

ST GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



DECEMBER 20, 2020

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

Church Office, 181 First Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1S 2G3
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Minister:

The Rev. Paul Wu 613-276-2551 paulwu55@yahoo.ca

Church Administrator: Patricia Brush

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

Organist: Brenda Beckingham

Soloist: Sharon Haidenger

Prelude

Call to Worship

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

All: Soon we will welcome the beautiful and radical love of God as Jesus Christ comes to live among us.

Reader: We embrace our identity as God's beloved children and let this truth guide our decisions and relationships.

All: In our homes and in our church, we offer hospitality, welcoming those we don't know, those who are in need, and those who are different from us.

Reader: We demonstrate our care for creation in real and tangible ways through the products we buy, the food we eat, and the way we live every day.

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

The candle of love is lit.

Unison Prayer: God of extravagant generosity, in Jesus we discover the depth of your care and the lengths you will go to save us. Forgive us when we ignore those in need, trample your creation and refuse to share all that we receive from you. Teach us to love our neighbours, caring for each other in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

****Hymn: Come, thou long-expected Jesus 110**

**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 and Confession

O God, our creator, redeemer and sustainer, we rejoice in your love which has filled creation from the beginning and which calls all life into being. We praise you for Jesus Christ who reveals most fully your loving purpose for all people. We bless you for your Spirit who draws all humanity into the circle of your tender love. Gracious God, bless us with your presence so that our worship and our lives may be a true celebration of your love in Jesus Christ.

God of mystery and mercy, you came to be with us and offer us new life in Christ, and yet we often stray from your side. You came to offer us love, but we confess that we can be stubborn and selfish in the ways we live. You came to reconcile all people, but we confess that we often resist repairing relationships and so remain divided. Forgive who we have been, amend who we are, and direct who we shall be. Through Jesus Christ who reaches out to us from the manger and the cross. Amen.

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

"Love came down at Christmas; Love all lovely, love divine.
Love shall be our token, Love for plea and gift and sign."
(by Christina Rossetti, 19th century English poet)

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (*John 3:16*). For we meet God's gift of love in the Christ child. Thanks be to God!

Scripture

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1–17

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall

say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever. In accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

Psalm 89:1–4. 19–26 *Refrain 2*



- 1 I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
- 2 I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

- 3 You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:
- 4 **'I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations.'**"
- 19 Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said:
**"I have set the crown on one who is mighty,
I have exalted one chosen from the people.**
- 20 I have found my servant David;
with my holy oil I have anointed him;
- 21 **my hand shall always remain with him;
my arm also shall strengthen him.**
- 22 The enemy shall not outwit him,
the wicked shall not humble him.
- 23 **I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.**
- 24 **My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;
and in my name his horn shall be exalted.**
- 25 I will set his hand on the sea
and his right hand on the rivers.
- 26 He shall cry to me,
**'You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'**



Second Reading: Luke 1:26–38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said

to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

****Hymn: Emmanuel, Emmanuel 114**

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel,
God with us, revealed in us,
his name is called Emmanuel.**

Sermon Here I Am, Let It Be

Prayers of the People

****Hymn: In the bleak mid-winter 145**

- 1. In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, now on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.**
- 2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain,
heaven and earth shall welcome him
when He comes to reign:**

**in the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.**

- 3. Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.**
- 4. What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him — give my heart.**

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: People in darkness 124**

- 1. People in darkness are looking for light.
Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.
People with blindness are longing for sight.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ,
These days of adventure when all people wait
are days for the advent of love.**

- 2. People with sickness are praying for health.
Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.
People in poverty want to have wealth.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ,
These days of adventure when all people wait
are days for the advent of hope.**
- 3. People in trouble would like to be free.
Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.
People with arguments want to agree.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ,
These days of adventure when all people wait
are days for the advent of peace.**
- 4. People in sadness are trying to sing.
Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.
Bells in the steeple are waiting to ring.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ,
These days of adventure when all people wait
are days for the advent of joy.**

Benediction

Postlude



Hymn 145

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Hymns 110, 114 and 124 are in the public domain.

Our Events

Monday December 21 ~ 11 a.m.

Coffee Hour will meet by teleconference

Thursday, December 24 ~ 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

Friday, January 8 ~ 10 a.m.

Bible Study will resume by teleconference. Please read Isaiah chapters 46 through 49.

Thursday, January 14 ~ 7:30 p.m.

Session will meet

Sunday, February 28 ~ after service

Annual Meeting

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.

Community Event

Sunday, December 20 ~ 3 p.m.

Quodlibet Ottawa presents a Christmas Concert

Weihnachtskonzert. It is unfortunate that the pandemic prevents them from singing at a service in the near future.

<http://quodlibetchoirottawa.weebly.com/concert.html>

A Mother's LOVE

In Afghanistan, Murzia had experienced several difficult pregnancies, including two miscarriages.

When Murzia learned that she was pregnant with her fourth child, she was determined to have a different experience.

In Afghanistan, late-night deliveries are often not attended by health care professionals. Even during times when medical staff are available, many women do not have the transportation or finances necessary to access their services.

Murzia's determination paid off when one of her peers advised her of an affordable treatment option, close to her home. She decided to visit the PWS&D-supported health centre. There, she was able to receive months of neonatal support and was assisted with a prompt and hygienic delivery of a healthy baby boy by the dedicated staff.

"I am a very happy mother. My newborn is healthy, and my health has improved, too," Murzia enthusiastically shared.

This Advent season help mothers deliver healthy babies with access to safe, clean and affordable maternal health services.

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