
and hear the angels sing.**
- 4. And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing.  
Oh rest beside the weary road  
and hear the angels sing.**

- 5. For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
God's promised splendours fling,  
and all the world take up the song,  
which now the angels sing.**

Benediction

Postlude

Hymn 112

Words: Isaiah 40:3, 52:10 Music: Jacques Berthier  
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Hymn 732

Words: Carl P. Daw Jr Music: Charles Hubert Hastings Parry  
Arrangement: Gordon Jacob  
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Hymns 110 and 148 are in the public domain.

### **Kerry Kaiser**

It is with deep sadness that the Centretown Churches Social Action Committee and the Centretown Emergency Food Centre announce the recent passing of Kerry Kaiser, the Food Centre's beloved Coordinator for the past 26 years. She died peacefully, surrounded by her family, at the Ruddy-Shenkman Hospice.

Kerry joined the Food Centre as Coordinator in 1994, and was an exceptional leader and champion of the needy from start to finish, when she stepped aside last March due to ill health.

Kerry will be greatly missed by Food Centre's many loyal volunteers, past and present, its staff, many representatives and clergy of the Centretown Churches Social Action Committee who worked with her over the years, her many contacts in other social service agencies, and in particular, by many clients of the Food Centre. She was a fierce champion for them, and went out of her way on many occasions to provide extra help and encouragement.

We offer our sincere condolences to her family, especially her mother, Dawn Webb, and her daughters Jessica and Sarah, and to her friends. Kerry was a devoted parent and took great delight in her grandchildren.

Kerry Kaiser was a great leader and mentor, and leaves a remarkable legacy of compassion and care in our community.



We at St Giles grieve at Kerry's passing. Kerry's connection with St Giles has been a close one. Starting with George Lee's involvement as a volunteer with the CEFC, many members of the congregation have volunteered over the years in helping to provide food for those who need it in the centre town area. Kerry's guidance and leadership were an inspiration to the volunteers and clients alike.

Many members of St Giles will remember Kerry's visits to the church to explain the mission of the CEFC and encourage and thank us for our support. One of the most notable fund raising events was the annual Cameron Highlanders concert held at St Giles each December. Kerry participated each year, speaking of her appreciation of the concert and the great benefit it provided; noting that the concert was the single largest fund raiser for the CEFC. We will miss Kerry and wish the new CEFC manager, Diana Mahaffy all the best as she takes on the challenging role as Kerry's successor.

## Greeting and Welcome

Leading in worship is the Rev. Paul 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.

#### St Giles Presbyterian Church

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The Rev. Paul Wu 613-276-2551

Church Administrator: Patricia Brush

Office hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Organist: Brenda Beckingham

Soloist: Sharon Haidenger