

# St Giles Presbyterian Church



Latimore, Kelly. **Martin Luther King, Jr.**, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

Advent 2 ~ December 4, 2022

# **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.

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 Administrators: Patricia Brush

Office hours: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

Vocalist: Katie Gratton

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: *It Is Well With My Soul* by Philip Bliss (arr. Robert Vandall)

Welcome

Call to Worship

Reader 1: We are people of peace.

Reader 2: God seeks justice and compassion. God listens to the cries of the vulnerable and longs for wars to cease.

**People: We pray God's peace is at work in our hearts, our homes, our neighbourhoods and the world.**

Reader 1: The second candle of Advent reminds us that we are called to live as people of peace.

Reader 2: We light this candle as an invitation to work for justice and peace.

*(Light the candle of peace)*

Reader 1: Let us pray:

**People: Holy One, help us to fan the flame of peace. May our lives reflect the warmth and wonder of this candle. Make your church a place of peace and sanctuary in our community. Amen.**

**Hymn: A Candle is Burning** by Sandra Dean

(tune: *Away in a Manger*)

**2. A candle is burning, a candle of peace,  
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:**

**for Jesus is coming to show us the way,  
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

**\*\*Hymn: Let there be light**

**727**

- 1. Let there be light;  
let there be understanding;  
let all the nations gather;  
let them be face to face.**
- 2. Open our lips;  
open our minds to ponder;  
open the door of concord,  
opening into Grace.**
- 3. Perish the sword;  
perish the angry judgment;  
perish the bombs and hunger;  
perish the fight for game.**
- 4. Hallow our love;  
hallow the deaths of martyrs;  
hallow their holy freedom;  
hallowed be your name.**
- 5. Your kingdom come;  
your spirit turn to language;  
your people speak together,  
your spirit never fade.**
- 6. Let there be light;  
open our hearts to wonder;  
perish the way of terror;  
hallow the world God made.**

## Children's Story

### Prayer of Adoration

God of wisdom and understanding, of peace and promise, you are the giver of life and you live in us. You have welcomed us as your children, and called us to live out your image by welcoming one another. In Jesus Christ, you offer us living water to wash away our sin and sorrow, and call us back to paths of justice and righteousness. With the Holy Spirit, you baptize us for service and life in community, refreshing us each day with your presence. Glory and honour and praise be yours, Creator, Christ and Spirit, this day and every day, now and evermore.

### Unison Prayer of Confession

**God of Shalom, we confess that we have taken your commitment to us for granted. We assume what we do is acceptable to you, yet we judge others more harshly. We have been slow to welcome others, especially if their cultures or convictions differ from ours. You call us to repentance, but we resist seeing anything needing change in our hearts or our habits. Forgive our self-satisfied attitudes, and challenge us with your vision of a peaceable kingdom where all can be made new.**

### 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

Receive the Good News in peace. With great mercy, God forgives what we have confessed and offers us new life in Christ. Receive the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

## Scripture

### First Reading: Romans 15:4–13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles  
and sing praises to your name”;

and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

and again,

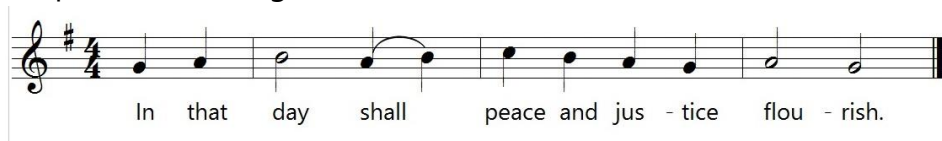
“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;

and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;  
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19 (with refrain 2)



Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to a king's son.

**May he judge your people with righteousness  
and your poor with justice.**

May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the needy,  
and crush the oppressor.**

May he live while the sun endures  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth.**

In his days may righteousness flourish  
and peace abound,  
**until the moon is no more.**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.

