

Order of Worship
St Giles Presbyterian Church, Sarnia
December 29, 2024

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Isaiah the prophet said... – on them light has shined.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Zechariah the priest...into the way of peace.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Mary the mother of Jesus...hungry with good things.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

God is with us...our lives in a new way.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Opening Prayer

Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful

v 1, 4, 5 #159

Children's Time

Hymn: The First Nowell

v 1, 5, 6 #36

Lighting the Advent Candles

Leader: First we light the candle of HOPE

People: **Because Jesus is our hope.**

Leader: Second we light the candle of PEACE

People: **Because Jesus is our peace.**

Leader: Third we light the candle of JOY

People: **Because Jesus brings joy.**

Leader: Fourth we light the candle of LOVE

People: **Because Jesus is love.**

Leader: Finally we light the center candle...candle.

Jesus is born. Jesus has come. Jesus is our salvation.

Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Prayer:

O God of hope,

You comfort us in grief; you strengthen us in weakness; you restore us when we are afraid. Help us to love others as you love us – tenderly and without restraint – so that our relationships may be a reflection of the covenant you have with us.

Hymn: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

#110

Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

Prayer

O God of redemption:

You straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by careless living. Keep our eyes alert for evidence of your reign, our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us. Make us strong, that we may join you in your holy work, as friends of strangers and victims, companions of those whom others shun, and comfort to those whose hearts are broken.

Hymn: On Jordan's Bank

v 1, 3, 5

#126

Lesson: Mark 1:1-15

Prayer

God of promise and covenant,

In a world parched by bitterness you are compassion. In a vague and obscure world you are a voice of clarity calling in the wilderness. By your Spirit confirm in our hearts the claim you have made upon us to speak good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, to restore sight to the blind, and to seek the freedom of the oppressed.

Hymn: Silent Night

#154

Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

Prayer

O God of possibility;

You give us the fresh air of new beginnings and unexpected opportunities, but we often turn away. Help us to see that you shine a light to guide our path, and that the light will illuminate the strange, winding roads we travel. Give us strength to embrace the changes of this world, knowing that you will lead us to a place more glorious than we could ever hope for or imagine.

Hymn: Away in a Manger

#149

Lesson: Luke 2:1-14

Prayer

God of love and wonder,

As you came at night in humility and vulnerability when all was still, so enter our lives this night and always strengthen us so that we may show loving care to those around us, especially those who dwell quietly on the margins where Jesus was born and lived.

Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

#139

Lesson: Luke 2:15-20

Prayer

God of loving kindness, you are above all, beneath all, around all, and within all; before we ever went in search of you, you were here to meet us. Give us the grace to ponder with Mary the mystery of your light come into the world and to treasure the mystery of your love in our hearts.

Hymn: Once in Royal David's City

#166

Reflection

Offering

Lesson: John 1:1-16

Hymn: Joy to the World

#153

Benediction



Welcome to St. Giles Sarnia

Sunday December 29, 2024

The First Sunday after Christmas

Today we welcome

The Rev'd Dan Roushorne

*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.*

ST GILES ANNOUNCEMENTS: December 29, 2024

Role	December 29	January 5
Greeter	Joyce N	Jo Anne
Reader	Rev Dan	Grace C
Tellers	Honour M, Susan L	Scott & Liz
Fellowship Hosts	Nancy S	Needed

Welcome to St. Giles! It is a joy to gather for worship. Our community is committed to helping people grow into hope-filled followers of Jesus.

Babies and toddlers are welcome before and during the service in our staffed Nursery downstairs to the left. **Children of all ages** are invited to join our Sunday School that begins after the Children's Time in the service.

PRAYER REQUESTS

George Wilson, Lee Wilson; Bobby; Brittanae Carey; Tyler, the family of Sydney Vrolyk

John Collins, Meadowview Villa **Bette Fitzpatrick**, Twin Lakes Terrace
Ruth Leitch, North Lambton Lodge **Ralph Dick**, Vision Nursing Home

For the **gathering of God's people** in this place.

Bulletin Prayer Requests can be emailed to: office@stgilessarnia.ca

The **PASTORAL CARE TEAM** works in partnership with the Ministry team to provide visitation, encouragement, and connection to members of our church family. If you feel called to this ministry, please email Rev Becky.

CONNECT WITH US

Rev. Rebecca Roushorne-Lau
revbecky@stgilessarnia.ca

Dan Sonier
Music Director

Nicole Grieve, Office Administrator
office@stgilessarnia.ca
519-542-2253
Tues-Fri 8:00am-12:00pm

To receive **children's program emails**,
contact office@stgilessarnia.ca

For the **weekly email and quarterly newsletter**, contact
stgilesav@gmail.com

A **weekly podcast** of the sermon &
scripture can be found on Spotify,
Tuneln, and Apple.

Visit [youtube.com/stgileschurchsarnia](https://www.youtube.com/stgileschurchsarnia)
for livestream, or on demand services.

Find us on the web.
www.stgilessarnia.ca



ST. GILES IN THE WORD

Our readings for January are now available on the table at the back of the sanctuary for those who would like a paper copy. If you prefer to listen to the readings they are posted daily at youtube.com/stgileschurchsarnia.

WORLD CHANGERS DONATION BINS

We are now accepting winter clothing for all ages to supply the St Joseph's Free Store. Tarps and sleeping bags will go to Nightlight. **Milk bags** for sleeping mats are also being collected.

2025 ENVELOPES

2025 envelopes are here! Please pick yours up in the Gathering Place. If you wish to have envelopes, and have not yet placed an order, please contact Nicole in the office 519-542-2253, or e-mail office@stgilessarnia.ca, and she can provide you with one.

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!

To all the crafters in our church family: so many of you have admired the beautiful Christmas hanging at the front of the church that was graciously donated by Sharon Woodman. **We now need some new banners to hang through the rest of the year in sanctuary.** Sharon has agreed that she would take the lead to meet, plan and sew. If interested, please see Sharon or Nancy Spragg, as it would be a wonderful time of fellowship and adding to the beauty of our sanctuary.

SIGN CHANGERS AND TELLERS

Our sign on the front lawn is an important way of sharing both our events happening at St. Giles with our community, and, by adding an encouraging note, it can brighten a day for those passing by. **We are in need of a few volunteers to take on the task of changing the sign.** Please contact the office if you would like to be part of this ministry.

Our Tellers are an integral part of ensuring that donations from our church community are tallied properly, so that we can continue our mission and service not just within our doors, but out in the community as well. **We are looking for a few volunteers to assist with this ministry.**

If this is something that you would be interested in, please contact the office. **Training will be provided.**

DR. GRAHAM'S HOMES

IMPORTANT NOTICE - Dr. Graham's Homes Sponsors: The Canadian Council of Dr. Graham's Homes will be winding up the activities of the Council in the Spring of 2025. St. Giles is sponsoring one student at this time, Sophia Stockman. If any of Sophia's sponsors wish to support her in her final year, **please make your donation before December 31, 2024. Tax receipts will be issued until December 31, 2024 ONLY.**

CHURCH OFFICE

The Church Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year's. Rev. Becky will also be taking time between Christmas and New Year's as well. Rev. Dan Roushorne will be leading services on Sunday, December 29. Both Nicole and Rev. Becky will return on January 2.