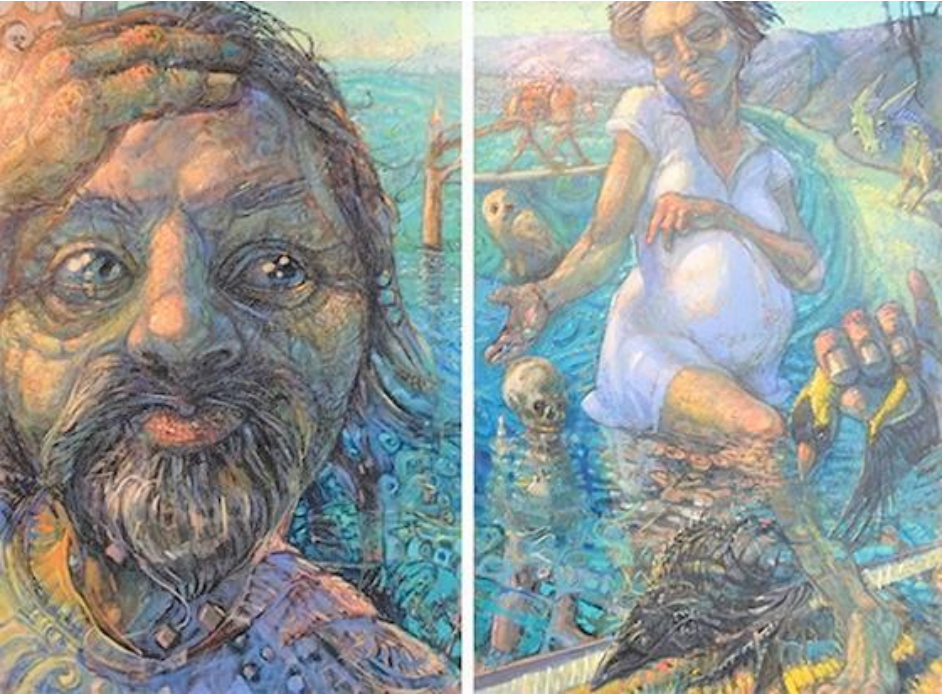


# St Giles Presbyterian Church



*Joseph and Mary: Wedding Portrait,*  
oil painting on canvas by Jim Larson

**Advent 4 ~ December 18, 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: *Adagio* by Pietro Nardini

Welcome

Call to Worship

Reader 1: We are people of love.

Reader 2: God has loved us so much that God has chosen to come as Immanuel, the God who is with us.

**People: We are free to love others, because God first loved us.**

Reader 1: The fourth candle of Advent<sup>1</sup> invites us to reflect God's love in our lives.

Reader 2: We light this candle so that we can see who we are called to love today.

*(Light the candle of love)*

Reader 1: Let us pray:

**People: Holy One, help us to know we are deeply loved and to share that same unconditional love with others. May our lives reflect the warmth and wonder of this flame. Make your church a place of love and acceptance in our community. Amen.**

*A Candle is Burning* by Sandra Dean

**A candle is burning, a candle of love,  
a candle to point us to heaven above.  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,  
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.**

**\*\*Hymn: Return, Redeemer God** by Michael Forster

- 1. Return, Redeemer God,  
with judgement and with healing:  
Our wayward hearts restore,  
Your light and truth revealing.  
O leave us not alone,  
nor let us go astray,  
But open ev'ry heart  
to know your perfect way.**
- 2. Here let us wait and pray,  
to greet the Lord returning,  
As watchers in the night,  
with beacons ever burning:  
For none can know the hour,  
His people long to see,  
When Christ with justice comes,  
to set creation free.**
- 3. May grace and peace be ours,  
from God the Father flowing,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,**

**His perfect truth bestowing.  
This fellowship we share,  
the Father and the Son,  
Who with the Spirit, Three,  
eternally are One.**

Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

Emmanuel, God with us. We praise you for your presence throughout the amazing universe you have made. The shining stars sing your praise which echoes in the depth of space. The smallest snowflake and a baby's tiny fingers reflect your intricate love for the details of each and every life. In Jesus Christ, you were born among us, to show us how your great love is lived out day by day. Inspire us with your loving Spirit as we move through Advent toward Christmas Day, so that our celebrations of love made flesh in Jesus will sing praises to you, O Emmanuel, God with us, now and evermore.

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Lord of love, we confess we sometimes find your love daunting. You called Joseph to honour his love for Mary, even when tradition called him to break his engagement. We confess tradition has a**

**hold on us, too, and challenging expectations for love's sake makes us nervous. You call us to love our neighbour, but we resist your call if our neighbours annoy us or disagree with us. You call us to love our enemies, too, but that seems almost impossible in these contentious times. Forgive us for our little faith. Dare us to love as Jesus loved so he will be born again in us.**

### 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 love. With great mercy, God forgives what we have confessed and offers us new life in Christ. Know that God's steadfast love is yours this day, and share that love with friend and enemy alike, so that the power of such love can change the world.

## Scripture

### First Reading: Isaiah 7:10–16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

### Responsive Reading: Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19 (with refrain 2)

### Second Reading: Matthew 1:18–25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an

angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: *Come Quickly Lord Jesus* by Mark Schweizer

Sermon Immanuel in Brokenness

Prayers of the People

**\*\*Hymn: Long ago, prophets knew**



Passing of the Peace

Announcements

Offering

**Doxology: 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**

Benediction

Postlude *Rigaudon* by Andre Campra

## **End of Year**

As a congregation, St Giles has made a commitment in givings towards Presbyterians Sharing and Presbyterian College. Traditionally, we have also been quite generous towards PWS&D. As we approach the end of 2022, it would be appreciated if all donations for 2022 could be received by December 27 so that the books can be closed for 2022.

## Thank You from the Presbyterian College

I am writing to thank you for your recent gift to The Presbyterian College. This represents both personal encouragement to me and also meaningful support of our programs and student.

As you know well, we have the significant responsibility of helping to form young men and women for ministry here and around the world. Your financial assistance helps provide the resources necessary to accomplish this work in theological education—whether library resources or student aid or facilities renewal. We are immensely thankful for the students entrusted to us and we trust that we are being faithful in equipping them and encouraging them in service of the good news of God's love to us in Jesus Christ.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Rev. Dr. Roland De Vries  
Principal



THE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
COLLEGE  
MONTREAL

LE  
COLLÈGE  
PRESBYTÉRIEN  
MONTRÉAL

## **Our Events**

**Bible Study** will be taking a break and will resume on January 6, 2023.

**Monday, December 19 ~ 11:00 a.m.**

**Coffee Hour** by teleconference.

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

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

**Thursday, December 22 ~ 5:30 p.m.**

**Choir Practice**

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

**Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols**

**Sunday, December 25 ~ 10:30 a.m.**

**Christmas Day Worship**

## Mission Moment

The Presbytery of Montreal's Communauté Rivière des Prairies, is a new worshipping community in the city's east end. Rivière des Prairies embraces multilingualism in their church services and children's programming, providing an open and welcoming space for newcomers to Canada. Over five different languages and dialects are used by the ministry to connect with newcomers, both in the church family and in the wider community.



Through gifts to **Presbyterians Sharing**, Cyclical PCC supports many important outreach ministries in Canada.