

# 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

Guest Soloist: Bronwyn Kelly

December 19, 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 *Adagio* by Arcangelo Corelli arr. S. Drummond Wolff

Call to Worship

L: Love is a gift of God.

**P: Love burns in our hearts.**

L: Love is warmth in a world that is often bitter and cold.

**P: In Jesus Christ, we receive God's gift of love.**

*(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*

**4. Love is a flame that burns in our heart.  
Jesus has come and will never depart.** *Refrain*

L: Let us pray:

**P: Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world with your unending love. Through Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

O God, our Saviour, with Mary, our spirits rejoice in you this day, for you look with favour on all your children. You have done great things for us. You have scattered the proud and lifted up the lowly. You have filled the hungry with good things, and kept the promises made to our ancestors. Your mercy is known and remembered from generation to generation. And so, our souls magnify your holy name with hearts full of gratitude and praise, trusting you will do great things once again through Christ our Lord, Emmanuel, born for us, born to be with us.

Unison Prayer of Confession

**O God of love and life, the stories of Advent remind us that you are a God of surprises. You surprised Elizabeth with news that she would bear a child late in life. You surprised Mary with news that she would bear our Saviour. Your surprises overturned their lives. Yet, we confess that we do not always meet your surprises with the same humble courage. Forgive us when we fail to embrace you in the unexpected. Forgive us when we prefer unhealthy routines over life-giving transformation. Lead us, guide us, and bless us with a new heart and a new Spirit.**

## 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

Theologian Paul Tillich has this to say about our relationship to God:

"You are accepted. You are accepted,  
accepted by that which is greater than you,  
and the name of which you do not know.  
Do not ask for the name now;  
perhaps you will find it later.  
Do not try to do anything now;  
perhaps later you will do much.  
Do not seek for anything;  
do not perform anything;  
do not intend anything.  
Simply accept the fact that you are accepted!"

## Scripture

### First Reading: Micah 5: 2–5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he

shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

### Responsive Reading: Psalm 80: 1-7 (with refrain 1)



Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
**You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth  
before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.  
Stir up your might,  
and come to save us!**

Restore us, O God;  
**let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?  
**You have fed them with the bread of tears,  
and given them tears to drink in full measure.  
You make us the scorn of our neighbours;  
our enemies laugh among themselves.**

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
**let your face shine, that we may be saved. Refrain**

### Second Reading: Luke 1: 46–55 (*King James Version*)

And Mary said,  
My soul doth magnify the Lord,  
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden:  
for, behold, from henceforth

all generations shall call me blessed.  
 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things;  
 and holy is his name.  
 And his mercy is on them that fear him  
 from generation to generation.  
 He hath shewed strength with his arm;  
 he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of  
 their hearts.  
 He hath put down the mighty from their seats,  
 and exalted them of low degree.  
 He hath filled the hungry with good things;  
 and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
 He hath helped his servant Israel,  
 in remembrance of his mercy;  
 As he spake to our fathers,  
 to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

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

**\*\*Hymn: My soul gives glory to my God** 123

1. **My soul gives glory to my God.  
 My heart pours out its praise.  
 God lifted up my lowliness  
 in many marvellous ways.**
2. **My God has done great things for me;  
 yes, holy is this name.  
 All people will declare me blessed,  
 and blessings they shall claim.**
3. **From age to age to all who fear,  
 such mercy love imparts,  
 dispensing justice far and near,  
 dismissing selfish hearts.**

4. **Love casts the mighty from their thrones,  
 promotes the insecure,  
 leaves hungry spirits satisfied;  
 the rich seem suddenly poor.**
5. **Praise God, whose loving covenant  
 supports those in distress,  
 remembering past promises  
 with present faithfulness.**

Sermon My Soul Magnifies

Prayers of the People

**\*\*Hymn: The steadfast love of the Lord** 20

*Refrain*

**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.  
 Your mercies never come to an end;  
 they are new every morning, new every morning.  
 great is your faithfulness, O Lord,  
 great is your faithfulness!**

1. **You, Lord, are my portion, says my soul;  
 therefore I will hope in you. *Refrain***
2. **You, Lord, are good to those who wait for you,  
 to the soul that seeks you;  
 it is good that we should wait  
 quietly for the salvation of the Lord. *Refrain***
3. **The Lord will not cast off forever,  
 but will have compassion,  
 for God does not willingly  
 afflict or grieve the righteous ones. *Refrain***

4. **So let us examine all our ways,  
and return to the Lord;  
let us lift up our hearts and  
hand to God in heaven.   *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.**

Prayer of Dedication

**\*\*Hymn: People, look east   125**

1. **People look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able;  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the guest is on the way.**
2. **Furrows, be glad; though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there:  
give up your strength, the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the rose is on the way**

3. **Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
guard the nest that must be filled.  
Even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the bird is on the way.**

4. **Stars keep the watch. When night is dim  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the star is on the way.**

5. **Angels announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the Lord is on the way.**

Benediction

Postlude   *Air en Echo by Michel-Richard de la Lande*  
arr. S. Drummond Wolff

### **Presbyterians Sharing**

Presbyterians Sharing is the primary way that congregations within the Presbyterian Church in Canada share and support one another. It is the primary way that we as a denomination share the Good News of Jesus Christ together, in Canada and around the world. St Giles has made a pledge to contribute \$7,690 to the Presbyterian Sharing in 2021, and we are currently about \$2,600 short. The Session of St Giles would like to encourage you to give generously and specifically towards this ministry.

## 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 !

## FACES

FACES has made an application for a new sponsorship. The group hopes to welcome Noor and Omar — a young Iraqi couple who are beginning their married life together as refugees in Turkey — to Canada, likely in 2023. To that end, we have forwarded to them the nearly \$1,400 we had in reserve from prior donations, that were waiting for the next sponsorship.

## Our Events

**Monday, December 20 ~ 11:00 a.m.**

**Coffee Hour** will meet by teleconference.

**Thursday, December 23 ~ 7:30 p.m.**

**Choir Practice**

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

**Christmas Eve Service**

**Friday, January 7 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

**Bible Study** will resume after a two-week break. Please read 1 Maccabees 13

## 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 ~ From Hopeless to Hopeful

"I didn't have any hope of living a meaningful life. My left leg was deformed by poliomyelitis at a young age, and I grew up with this challenge," said Monica Akamb, a 45-year-old woman living in northern Ghana. "My biggest challenge, however, transcends the impairment. It has been the negative attitudes and stereotypes of community members and even within my immediate family." Monica explained how her experience with the Garu Community Based Rehabilitation Program (CBR) made a tremendous difference in her life. "Thank God that CBR and PWS&D came to my rescue. They taught my family and the community to treat persons with disabilities with dignity. I learned gardening skills and now grow vegetables for a living. I



I am able to produce onion, cabbage and lettuce for food and income." The Presbyterian Church in Ghana, supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development, manages this project.