

# St Giles Presbyterian Church



*Busch, Peter, **No Room at the Inn**, a freestanding sand sculpture, Canary Islands, Spain, 2007. From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.*

## Christmas Eve

### December 24, 2023

### 7:30 p.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](http://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](mailto:gowans978@gmail.com)

Vocalist: Katie Gratton

Prelude: *Still, Still, Still*  
O Holy Night

arr. Richard Shephard  
by Adolphe Adam

Welcome

Call to Worship

Voice 1: The angels sing the glory of God in the highest heavens.

Voice 2: "Be not afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy for all people. To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord... you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"

Voice 1: At Christmas, God speaks in signs. The baby in the manger is a sign of a new life and new governance shining in the world. Christ is born and the world is filled with the promise of hope, signs of peace, joy and the incarnation of God's love.

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

**All: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Voice 2: We join with all creation in joyful praise.

**All: We light this candle because God has been made flesh and dwells among us**

(while lighting the Christ Candle)

Sing verse 5 of A Candle is Burning

(by Sandra Dean; used with permission)

**We honour Messiah with Christ-candle's flame,  
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.  
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,  
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.**

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

**159**

- 1. Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
oh come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels:**

Refrain: **Oh come, let us adore him;  
oh come, let us adore him;  
oh come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

- 2. God of God, Light of light, born unto Mary, the  
virgin blest, very God, begotten, not created: (Refrain)**
- 3. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks draw nigh with holy fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps: (Refrain)**
- 4. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
'Glory to God in the highest!'  
(Refrain)**
- 5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: (Refrain)**

## Prayer of Adoration

God of mystery and mercy, you stir in our hearts and bring us joy. You stir in our minds and bring us wisdom. You stir in the world and bring hope for the future. You came as a little child, stirring up praise. So we come to adore you with the angels; to bow with the shepherds; to kneel in wonder with the magi; to ponder your mystery with Joseph; to love and cherish you with Mary. We come with humble hearts full of joy because you came to us first In Jesus, whom we hold on our hearts this night.

## Unison Prayer of Confession

**God of grace and truth, in Christ you offer us the gift of yourself, but we are attracted to presents under the tree. You came to us in flesh and blood, but we fail to see you in the humans right beside us. You shine in the world, but we dwell on the darkness in the daily news. Forgive us. Renew our hope and our trust in you as you reach out to us from the manger.**

## 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

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!  
Walk in the assurance of God's grace and forgiveness. Be  
people of light and forgive one another.

## 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.

**\*\*Hymn:** Infant holy, Infant lowly

**143**

- 1. Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for His bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing,  
Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing,  
noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.**
- 2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping,  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of the gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you;  
Christ the babe was born for you.**

Psalm 96 (with refrain 1)



O sing to the Lord a new song;

**sing to the Lord, all the earth.**

Sing to the Lord; bless God's name;

**proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

Declare the Lord's glory among the nations,

**the Lord's marvelous works among all the peoples.**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;

**to be revered above all gods.**

For all the gods of the peoples are idols,

**but the Lord made the heavens.**

Honor and majesty are in God's presence;

**strength and beauty are in God's sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name;**

**bring an offering, and come into the courts of the Lord.**

Worship the Lord in holy splendor;

**tremble before the Lord, all the earth.**

Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!

**The world is firmly established;**

**it shall never be moved.**

**He will judge the peoples with equity."**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

**let the sea roar and all that fills it;**

**let the field exult and everything in it.**



Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy  
before the Lord,  
who is coming, who is coming to judge the earth.

**The Lord will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with truth.**

Second Reading: Luke 2:1–14

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!"

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**\*\*Hymn:** Away in a manger

**149**

- 1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky  
looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**
- 2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**
- 3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

Sermon: Lowly things of this world

Prayers of the People

- 1. Silent night! holy night!**  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child,  
holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace;  
sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2. Silent night! holy night!**  
Shepherds quake at the sight:  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing 'Hallelujah,  
Christ, the Saviour is born!  
Christ, the Saviour is born!'
- 3. Silent night! holy night!**  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Passing of the Peace

- 1. Hark! the herald angels sing,**  
"Glory to the newborn King:  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: **Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"**

2. **Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel. [Refrain]**
3. **Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth. [Refrain]**

Christmas Tableau

Benediction

Postlude *Noel*

by Louis-Claude Daquin