

ST GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Sunday, February 14, 2021

Greeting and Welcome

Leading in worship is 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 large print bulletins available. Please speak with an usher. The church is fully accessible with an elevator, ramps and a properly-appointed 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.

Cover: Photo of Patricia Brush, Photographer Raymon Kaduck, at Rock Dunder, Morton, Ontario (Highway 15)

St Giles Presbyterian Church

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Minister: The Rev. Paul Wu 613-276-2551 paulwu55@yahoo.ca

Church Administrator: Patricia Brush
Office hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Organist: Brenda Beckingham
Soloist: Sharon Haidenger

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation;

People: whom shall I fear?

Leader: The Lord is the stronghold of my life;

People: of whom shall I be afraid?

Leader: One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

People: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life

****Hymn: Be thou my vision 4 6 1**

1. **Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art,
thou my best thought in the day and the night
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**
2. **Be thou my wisdom; be thou my true word,
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great father, thine own may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.**
3. **Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my armour and be though my might;
thou my soul's shelter and thou my high tower,
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.**
4. **Riches I heed not, nor vain earthly praise,
thou my inheritance, through all my days;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my treasure thou Art!**

5. **High King of heaven, when the battle is done,
grant heaven's joy to me, O bright heavens Sun;
heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.**

Prayer of Adoration

God of grace and glory,
to this worried world, you reveal your presence
in radiant glory and in gentle whispers,
on mountain tops and in shadowed valleys,
in classrooms and hospital beds,
in homes and churches,
in the quiet of nature and on busy streets.
Yours is the presence that pushes past our fear to calm us;
yours is the love that transforms our doubt with reassurance.
We come to dwell in your goodness
and offer you the praise you deserve.

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy and forgiveness, we confess that many things keep us from trusting fully in your love. We are often distracted by our own desires and disappointments. We cling to anger and resentment. We fear for the future rather than seek signs of hope. Forgive us. Shine your love upon us so that your glory may be seen in us, and give us courage to follow Jesus wherever he leads.

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 and ever. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the Good News of the Gospel: God is love and that God's perfect love casts out fear. We are promised that those who abide in love abide in God and God abides in them. Claim God's forgiveness in this Good News: God's perfect love abides in you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

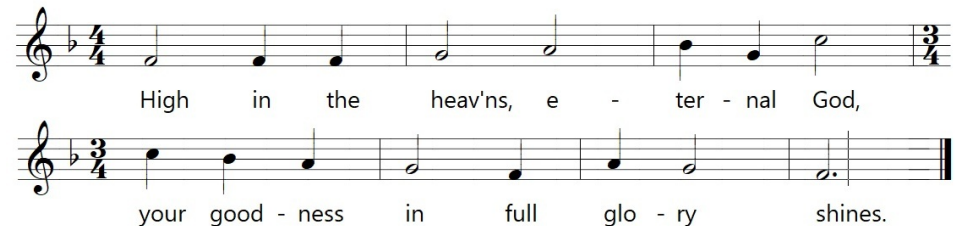
Scripture

First Reading 2 Kings 2:1–12

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at

some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Psalm 50:1–6 refrain 1



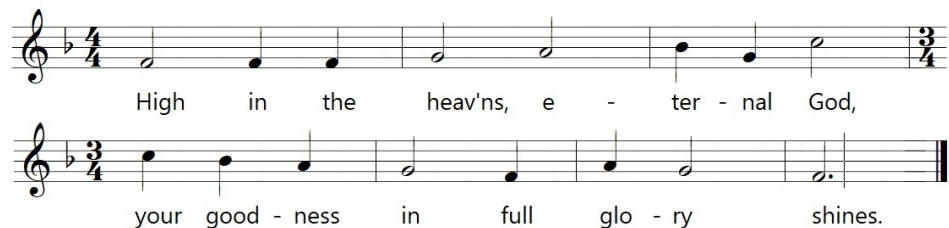
The mighty one, God the Lord,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting
Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.

**Our God comes and does not keep silence,
before whom is a devouring fire,
around whom is a raging storm.**

God calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that the people may be judged:

"Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

**The heavens declare God's righteousness,
For God alone is judge.**



Second Reading Mark 9:2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Reader: This is the words of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn: Love divine, all loves excelling**

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- 1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.**
- 2. Breathe, oh breathe thy loving spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest;
take away our love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.**
- 3. Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return and never,
never more than thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**
- 4. Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,**

**changed from glory into glory
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.**

Sermon Is it all downhill from here?

Prayers of the People

****Hymn: Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine 687**

**1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

Refrain

**This is my story; this is my song:
praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story; this is my song:
praising my Saviour all the day long.**

**2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain***

**3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I am in my Saviour am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain***

Announcements

Offering (invitation)

Doxology

**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: Lord, the light of your love is shining 376**

**1 Lord, the light of your love is shining
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us.
Set us free by the truth you know bring us.
Shine on me; shine on me.**

Refrain

**Shine, Jesus shine;
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow;
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be**

light!

**2 Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by your blood I may enter your brightness.
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me; shine on me. *Refrain***

**3 As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness,
ever-changing from glory to glory:
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me; shine on me. Refrain**

Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Postlude

Hymn 376

Words and Music: Graham Kendrick

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Hymn 461

Words: Irish Anonymous, transl Mary Byrne

Music Irish traditional arr Eric Routley

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~ Hymns 371 and 687 are in the public domain ~



We've Got Mail

To our friends at St Giles,

Thank you so much for your donation of \$100 to the CEFC in 2020. We are very grateful for the support we receive from the churches that make up the CCSAC.

You are part of a community of support. Thank you for everything you do.

With gratitude, Diana Mahaffy,
Manager, Centretown Emergency Food Centre

Events

Monday, February 15 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour will meet by teleconference.

Wednesday, February 17 ~ Ash Wednesday

This day marks the beginning of the forty days of the season of Lent. The tradition of giving something up for Lent is a practice that many Christians have adopted as a form of fasting. There are, however, many simple ways to incorporate other spiritual practices into daily life over Lent. Instead of 'giving something up' for Lent this year, why not try 'taking up' a new spiritual practice? Check out St Giles' website (<https://stilesottawa.org/news/>) for helpful ideas.

Friday, February 19 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study will continue by teleconference. Please prepare Isaiah Chapters 65–66.

**Sunday, February 28 ~ after service
Annual Meeting**

Sunday, February 21 ~ 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Join us for a Ottawa Region-Wide Virtual Youth Event:

Share Your Voice / Share Your Dream

If you could build the church, what would it look like? One thing about the pandemic is that it is forcing congregations to take a fresh look at who they are, what they're doing, and how they're doing it. This is a chance to share your voice - share your dream of what you would like to see the church doing - What do you add? What do you drop? What do you keep? For more information, check out St Giles' website (stgilesottawa.org/news/)