

# ST GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Greeting and Welcome

Leading in worship is our minister 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 sermon texts and 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.  
Music Director: Heather Rice 613-563-1409 gowans978@gmail.com

Soloist: Jo Landry



December 5, 2021

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg People. The Algonquin peoples have lived on this land since time immemorial. We are grateful to have the opportunity to be present in this territory.

Prelude *Let There Be Peace On Earth*  
by Jill Jackson and Sy Miller

### Call to Worship

L: Peace is the light that sheds understanding.

**P: Peace is the promise of God.**

L: Peace is found when God's order and justice are brought to the world.

**P: We await the birth of the Prince of Peace.**

*(As the candle is lit, sing)*

**\*\*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*

L: Let us pray:

**P: Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world  
with your everlasting peace. Through Jesus Christ our  
Lord we pray. Amen.**

### Children's Story

#### Prayer of Adoration

God of peace and promise, you are the giver of life, living in us through the power of your Holy Spirit. You are the voice that recalls us from our wandering, bringing us back, setting us on a new path. You are the living water that purifies us, baptising us for service in the world that truly needs your love. Refresh us in this time of worship, and reignite our desire to serve you each and every day. Glory, honour and praise be yours now and always, Holy One, Holy Three — One God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

#### Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, our baptism proclaims the washing away of our sin and the start of our new life in Christ. But we confess that we still live in sin. We sin against you and one another, in what we do and in what we fail to do. We excuse ourselves, and take comfort in familiar habits and traditions. Forgive us when we mistake such comfort for the peace you offer us in Christ Jesus. Prepare our hearts to embrace new ways of following him.

#### 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

Zechariah, father of John the Baptist, proclaimed this hope: "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, giving light to those in darkness, guiding our feet in the way of peace." Receive God's tender mercy today. Trust that God's peace will prevail for all those who seek forgiveness in the name of Jesus.

## Scripture

First Reading: Malachi 3:1–4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight — indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Responsive Reading: Luke 1:68–79

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord,  
and all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favourably on his people and  
redeemed them.

**He has raised up a mighty saviour for us  
in the house of his servant David,**

as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from  
of old,

that we would be saved from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us.

**Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
and has remembered his holy covenant,**

the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

**to grant us that we, being rescued  
from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,**

**in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.**

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

**to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,

**to give light to those who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,**

**to guide our feet into the way of peace."**

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord,  
and all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

Second Reading: Luke 3:1–6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Reader: This is the word of the Lord,

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**\*\*Hymn: There’s a voice in the wilderness crying 128**

- 1. There’s a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where the Lord our God may go!**

- 2. O Zion, that bringest good tidings,  
go up to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their King.  
Like the flowers of the field they perish,  
like grass our works decay,  
the power and pomp of nations  
shall pass like a dream away,**
- 3. but the word of our God is steadfast;  
the arm of the Lord is strong;  
God stands in the midst of nations,  
and soon will right the wrong.  
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
the lambs will gently hold,  
to pastures of peace will lead them,  
and bring them safe to the fold.**

Sermon My Messenger

Prayers of the People

**\*\*Hymn: Prepare the way, O Zion 129**

- 1. Prepare the way, O Zion: your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.  
Oh blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy name.**
- 2. He brings God’s rule, O Zion;  
Christ comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding,  
for grace and joy abounding.  
Oh blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy name.**



**Sunday, February 27, 2022 ~ after service**

**Annual Meeting** - Please start thinking about your reports.

**Joining the Meeting, Conference Call or Bible Study:**

1. Before the start time, call toll-free 1-888-884-4539.
2. Enter the passcode number which is 7455703#.
3. Make sure to press the # after the number.
4. You will be asked to say your name. Say it. Then press #.
5. You will then be connected.
6. You may find it preferable to put your phone on speaker.

**Community Events**

**May 13 to 15, 2022**

**Glebe High School 100 Year Celebration.**

All Glebe alumni and students, and the community are welcome.

Register at [www.Glebe100.ca](http://www.Glebe100.ca)

**Mission Moment Supporting Vulnerable Children**

Antony Misoya, a 15-year-old orphan from Mitumbira village in Malawi, is HIV positive. He attends a program managed by the Mulanje Mission Hospital where he receives care and support with his antiretroviral medication regimen. Staff began to notice Antony's visits to the program had become less frequent. When asked, Antony told them, "I go around looking for work to support my two brothers and sister; sometimes I miss my treatment because I am working." Program staff visited Antony and his guardian and discovered that it had become difficult for her to provide for all four children, so the team provided them with support that made it possible for Antony to attend the clinic regularly and focus on his studies. This project that provides care and support to orphans and vulnerable children in Malawi is supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development.

