

# ST GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Christmas Eve  
December 24, 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 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

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.

### **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.

Music Director: Heather Rice 613-563-1409 gowans978@gmail.com

Guest Vocalist: Bronwyn Kelly

Prelude *O Holy Night* by Adolphe Adam  
Vocalist: Bronwyn Kelly

Call to Worship Ian and Margaret Stevenson

L: God has come into the world.

**P: Glory to God in the highest!**

L: This is the good news for all people:  
to us is born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

**P: The world is transformed.**

L: And things cannot remain the same.

**P: It is made new in hope, peace, joy and love.**

*(The candle is lit)*

L: Let us pray:

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

**\*\*Hymn: Silent night**

**154**

**1. Silent night! holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child,  
holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace.**

**2. Silent night! holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing "Hallelujah,  
Christ, the Saviour is born! Christ, the Saviour is born!"**

**3. Silent night! holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

*(Light from the Christ candle is now passed to the congregation)*

Scripture 1: Isaiah 9:2–7 (The Message) Kaye Tate

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. For those who lived in a land of deep shadows — light! Sunbursts of light! You repopulated the nation, you expanded its joy. Oh, they're so glad in your presence! Festival joy! The joy of a great celebration, sharing rich gifts and warm greetings. The abuse of oppressors and cruelty of tyrants — all their whips and clubs and curses — is gone, done away with, a deliverance as surprising and sudden as Gideon's old victory over Midian. The boots of all those invading troops, along with their shirts soaked with innocent blood, will be piled in a heap and burned, a fire that will burn for days!

For a child has been born — for us! the gift of a son — for us! He'll take over the running of the world. His names will be: Amazing Counsellor, Strong God, Eternal Father, Prince of Wholeness. His ruling authority will grow, and there'll be no limits to the wholeness he brings. He'll rule from the historic David throne over that promised kingdom. He'll put that kingdom on a firm footing and keep it going with fair dealing and right living, beginning now and lasting always. The zeal of God-of-the-Angel-Armies will do all this.

## Prayer of Adoration

O God of the Angel Armies, you are to be praised, for indeed people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. In the most surprising and unexpected way, that light has come to us. In the land of deep shadow, the light of Christ child bursts forth. You have heard us when we call, you are our morning song. Though darkness fills the night, it cannot hide the light. So whom shall we fear? Whom shall we fear, when we know that you go before us, when we know that you stand behind. The God of the Angel Armies is always by our side. The one who reigns forever, is our Lord, our God, and our friend. He is to be called: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Forever and ever. **Amen.**

**\*\*Hymn: The people that in darkness 171**

- 1. The people that in darkness pined  
have seen a glorious light;  
the people dwell in day, who dwelt  
in death's surrounding night.**
- 2. To hail your rise, O better Sun,  
the gathering nations come,  
rejoicing as when reapers bear  
the harvest treasures home.**
- 3. To us a Child of hope is born,  
to us a Son is given,  
and on his shoulders ever rests  
all power in earth and heaven.**

- 4. His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
forevermore adored,  
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,  
the great and mighty Lord.**
- 5. His reign of righteous government  
shall over all extend,  
for peace and justice shall abound  
in this world without end.**

Scripture 2: John 1:1–5, 14 (NKJV)

Don Tate

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

## Prayer of Confession

God of grace and mercy, you give us the greatest gift of all, Word became flesh and dwelt among us, in the person of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. But we confess we get caught up in our own gift giving on this holy night. You offer us new life in the babe of Bethlehem, but we smile at the baby and forget the transformation he offers. Jesus was born in human flesh, but we fail to see the dignity in the human lives around us. Be it those who are unable to find proper homes to live, or those who suffer unspeakable violence at home. Be it those who are addicted to ever

more deadly substances, or those who are addicted to ever more faceless social media. Forgive us, O God, and help us cherish the meaning in your gifts of wonder in the Christ Child.

