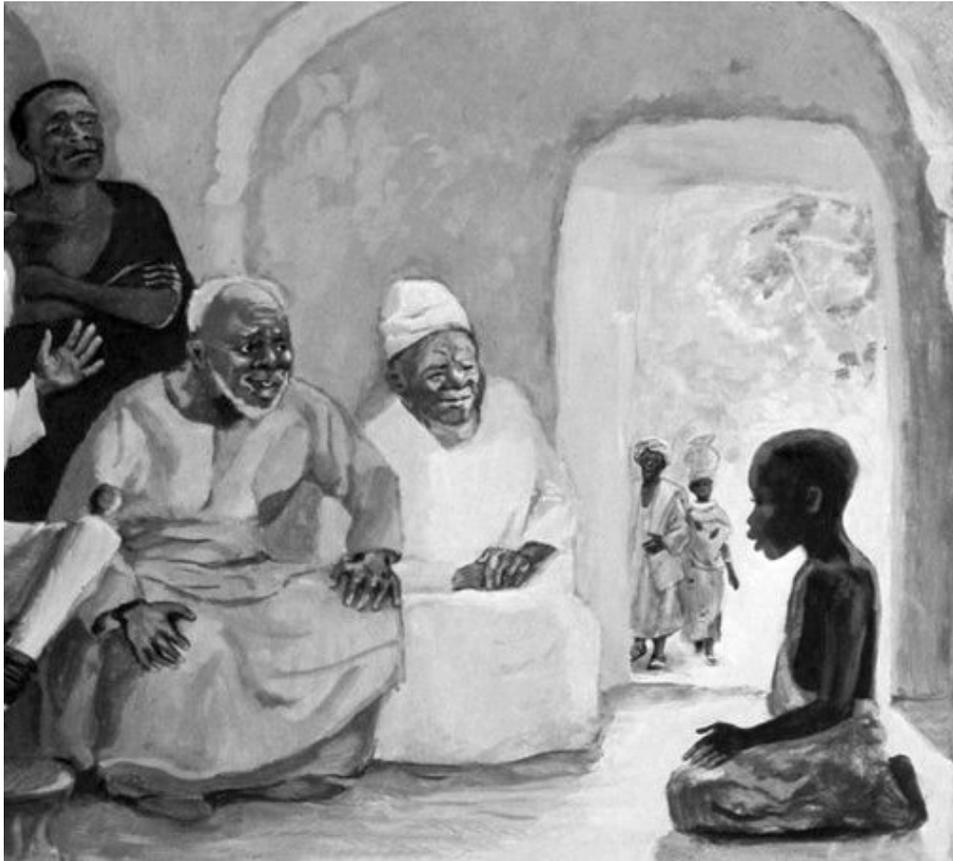


# ST GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Jesus among the teachers, by JESUS MAFA,  
a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa*

December 26, 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

Guest Vocalist: Bronwyn Kelly

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 *In the Bleak Midwinter* by Gustav Holst  
Vocalist: Bronwyn Kelly

#### Call to Worship

L: Praise the Lord from the heavens and in the heights;

**P: Praise God, sun and moon!**

L: God's name alone is exalted;

**P: God is above the earth and heaven.**

L: Young and old together, all creatures great and small,

**P: Let us praise God's holy name, now and evermore!**

**\*\*Hymn: In the darkness shines the splendour tune 166**  
text by Bernadette Gasslein

**1. In the darkness shines the splendour  
Of the Word who took our flesh.  
Welcoming in love's surrender,  
Death's dark shadow at his creche.  
Bearing ev'ry human story,  
Word made flesh reveals his glory.**

**2. Light of nations, veiled in his'try,  
Born of woman's flesh and blood,  
Calling to the depths of myst'ry  
Restless hearts that seek the good.  
Healing ev'ry human story,  
Word made flesh reveals his glory.**

**3. Broken bread, sustaining us in sorrow,  
Wine poured out to toast our joy;  
Exodus and new tomorrow,  
Life's full promise to enjoy!  
Gladd'ning every human story,  
Word made flesh reveals his glory.**

**4. All God's people sing in jubilation  
Of the birth that sets us free,  
Telling of the revelation:  
Jesus, God's epiphany.  
Celebrate the human story!  
Word made flesh reveals our glory.**

#### Prayer of Adoration

God of our lives and the times in which we live, we come before you on this last Sunday of the year, marvelling that another year has passed. For some of us, time has slipped by and we wonder where another year went. For others, the pressures of the pandemic have been intense; the sorrows heavy; the conflicts challenging. O God, you have seen us through this anxious year and we are grateful. We praise you for your love, for your comfort and joy which are there whenever we need them. In this time of worship, receive our prayers and our praises as we honour your gifts of Light and Love which shine upon us through Jesus Christ this day and every day by your grace.

