

# St Giles Presbyterian Church



Nativity scene, porcelain figurines gifted to St Giles,  
from the late Rev. Dr Cedric Pettigrew

**Christmas Day**  
**December 25, 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: *Away in a Manger* by James Southbridge

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Christmas Day is a time for rejoicing!

**All: Arise and shine for our light has come.  
The time of waiting is over.**

One: Amid all that is still wrong in the world, we proclaim that God comes to us in Jesus Christ.

**All: Arise and shine for our light has come.  
The glory of God is revealed.**

One: We gather on this joyful day, to celebrate the mystery of Christ's love that will never let us go.

**All: Arise and shine for our light has come.  
The glory of God is revealed.  
Our Saviour is born.**

One: As we light the Christ candle, trust that the light of God has come in Jesus and can never be put out. Stand open to the presence and power of God with us in Christ, even here, even now.

*(Light the Christ Candle)*

**Sing: A Candle is Burning** (additional verse by H. Rice)

**A candle is burning this bright Christmas morn,  
The candle that tells us that Jesus is born.  
So sing now together, rejoice at His birth,  
Our hope and our joy, God's Shalom on the earth.**

**\*\*Hymn: O come, all ye faithful**

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Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

God of wisdom and wonder, you stir in our hearts and bring us joy; you stir in our minds and bring us insight; you stir in the world and bring hope to lives who welcome you. In Jesus, you came as a little child, stirring up our love, so now we come to adore you with the angels; to bow in welcome with the shepherds; to kneel in wonder with the magi; to cherish your mystery with Joseph; to treasure and ponder your Word with Mary. We come to you, wise and wonderful God, with humble hearts full of joy because you came to us first, and stay with us always.

## Unison Prayer of Confession

**God of the highest heaven and the humble manger, we gather on Christmas day with glad hearts. Familiar carols lift our spirits; familiar faces bring a smile to our lips. Yet we confess our Christmas joy often doesn't last. Worries cast a shadow over the manger. Business as usual waits outside the stable door. Forgive us when we rush through Christmas and miss the gift of peace you offer us 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 very name 'Jesus' declares that God saves us. So hear the Good News. In Jesus, God comes to us to free us from all that harms us. May the peace of Christ, born at Christmas, be with you this day and throughout the coming year.

## Scripture

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness  
Have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied exultation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders,  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Great will be his authority,  
and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 96 (*with refrain 3*)

Second Reading: Luke 2:1–20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Now in that same 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, and 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, just as it had been told them.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**



**\*\*Hymn: Go, tell it on the mountain**

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Sermon Treasured and Pondered

Prayers of the People

**\*\*Hymn: Oh little town of Bethlehem**

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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: Joy to the world**

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Benediction

Postlude *In dulci jubilo* by Gilbert Martin

## 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.

## Our Events

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

**Monday, January 26**

**Coffee Hour** is taking a holiday.

**Thursday, December 29**

Annual Choir Vacation

**Monday, January 2 ~ 11:00 a.m.**

**Coffee Hour** by teleconference.

**Thursday, January 5 ~ 5:30 p.m.**

**Choir Practice**

**“The Word became flesh and lived among us.”**

**John 1:14**

God with us. Emmanuel.

God in snowflakes in the glow of streetlights.

God in the wreckage of steel and concrete after missile strikes.

God in our joyful celebrations around laden tables.

God in the anxious line waiting for sacks of donated grain.

God in the joy of newborn cry.

God in the pain of newborn cry.

God in carols of angel song and shepherd’s delight.

God in the lament of Rachel.

God in wise and wealthy.

God in overcrowded classrooms and empty purse.

God in miracle and mystery.

God in mundane and routine.

God in shared bread and cup in darkened hour.

God in broken body and shed blood.

God in makeshift cradle and empty tomb.

God in borrowed barn and uncertain future.

God with us. Emmanuel.

God is with us. In every part of our lives and the life of the world. May that fill us with hope and joy.

A Merry Christmas to all.

**—The Rev. Dr. Bob Faris,**

**Moderator of the 2022 General Assembly**

## 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

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