

ST GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



DECEMBER 27, 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.

Cover Image: The Presentation of the Christ Child in the Temple, by Ludovico Carracci (1555–1619)

St Giles Presbyterian Church

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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

One: Praise the Lord!

All: Praise the Lord from the heavens!

One: Praise God in the heights!

All: Praise God, all you angels!

One: Praise God, all you heavenly host!

All: Let us all praise the Lord!

****Hymn: Sing, praise and bless the Lord**

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1. **Sing, praise and bless the Lord.
Sing, praise and bless the Lord.
Peoples, nations, hallelujah!**

2. **Laudate Dominum,
laudate Dominum
omnes gentes, alleluia!**

Prayer of Adoration

O Holy One,
heavenly angels spoke to earthly shepherds
and eternity entered time in the child of Bethlehem.
Through the telling of the Christmas story,
let our temporal lives be caught up in the eternal

in that same child,
that we might join shepherds, wise men from the East,
Simeon, Anna and all the heavenly host
in praising the coming of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Source of all hope, you invite us to live in the light and discover the splendour of your glory. We confess we often choose to remain in the darkness instead. We allow our fears and hurts to hold us hostage. Our expectations of life prevent us from seeing new and real possibilities. You offer us unconditional love, but we expect others to earn our love. Forgive us. May the new life born in the manger awaken new life in us and allow hope to dawn in the year ahead.

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

In Christ, God is giving us a new heart and a new spirit
not a heart of stone, but a heart of flesh
so that we can follow His footstep, and walk in His way.
The one who calls you out of darkness is faithful,
and He will do this.

Scripture

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10–62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Psalm 148 Refrain 2



Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
**Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!**
Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!
**Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for he commanded and they were created.**
He established them forever and ever;

he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
Praise the Lord from the earth,
**you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**
Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
**Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!**
Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together!
**Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.**
He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the Lord!

Second Reading: Luke 2:22–40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the

Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Reader: This is the words of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn: Once in royal David’s city**

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1. **Once in royal David’s city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.**
2. **Christ came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
sheltered by a humble stable,
cradled in a cattle stall:
with the poor, oppressed and lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy,**
3. **and our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above,
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**
4. **Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God’s right hand on high;
there God’s children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.**

Sermon It Would Have Been Enough

Prayers of the People

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: Good Christians, all rejoice 141**

- 1. Good Christians, all rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now give heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today,
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today; Christ is born today.**
- 2. Good Christians, all rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now you hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this.
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this.**
- 3. Good Christians, all rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now you need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save,
calls you and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save; Christ was born to save.**

Benediction

Postlude



Hymn 424

Words: Psalm 100 Music: Taizé Community

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Hymns 141, 166, 424 are in the public domain.

Our Events

Monday December 28 ~ 11 a.m.

Coffee Hour will meet by teleconference

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.

We've Got Mail!



Dear Rev. Wu & Congregation & Women's Committee,

May your holidays be filled with the joy and wonder of Christmas.

Wishing you all a blessed and joy-filled Christmas.

Thank you all so much for your cards, calendar and mask. That was very kind and thoughtful.

Sincerely, Jamie Pallen



To all my St Giles Family

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

I have been a very poor member — mainly because of my accident, emergency surgery, and Charles's death. 2020 has been a sad year, but so grateful for many blessings.

Kate Turnbull

Mission Moment — Sharing the Gift of Language

The PCC's partnership with the Protestant Theological Institute (PTI) in Cluj-Napoca, an ancient city in Romania, began with the overseas appointment of Brian Johnston in 1997. Supported by Presbyterians Sharing, Brian taught English at the Seminary of the Hungarian Reformed Church in Romania until 2016. After retirement, Brian continued to organize musical concerts with students and others at the Institute. The PCC's partnership with this Reformed seminary in Eastern Europe continues with an annual grant for the English teacher. Theological students must pass an English exam as a requirement for ordination. In thanking the PCC, Dr. Vilmos József Kolumbán, Rector of PTI, added, "Your financial contribution to the limited resources that we have is an extremely valuable input towards fulfilling our goals."

