

ST GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



December 12, 2021

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
613-235-2551 office@stgilesottawa.org www.stgilesottawa.org
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

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 *Simple Gifts* by Joseph Brackett arr. Gilbert Martin

Call to Worship

L: Joy is the celebration given by God.

P: Joy is the celebration at the birth of the Christ Child.

L: Joy is the celebration when the angels sing
"Glory to God in the highest."

P: We celebrate the joy of Christ coming again.

(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*

**3. Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born.** *Refrain*

L: Let us pray:

**P: Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world
with your life-giving joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

God of Joy and Justice, we will always rejoice in you. You are our strength and our song. You gather those who have strayed from you and welcome them back to your side. You bring healing to those who are broken in body and spirit, and draw close to those who walk alone. Through your justice and mercy, you transform us all into more than we ever thought possible. Therefore we will trust in you wholeheartedly. With joy, we sing of your glory and proclaim your saving power to those near and far. Receive our prayers and praise this day, for you alone are worthy, God most holy.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Oh merciful God, we know perfect joy only comes through faith in you. Yet we find ourselves seeking it out in lesser ways. In search of comfort, we indulge in our desires. In search of acceptance, we hide from our faults. In search of approval, we spend beyond our means, on things with no eternal value. Forgive us, O God, for seeking satisfaction in the wrong places. Help us turn back to you, our true source of joy, and guide us to discover what is honourable, just, and pleasing in your sight. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The scriptures teaches us that, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."

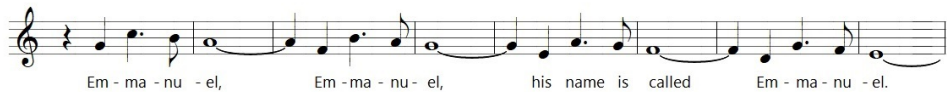
The forgiveness we seek is ours through the grace of Jesus Christ. May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, be with you all.

Scripture

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14–20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Responsive Reading: Isaiah 12:2–6 Refrain: Emmanuel **114**



Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,
**for the Lord God is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.**

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

And you will say in that day:

**Give thanks to the Lord,
call on his name;**

make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

**Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. *Refrain*

Second Reading: Luke 3: 7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he

might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

****Hymn: On Jordan's banks** 126

1. **On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.**
2. **Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home
where such a mighty guest may come.**
3. **For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace, we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.**
4. **To heal the sick, stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.**
5. **All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent sets thy people free,**

**whom, with the Father, we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

Sermon God rejoices

Prayers of the People

****Hymn: Oh come, oh come Emmanuel** 122

1. **Oh come, oh come Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here,
until the Son of God appear.**

*Refrain: Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*
2. **Oh come, oh come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain***
3. **Oh come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and cause us in her ways to go. *Refrain***
4. **Oh come, thou Branch of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from the depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. *Refrain***
5. **Oh come, thou Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery. *Refrain***

6. **O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.** Refrain

7. **Oh come, desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart, one mind;
bid envy, strife and discord cease,
and be thyself our source of peace.** Refrain

Passing of the Peace

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.**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,

...

we lift our hearts in joyful praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We praise you, most holy God,

...

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Gracious God,

...

all glory and honour are yours, almighty God,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

As the Lord taught us, we now pray:

**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**

The Breaking of the Bread

We thank you that on the night before he died, Jesus took
bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread and said, "Take,
eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in the
remembrance of me."

In the same way he took the cup, saying, "this cup is the
new covenant sealed in my blood. Do this for the
remembrance of me."

(unseal the fellowship cups)

The gifts of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

(The people partake in the communion together)

Prayer After Communion

****Hymn: O God of Past and Present to tune 448**

- 1. O God of past and present,
And all that yet will be,
Come, listen to your people,
Who groan to be set free.
Keep now the ancient promise
That fans the steadfast flame
Of hope that burns among us
Who call upon your name.
Let cities see the outbreak
Of dancing in the street
When all the lost are gathered
And all the parted meet.**
- 2. Let mountains ring with laughter
And forests clap their hands,
To hear the sound of singing
In long abandoned lands.
Let mercy run in rivers
Through ev'ry desert soul
And heal all barren spirits,
And make the broken whole.
Let nations all revere you,
O God show forth your pow'r:
For all who love and serve you
Let heaven's justice flow'r.**

Benediction

Postlude *Festal Hymn* by Cecil Scott-Devin

Mission Tree

You have all seen the beautiful tree in the narthex. It was placed there by the Presbyterian Women as a "mission" tree. We are asking for donations to The Ottawa Mission. We ask for new socks, hats, mitts, and scarves, to be placed on or under the tree. Please do not wrap them. Although the mission is for men, during the day women and children can pick up needed items. Thanks for helping to keep our homeless citizens warm!

Our Events

Monday, December 13 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour will meet by teleconference.

Thursday, December 16 ~ 7:30 p.m.

Choir Practice

Thursday, December 16 ~ 7:30 p.m.

Session meeting

Friday, December 17 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study continues the study of the Apocryphal books. Please read 1 Maccabees 12. We meet by teleconference.

Friday, December 24, 2021 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service

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