#### Unison Prayer of Confession

**God of our lives and the time in which we live, we know you are with us through thick and thin, in times of great joy and at moments of disappointment. We confess we sometimes feel let down when the joy of Christmas day has passed. Our hope seems to get**

**folded away with the gift wrap, our energy for the future feels a bit tattered. Forgive us when our faithfulness flickers like a Christmas candle burning down. Renew our hope and energy for the year ahead through the steadfast grace of Christ our Lord.**

#### 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 mercy of our God is from everlasting to everlasting. Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, God's generous love reaches out to embrace us. We are forgiven and set free to begin again. Let us forgive one another just as God has forgiven us. May the peace of Christ be with us all.

#### Scripture

First Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord"; and then they would return to their home.

And the Lord took note of Hannah; she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

#### Responsive Reading: Psalm 148 (with refrain 1)



Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise the Lord in the heights!  
**Praise the Lord, all the angels;  
praise the Lord, all the host of heaven!**

Praise the Lord, sun and moon;  
praise the Lord, all you shining stars!  
Praise the Lord, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!  
**Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
who commanded and they were created.  
who established them forever and ever;  
and fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps,  
**fire and hail, snow and frost,  
stormy wind fulfilling God's command!**

Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!  
**Wild animals and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds!**

Rulers of the earth and all peoples,  
leaders and all judges of the earth!  
Young men and women alike,  
old and young together!

**Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
whose name alone is exalted;  
whose glory is above earth and heaven.**

The Lord has raised up a horn for the people,  
praise for all the faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to their God.

**Praise the Lord!**



Second Reading: Luke 2:41–52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my

Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

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

**\*\*Hymn: Unto us a child is born**

**160**

- 1. Unto us a child is born!  
Sovereign of creation,  
came once to a world forlorn,  
the Lord of every nation,  
the Lord of every nation.**
- 2. Cradled in a cattle stall,  
held by love maternal,  
see the Sovereign of us all,  
our Lord of lords eternal,  
our Lord of lords eternal.**
- 3. Now may Mary's son, who came  
so long ago to love us,  
lead us all with hearts aflame  
unto the joys above us,  
unto the joys above us.**
- 4. "Christ the Source and Christ the End!"  
Let the organ thunder  
while our happy voices rend  
the joyful air asunder,  
the joyful air asunder!**

**\*\*Hymn: That boy-child of Mary** 155

*Refrain*

**That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable,  
a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.**

1. **What shall we call him, child of the manger?  
What name is given in Bethlehem?** *Refrain*
2. **His name is Jesus, God ever with us,  
God given for us in Bethlehem.** *Refrain*
3. **How can he save us, how can he help us,  
born here among us in Bethlehem.** *Refrain*
4. **Gift of the Father, to human mother,  
makes him our brother of Bethlehem.** *Refrain*
5. **One with the Father, he is our Saviour,  
heaven-sent helper of Bethlehem.** *Refrain*
6. **Gladly we praise him, love and adore him,  
give ourselves to him of Bethlehem.** *Refrain*

**Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow** 830

**Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

**\*\*Hymn: Standing at the portal** 811

1. **Standing at the portal of the opening year,  
words of comfort meet us hushing every fear,  
spoken through the silence by God's loving voice,  
tender, strong and faithful, making us rejoice.**

*Refrain*

- Onward, then, and fear not, children of the day,  
for God's word shall never, never pass away.**
2. **"I, your God, am with you: do not be afraid;  
I will help and strengthen; do not be dismayed,  
for I will uphold you with my own right hand;  
you are called and chosen in my sight to stand."** *Refrain*
3. **God will not forsake us and will never fail;  
God's eternal covenant ever will prevail.  
Resting on this promise, what have we to fear?  
God is all-sufficient for the coming year.** *Refrain*



## Our Events

**Monday, January 3 ~ 11:00 a.m.**

**Coffee Hour** will meet by teleconference.

**Thursday, January 6 ~ 7:30 p.m.**

**Choir Practice**

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

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

**Wednesday, January 12 ~ 7:30 p.m.**

**Session Meeting**

**Sunday, February 27 ~ after service**

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

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

Before the start time, call toll-free 1-888-884-4539.

1. Enter the passcode number which is 7455703#.
2. Make sure to press the # after the number.
3. You will be asked to say your name. Say it. Then press #.
4. You will then be connected.
5. You may find it preferable to put your phone on speaker.

### 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 Moment ~ Giving Gifts through Service

For Mistawasis Memorial Presbyterian Church, the practice of gift giving is a year-round commitment. Every day, the congregation provides "gifts" through programs and services to families living on the Mistawasis Plains Cree Reserve in Northern Saskatchewan. The ministry's elders also share gifts in less tangible but equally important ways. The congregation is blessed with wise, strong leaders who act as role models for Mistawasis's youth, helping to provide them with a solid foundation in spirituality and education. Youth programming offers teachings from the medicine wheel as well as instruction in music and Bible study-gifts that will serve the youth well as they grow into the leaders of tomorrow.



**Mistawasis Memorial PC is supported  
by gifts to Presbyterians Sharing.**