



Upcoming Events

SUN <b>24</b>	Worship 10:30 am Christmas Eve 7:00 pm
SUN <b>31</b>	Worship 10:30 am



**Welcome to St. Giles Sarnia**  
Sunday December 24, 2023  
The Reverend Rebecca Roushorne-Lau

*Wherever you are in your journey of faith there is a place for you here at St. Giles.  
We are a vibrant gathering of individuals united in our desire to follow Jesus.*

*Following the service you are encouraged to join us in the Gathering Place  
for a time of connection and refreshment.*

**Order of Worship**  
**St Giles Presbyterian Church, Sarnia**  
**December 24, 2023**

**Opening Hymn:** Hark the Herald Angels Sing

**Call to worship: Isaiah 35 1-6, 8**

The desert and the parched land will be glad;  
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

**Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom;  
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.**

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;  
**they will see the glory of the LORD,  
the splendour of our God.**

Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way;

say to those with fearful hearts,

“Be strong, do not fear; your God will come,

**he will come with vengeance;**

**with divine retribution he will come to save you.”**

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened

and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.

**Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.**

And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness;

**it will be for those who walk on that Way.**

**Candle Lighting**

**Hymn:** What Child is This?

**Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Children’s Pageant**

**Video:** Let there be light - Love

**Scripture:** Luke 1:26-38

**Hymn:** In the Bleak Midwinter

**Sermon**

See Insert

**Offertory Invitation**

**Offertory Music:** Celtic Carol - Dan Sonier, Tessa Catton, Caitlin Mason

**Offertory Prayer**

**Invitation to the Table**

**The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in  
the highest.**

...Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again. ...Amen.**

**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 and ever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of Bread and the Distribution**

**Prayer after Thanksgiving**

**Closing Words:**

**Benediction**

**Closing Hymn:** Joy to the World

## Candle Lighting

**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.” (*Isaiah 54*)  
“Give thanks to the LORD, who is good...give thanks to the Lord of lords, whose steadfast love endures forever.” (*Psalms 136*)

**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.**

*Light the candle and sing verse 3 of O little town of Bethlehem - BP 164*  
How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings born of heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin  
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

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### ST GILES ANNOUNCEMENTS: Christmas 2023

Role	Today	Dec 31
<b>Greeter</b>	Morning: Graham Evening: Joyce	Jo-Anne
<b>Reader</b>	Morning: Donna G Evening: Rev. Dan R.	Margaret R
<b>Sunday School</b>	Morning: Janice, Heather Evening: N/A	N/A
<b>Nursery</b>	Morning: Rainie	N/A
<b>Tellers</b>	Morning: Scott/Liz Evening: Suzanne & John V	Pete B & Paul K
<b>Fellowship Hosts</b>	Morning: Suzanne & Blake Evening: N/A	Suzanne & Joyce

#### THIS WEEK AT ST. GILES

Today: Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm  
Monday: Christmas Day  
Tuesday: Boxing Day  
Sunday: Worship at 10:30 am

#### CHURCH OFFICE

After Christmas, Nicole will be enjoying a week of holidays. **While the office will be cared for by members of our community to ensure donations are received and accounted for,** the office will not have regular office hours. Office hours will resume on January 2nd at 8am.

**Rev. Becky will be on vacation** from December 25th through December 31st. If there are any pastoral care emergencies please contact AN Elder.

#### SHELTERED BLESSINGS: ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE

Please plan to join us at **St. Joseph's RC Church**, for an **Ecumenical Prayer Service at 7pm on January 7th**. This is a result of the joint ministry effort of St. Giles, Grace, Dunlop-Central and the Roman Catholic Family of Parishes to combat Homelessness and Housing Insecurity in Sarnia. Going forward we will work together and with other community groups to continue supporting, assisting and empowering those working with people in need. **The Church is located at 293 Stuart St, in Sarnia.**

#### SAVE THE DATE

As we look ahead to 2024 the Faith Community of St Giles is looking to deepen our connections within our Church Family and expand our reach into our wider local community. In typical St Giles tradition we plan to do this by sharing a meal together! **So mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 24th for our first monthly Community Luncheon at 12 pm.** More details will be forthcoming, including an ask for volunteers to help with this exciting initiative. In the meantime, please consider inviting a neighbour or friend to join you for lunch and social time together!

#### PANCAKE SUPPER

Save the date! **Tuesday February 13, 2024** is our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!!

#### OLD FASHIONED LUNCHEON

Join us for an Old Fashioned luncheon on **Sunday February 18** after the service. Cost is \$10.00. *The proceeds will support the Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre.*