

St Giles Presbyterian Church



Wesley, Frank, 1923-2002. **Magnificat on Silk**, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

4th Advent December 24, 2023

10:30 a.m.

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 an accessible 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 Administrator: Rosemary Bann

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: *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen* by Johannes Brahms

Welcome

Call to Worship

Voice 1: The prophets call and the psalmists sing
to announce that God is love.

Voice 2: "For the mountain may depart and the hills may be moved, but my steadfast love shall never depart from you...and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord who has compassion on you." "Give thanks to the LORD, who is good...give thanks to the Lord of lords, whose steadfast love endures forever."

Voice 1: From the mystery of God's love came our creation and we are nurtured daily by it. The power of God's love is transformative; because we have received God's love, we cannot remain the same. Love means seeking the best for others. Love is compassion for all creation. Love speaks the truth with kindness. Love is the way of seeing others as God sees them.

Voice 2: Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

All: Jesus Christ is the love of God come into the world.

Voice 2: We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

All: We light this candle to burn for love.

(while lighting the candle of love)

Sing verse 4 of A Candle is Burning

(by Sandra Dean; used with permission)

**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.**

Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

God of majesty and mercy, you are powerful, you are holy, and you are loving. You come among us not as a warrior or tyrant, but as a child, new life born among us, reaching out to embrace us in love. And so we come to worship you this day, trusting your wisdom with Joseph, pondering your mystery with Mary. We offer you our love for all that you have been, all that you are, and all that you will be, Creator, Christ and Spirit, one God. holy and loving, now and forever.

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of mystery and mercy, you came to offer us love, but we confess we can be stubborn and selfish in the ways we live. You came to reconcile all people, but we often nurse grudges and resist repairing relationships. Forgive who we have been, amend who we are, and direct who we shall be, through Jesus Christ who reaches out to us from the manger and the cross.

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. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

"Love came down at Christmas; Love all lovely, love divine.
Love shall be our token, Love for plea and gift and sign."
(Words from Christina Rossetti, a 19th century English poet)
We meet God's gift of love in Christ Jesus, whose forgiveness restores us for whatever lies ahead. Thanks be to God for this hope!

****Hymn:** People, look east

Scripture

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1–11

Now when the king was settled in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind, for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.

Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel, and I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place and be

disturbed no more, and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel, and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

Psalms 89:1–4, 19–26 (with refrain 2)

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David:

**'I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations.'**"

Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said: **"I have set the crown on one who is mighty,
I have exalted one chosen from the people.**

I have found my servant David;
with my holy oil I have anointed him;
**my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also
shall strengthen him.**

The enemy shall not outwit him,
the wicked shall not humble him.

**I will crush his foes before him and strike down
those who hate him.**

**My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with
him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted.**

I will set his hand on the sea
and his right hand on the rivers.

He shall cry to me,

**'You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'**

Second Reading: Luke 1:26–38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And

now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

****Hymn:** The angel Gabriel from heaven

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Third Reading: Luke 1:46–55

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his
servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me
blessed,

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;

indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the imagination of
their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

****Hymn:** My soul gives glory to my God **123**

Prayers of the People

****Hymn:** O Lord, hear my prayer (sing 4 times) **446A**

Passing of the Peace

Announcements

Offering

Doxology: **830**

**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

Final Doxology (from Romans 16:25–27, NKJV)

Now to Him who is able to establish you
according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ,
according to the revelation of the mystery
kept secret since the world began but now made manifest,
and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations,
according to the commandment of the everlasting God,
for obedience to the faith— to God, alone wise,
be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

****Hymn:** It came upon the midnight clear

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Benediction

Postlude *Pastorale*

by Georg Handel



St Giles Events

Thursday, December 28 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice



Christmas Tableau

During the evening service on 24 December, the St Giles Sunday School, its teachers, and friends will conclude the service with a traditional Nativity tableau. The word originates with the French “tableaux vivant” or living pictures, but the concept may go back much further to the early Christian period some 2,000 years ago. A Christmas tableau is different from a Christmas pageant, because there is no acting or movement. Mary, Joseph,

Pulpit Exchange

St Giles is participating in a three way pulpit exchange with St Andrew's and Knox Presbyterian Church. On the Sunday of December 31, we welcome the Rev. Karen Dimock of St Andrew's as supply preacher. Meanwhile the Rev. Paul Wu will be preaching at Knox.

Financial Update from the Treasurer

Last year at the end of November our donations totalled \$64,965 compared to the 2022 budget of \$90,000 a shortfall of \$25,035. By year end last year, the shortfall was reduced to \$1,283 as a result of year end donations by the congregation. This year our donations at the end of November are higher than last year at \$68,018 but we still have a similar shortfall of \$26,492. We made up the shortfall last year by giving collectively so I am asking for us to do it again this year.

Change of Procedure for Collection of Offering

Session has decided to go back to using the traditional procedure for collecting the offering starting from this Sunday, December 24, 2023. Two ushers will pass offering plates to collect the offering. They will then carry the plates forward with the singing of the doxology and place them on the communion table. If you have any questions, please ask the duty elder.

Mission Moment

In Guatemala, Leslie—a mother to four—takes great pride in the small home, built atop a former landfill site, she has owned for 15 years. To make ends meet, she sorts plastic bottles from the landfill, with her five-year-old daughter Kaitlin often accompanying her. Leslie's other daughter, Naomi, attends the PWS&D-supported Francisco Coll School. At this school, she has developed essential reading and writing skills. Leslie also participates in parenting classes, noting, "[It's] very helpful because I've changed the way I parent. I shout less. I used to come home from work and start shouting at the kids, but I've learned differently. The classes are very beneficial."



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Mission Moment

Through Presbyterians Sharing we shine Christ's light in Canada and around the world. We are there when a prisoner in Malawi discovers Christ's love through Bible study, and when an Indigenous woman in Taiwan reads the Bible in her own language for the first time. We are there when a congregation adapts to meet community needs in new ways and when a theological student in Canada, Malawi, Nigeria, Ghana or Beirut graduates, ready to serve God. We are there when a child receives a healthy snack and after-school support from an inner-city ministry, and when a refugee claimant needs a friend. We are also there for one another as we pray, serve and share the gifts God has given us. When we put our gifts in God's hands, God does remarkable things!



Presbyterians
Sharing



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