#### 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

The angels brought glad tidings that first Christmas night. Their words still echo through the ages, "Do not be afraid." This very night, a Saviour is born for all of us in this hurting world. Accept the forgiveness that the Christ Child brings for you, and rejoice with the all the heavenly hosts. *Venite Adoremus Domino*: Come let us adore the Lord

**\*\*Hymn: The snow lay on the ground 157**

- 1. The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright, when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night. Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.**

*Refrain* **Venite adoremus Dominum.  
Venite adoremus Dominum.**

- 2. 'Twas gentle Mary maid, so young and strong, who welcomed here the Christ-child with a song. She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem; the ass and oxen shared the roof with them. Refrain**
- 3. And Joseph too was there to tend the Child, to guard him, and protect his mother mild. The angels hovered round and sang this song: venite adoremus Dominum. Refrain**
- 4. And thus the manger poor became a throne, for he whom Mary bore was God the Son. Oh come, then, let us join the heavenly host, to praise the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Refrain**

Scripture 3: Luke 2:1–7 (NIV)

Roger White

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

**Child in a manger, Jesus our Saviour  
Born of a virgin holy and mild;  
Sent from the highest, come down in glory;  
Tell the glad story, welcome the child,**

**Shepherds arise now, go to the manger;  
Find where the infant Jesus is laid.  
Offer your homage, kneel down before him;  
Praise and adore him, be not afraid.**

**Praise to the Christ child; Praise to his mother;  
Glory to God our Father above.  
Angels are singing songs of rejoicing,  
Greeting the infant born of God's love.**

Scripture 4: Hebrews 1:1–4 (The Message) Kathy Campbell

Going through a long line of prophets, God has been addressing our ancestors in different ways for centuries. Recently he spoke to us directly through his Son. By his Son, God created the world in the beginning, and it will all belong to the Son at the end. This Son perfectly mirrors God, and is stamped with God's nature. He holds everything together by what he says — powerful words! After he finished the sacrifice for sins, the Son took his honoured place high in the heavens right alongside God, far higher than any angel in rank and rule.

1. **What child is this, who laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.**
2. **Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary.**
3. **So bring him incense, gold and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high;  
the virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary.**

Sermon: What child is this?

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**\*\*Hymn: Angels we have heard on high 147**

**1. Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o’er the plains,**

**and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.**

*Refrain* **Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

- 2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song?** *Refrain*
- 3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.** *Refrain*
- 4. See him in a manger laid,  
whom the choir of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while our hearts in love we raise.** *Refrain*

Scripture 6: Psalm 98:1–9

Jane Pope

O sing to the Lord a new song,  
for the Lord has done marvellous things.  
God’s right hand and holy arm  
have won the victory.  
The Lord has made known the victory;  
and has revealed vindication in the sight of the nations.  
The Lord has remembered steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.  
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises.  
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the sovereign Lord.  
Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who live in it.  
Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy  
at the presence of the Lord,  
who is coming to judge the earth.  
The Lord will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.

**\*\*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.**

Passing of the Peace

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Scripture 7: Titus 2:11–14 (The Message)

God's readiness to give and forgive is now public. Salvation's available for everyone! We're being shown how to turn our backs on a godless, indulgent life, and how to take on a God-filled, God-honouring life. This new life is starting right now, and is whetting our appetites for the glorious day when our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, appears. He offered himself as a sacrifice to free us from a dark, rebellious life into this good, pure life, making us a people he can be proud of, energetic in goodness.

**Hymn: Oh come, all ye faithful**

**159**

- 1. Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
oh come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of Angels:**

*Refrain*

**Oh come, let us adore him (x3);  
Christ the Lord**

2. **God of God, Light of light,  
born unto Mary, the virgin blest,  
very God, begotten, not created:**    *Refrain*
  
3. **See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks draw nigh with holy fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:**    *Refrain*
  
4. **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
"Glory to God in the highest!"**    *Refrain*
  
5. **Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:**    *Refrain*

Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.    **Amen.**

Postlude    *Good Christians Now Rejoice* (In Dulci Jubilo)  
arranged by Wilbur Held