**Blessed be his glorious name forever;  
may his glory fill the whole earth.**

**Amen and Amen.**

## Second Reading: Matthew 3:1–12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.' "

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume 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; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**



- 1. Put peace into each other's hands,  
and like a treasure hold it;  
protected like a candle-flame;  
with tenderness and fold it.**
  
- 2. Put peace into each other's hands  
with loving expectation;  
be gentle in your words and ways  
in touch with God's creation.**
  
- 3. Put peace into each others hands  
like bread we break for sharing;  
look people warmly in the eye:  
our life is meant for caring.**
  
- 4. As at communion, shape your hands  
into a waiting cradle;  
the gift of Christ receive, revere,  
united around the table.**
  
- 5. Put Christ into each others hands,  
he is love's deepest measure;  
in love make peace, give peace a chance,  
and share it like a treasure.**

Sermon    Welcome One Another

Prayer of the People

**\*\*Hymn: Lord, make us servants of your peace 739 (tune 25)**

- 1. Lord, make us servants of your peace:  
where there is hate, may we sow love;  
where there is hurt, may we forgive;  
where there is strife, may we make one.**
- 2. Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;  
where all is gloom, may we sow hope;  
where all is night, may we sow light;  
where all is tears, may we sow joy.**
- 3. Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek  
to be consoled, but to console,  
nor look to understanding hearts,  
but look for hearts to understand.**
- 4. May we not look for love's return,  
but seek to love unselfishly,  
for in our giving we receive,  
and in forgiving are forgiven.**
- 5. Dying, we live, and are reborn  
through death's dark night to endless day:  
Lord, make us servants of your peace,  
to wake at last in heaven's light.**

Passing of the Peace

Announcements

Offering

**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: O day of peace that dimly shines**

**732**

- 1. O day of peace that dimly shines  
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
guide us to justice, truth and love,  
delivered from our selfish schemes.  
May swords of hate fall from our hands,  
our hearts from envy find release,  
till by God's grace our warring world  
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.**
  
- 2. Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,  
nor shall the fierce devour the small;  
as beasts and cattle calmly graze,  
a little child shall lead them all.  
Then enemies shall learn to love,  
all creatures find their true accord;  
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,  
for all the earth shall know the Lord. Amen.**

Benediction

Postlude *Pastorale* from *The Messiah* by George F. Handel

### **A Request from Session**

The Session of St Giles is discerning if the congregation should act as the community sponsor in support of Bonaventure Bigirimvano's effort to resettle his daughter and her family as refugees to Canada. If you would like to know more or to participate in this project, please contact Rev. Paul Wu for details.

## **Bulletin**

Now that the hymn books are back in the pews, we are changing the format of the bulletin so lyrics from the hymn book will no longer be printed. The change will take effect on December 11. For those joining by Zoom, please contact the office to obtain a copy of the hymn book. [office@stgilesottawa.org](mailto:office@stgilesottawa.org) 613-235-2551

## **Church Administrator**

Regrettably, the new church administrator Policena Wanja has submitted a letter of resignation, and it was subsequently accepted by the Finance & Maintenance Committee. She thanked St Giles for giving her a chance, but did not think she is competent to do the job. We are thankful that Pat will continue to serve the congregation while the search for a suitable candidate continues.

## **Daily Devotion**

If you are thinking of getting into a good habit of daily devotion, have you consider using Our Daily Bread? It is an easily accessible and digestible material (print or online) that will take 5 minutes a day to be closer to God. St Giles will be receiving, on a quarterly basis, the printed version of Our Daily Bread (in both English and Chinese). They are available to be picked up in the Narthex.

## **Our Events**

**Monday, December 5 ~ 11:00 a.m.**

**Coffee Hour** by teleconference.

**Wednesday, December 7 ~ at 10:30 am.**

The **Presbyterian Women** will meet by teleconference.

**Wednesday, December 7 ~ 7:30 p.m.**

**Trustees Meeting**

**Thursday, December 8 ~ 5:30 p.m.**

**Choir Practice**

**Friday, December 9 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

**Bible Study**, please read Ezekiel Chapter 22.

**Sunday, December 11 ~ 10:30 a.m.**

**Communion Service**

**Tuesday, December 13 ~ 3:30 p.m.**

**F&M Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 14 ~ 7:00 p.m.**

**Session Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 21 ~ 7:00 p.m.**

**Blue Christmas** – A way to recognize the holiness of the season for those who, for any reason, are not feeling joyful.

**Saturday, December 24 ~ 7:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols**