

St Giles Presbyterian Church



Fortt, Annette Gandy. Three More Kings, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

December 31, 2023

St Giles Presbyterian Church

Greeting and Welcome

Leading in worship is guest preacher the Rev. Karen Dimock from St Andrews Presbyterian Church. We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors. Let us together know the joy and wonder of worshipping God. There are sermon texts available. Please speak with an usher, if you have any questions. 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.

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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: *What Child Is This?* arr. Malcolm Archer

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Arise, shine: for your light has come!

All: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

One: Lift up your eyes and look around!

All: We shall see and be radiant; our hearts shall rejoice.

One: For the Lord will be our everlasting light and our glory!

All: And so we worship God in humble expectation.

****Hymn:** Angels from the Realms of Glory **146**

Prayer of Adoration

God of light and life, we praise you for the amazing depth of your creation and the mysteries of the cosmos. We praise you for the wonders of the earth around us and for the Word made flesh in the child born in Bethlehem. Open our hearts and minds in

this time of worship. Just as you led the magi by the star, lead us by your Spirit beyond the limits of this world's expectations, to the life where you make all things new through Christ, our Morning Star.

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of mercy and loving-kindness, you sent Christ among us to be the light of the world and reveal your love to all people. Yet our sins hide the brightness of your light that should shine through us. Forgive us for wasting our gifts, ignoring cries for justice, and harming the earth you love. In your mercy, cleanse us and make us 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, forever. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Be assured of God's love and forgiveness that shine for us in Christ Jesus. As a new year unfolds, make a new beginning with God and with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you all. Amen.

Scripture

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1–6

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried
in their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea
shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Psalms 72:1–7, 10–14 (with refrain 3)

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.

May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,

May the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.

**May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.**

For he delivers the needy when they call
the poor and those who have no helper.

**He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.**

From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.

Second Reading: Matthew 2:1–12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went

the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn:** As With Gladness Men of Old **172**

Sermon A Tale of Two Kings

Prayers of the People

****Hymn:** Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness **174**

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

****Hymn:** Stand Up and Bless the Lord

411

Benediction

Postlude *Sing Praise*

by Lani Smith



St Giles Events

Monday, January 01 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour by teleconference.

Wednesday, January 03 ~ 2:00 p.m.

Worship Committee will be meeting in person at St Giles.

Thursday, January 04 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice

Wednesday, January 10 ~ 5:00 p.m.

Prayer Group (Lectio Divina) will be meeting in person at St Giles. All are welcome



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.

In-Sanctuary Art Exhibition Series

Mark Thursday January 4, 7:30-9 pm, in your diaries. Denise Trottier, daughter of the late renowned Glebe-born artist Gerald Trottier (www.geraldtrottier.ca) will provide a guided tour of her father's art, our next Sanctuary exhibition (January-April, 2024). The works on display come from a place of profound belief: Trottier designed the interiors of a number of Ottawa churches. One print on display is also in the collection of the National Gallery.

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 started last 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

Dhai, a woman in her early forties from Pakistan, has faced hardships throughout her life. She cared for her husband, who was disabled, until his death. She later became the sole provider for her family, working as a cook for a local landowner, which allowed her to support her family. Heavy rains in Pakistan in 2022 caused her house to collapse, leaving her family without a home. Through all this Dhai remained hopeful as she explained, "If the aid comes, it will be good." Fortunately, Dhai and her family found solace and assistance through the PWS&D-supported Humanitarian, Early Recovery and Development project, which provided them with essential food aid as well as better resilience to future disasters.



The Presbyterian Church in Canada