

ST GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



JANUARY 3, 2021

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

One: Arise, shine: for your light has come!

All: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

One: Lift up your eyes and look around!

All: We shall see and be radiant; our hearts shall rejoice.

One: For the Lord will be our everlasting light and our glory!

All: And so we bring God our worship in humble expectation.

****Hymn: Angels from the realms of glory 146**

**1. Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth.**

Refrain **Come and worship, come and worship;
worship Christ, the new-born King.**

**2. Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light. *Refrain***

**3. Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star. *Refrain***

**4. Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,**

**suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear. *Refrain***

**5. Though an infant now we view him,
he shall fill his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down. *Refrain***

Prayer of Adoration

O God of light and peace, whose glory shines in the child of Bethlehem. We praise you for your creation, for the Word made flesh in Jesus. Open our hearts and minds in this time of worship. Just as you led the Magi by the star, lead us now by your Spirit. Draw nations towards you, and dispel the darkness that shrouds our path, that we may come to kneel before Christ in true worship, offering him our hearts and souls.

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of mercy and loving kindness, you sent Christ among us to be the light of the world and to reveal your love to all people. We confess that our sins hide the brightness of your light that should shine through us. We waste our gifts, we ignore cries for justice, we harm the earth and we do not strive for peace in the world or with each other. In your mercy, cleanse us and make us new.

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

Be assured of God's love and forgiveness that shine for us in Christ Jesus. As a new year unfolds, make a new beginning with God and with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

Scripture

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1–6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,[a]
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Psalm 72: 1–7; 10–14 Refrain



Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.

**May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.**

May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.**

In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound,

until the moon is no more.

May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

**May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.**

For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.

**He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.**

From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.



In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

- 1. We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

Refrain **O star of wonder, star of light,
star of royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

- 2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. *Refrain***
- 3. Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh,
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshipping God on high. *Refrain***
- 4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom,
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain***
- 5. Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice:
hallelujah, hallelujah,
sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain***

Sermon Arise, shine; for your light has come

Prayers of the People

****Hymn: O Lord, hear my prayer** *(sing 3 times)* **446**

**O Lord, hear my prayer; O Lord, hear my prayer.
When I call answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer; O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.**

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: Sing a new song unto the Lord** **422**

Refrain **Sing a new song unto the Lord;
let your song be sung from mountain's height.
Sing a new song unto the Lord, singing hallelujah!**

- 1. For God's people dance for joy.
Oh come before the Lord,
play for the Lord on glad tambourines,
and let your trumpet sound. *Refrain***
- 2. Rise, O children, from your sleep;
your Saviour now has come.
He has turned your sorrow to joy,
and filled your soul with song.**
- 3. Glad my soul for I have seen
the glory of the Lord.
The trumpet sounds; the dead shall be raised .
I know my Saviour lives. *Refrain***

Benediction

Postlude



Hymn 442

Words: Psalm 98, paraphrase Daniel L. Schutte

Music: Daniel L. Schutte

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Hymn 446

Words and Music: Taizé Community (France)

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Hymns 146, 173 are in the public domain.

Our Events

Services have moved back online. They will be pre-recorded and made available on YouTube at the regular time of 10:30 a.m., via the 'Sunday Worship' page on St Giles's website stgilesottawa.org

Monday January 4 ~ 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.



Mission Moment - Frank and Joyce's Fields

In Gwebe village in Malawi, Frank and his wife, Joyce, proudly look over their lush fields. For the past three years, Frank has been using conservation agriculture techniques that were taught to him by Presbyterian World Service & Development partners to help him harvest more. Conservation agriculture teaches farmers to protect and improve soil fertility, conserve water and make locally available resources into fertilizers. Over the years, Frank became a lead farmer in his village. His thriving fields are a reminder of how efficient conservation agriculture can be, setting an example as he teaches and empowers other farmers to use the same methods to increase their harvest.

