

ST GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Sunday, February 21, 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.

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

One: We begin our journey through Lent.

All: We will seek awareness of God's presence with us on the way.

One: We come to find light in the shadows and strength in our weakness.

All: We will join in praise as we remember God's faithfulness.

One: We seek God's mercy and truth step by step, day by day.

**All: We will trust in God's steadfast love.
So let us worship God with grateful hearts!**

****Hymn: A mighty fortress is our God**

3 15

- 1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a refuge never failing,
our helper sure amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
yet seeks to work us woe
with craft and power great
and, armed with cruel hate,
on earth has not an equal.**

- 2. Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not a Saviour on our side,
the One of God's own choosing.
Who is this Saviour, who?
Christ Jesus, living, true.**

**Lord Sabbaoth by name,
from age to age the same,
already wins the battle.**

- 3. And though this world, with evil filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
the truth to triumph through us:
the powers of death and hell
our God will surely quell:
their rage we can endure,
for look! their doom is sure;
one little word will fell them.**

- 4. That Word above all earthly powers —
no thanks to them! — abiding,
ensures that all God's gifts are ours,
through Christ in us residing,
whose summons rings above
all goods, all earthly love.
Earth's powers waste away;
God's word endures always,
whose reign will last forever.**

Prayer of Adoration

Good and gracious God, Creator of storms and sunshine, of the sun and moon and stars, Maker of rainbows and raindrops, of all that is in the heavens and the earth, we praise you for the beauty of the created world, and for the hope of life with you now and always. We praise you for your faithfulness and loving kindness throughout all generations, for your promise of grace, for your compassion and redemption revealed to us in Christ Jesus. Receive our prayer and praise this day and teach us how to live by your love.

Source of mercy and wisdom, We are thankful for your steady presence and steadfast love, so we make our confession to you, with truth and humility.

Prayer of Confession

O God, you made a covenant with us in faithfulness, but we confess we are not always so faithful to you. We grow tired and restless when things don't go our way. We lose patience with others. We lack compassion for our neighbours in need, and even forget to express our love for those closest to us. Forgive us, gracious God. Lead us in the way we should go. Make us reflections of your love, making rainbows of your light, creating beauty and deepening hope wherever we go, for the sake of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

Believe the good news. Jesus proclaimed that the kingdom of God has come near. Trust in his forgiving love for you, and forgive one another in his name.

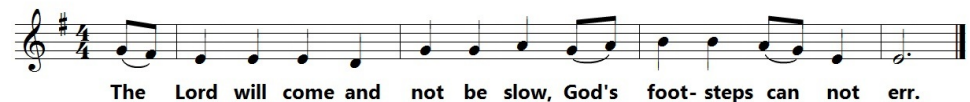
Scripture

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Psalm 25:1-10 Refrain 1



To you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;

teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth

or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

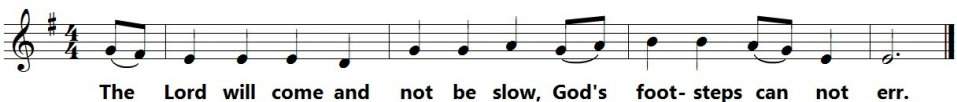
Good and upright is the Lord;

therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

leads the humble in what is right,

and teaches them the way they should go.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep God's covenant and decrees.



Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18–22

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently

in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you — not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn: God of the sparrow, God of the whale 307**

1. God of the sparrow God of the whale

God of the swirling stars

How does the creature say Awe

How does the creature say Praise

2. God of the earthquake God of the storm

God of the trumpet blast

How does the creature cry Woe

How does the creature cry Save

3. God of the rainbow God of the cross

God of the empty grave

How does the creature say Grace

How does the creature say Thanks

4. God of the hungry God of the sick

God of the prodigal

How does the creature say Care

How does the creature say Life

5. **God of the neighbour God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace**
6. **God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home**

Sermon I have set my bow in the clouds

Prayers of the People

****Hymn: We lay our broken world in sorrow 202**

1. **We lay our broken world
in sorrow at your feet,
haunted by hunger, war and fear,
oppressed by power and heat.**
2. **Here human life seems less
than profit, might and pride,
though to unite us all in you,
you lived and loved and died.**
3. **We bring our broken towns,
our neighbours hurt and bruised;
you show us how old pain and wounds
for new life can be used.**
4. **We bring our broken loves,
friends parted, families torn;
then in your life and death we see
that love must be reborn.**

5. **We bring our broken selves,
confused and closed and tired;
then through your gift of healing grace
new purpose is inspired.**
6. **Oh Spirit, on us breathe
with life and strength anew;
find in us love, and hope, and trust,
and lift us up to you.**

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: Out of my bondage, sorrow and night 193**

1. **Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;
into thy freedom, gladness and light,
Jesus, I come to thee;
out of my sickness into thy health,
out of my wants and into thy wealth,
out of my sin and into thyself,
Jesus, I come to thee.**
2. **Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;
into the glorious gain of the cross,
Jesus, I come to thee;**

**out of earths sorrows into thy balm,
out of life's storms and into thy calm,
out of distress to jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to thee.**

- 3. Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;
into the blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to thee;
out of myself to dwell in thy love,
out of despair into raptures above,
upward for aye on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to thee.**
- 4. Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come;
into the joy and light of thy home,
Jesus, I come to thee;
out of the depths of ruin untold,
into the peace of thy sheltering fold,
ever thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to thee.**

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 202 ~ Words: Anna Briggs Music: Kenneth G. Flinlay
Hymn 307 ~ Word: Jaroslav J. Vajda Music: Carl F. Schalk
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Hymns 193 and 315 are in the public domain

Announcements

Re-Opening

St Giles Presbyterian Church is planning to reopen the sanctuary for in-person worship on the Sunday, February 28. Please observe the following 'safe reopening protocols':

1. Those attending worship must enter through the main entrance (Bank Street) unless they need access to the elevator in which case the ramped entrance on First Avenue should be used.
2. Hand sanitizer (recommended) will be provided at each of the entrances.
3. Those attending worship are required to wear masks that cover the mouth and nose.
4. We are keeping a register of people entering at the Bank Street door. If you use the elevator please ensure your name is recorded.
5. When entering the sanctuary, we ask that you proceed through the middle doors and middle aisle following the arrows to the pews that have not been taped off. You will be asked to sit 2 metres apart from fellow congregants in the pews, excepting those from the same household. Seating capacity is approximately 40.
6. Hymnbooks are not available. The hymns will be in the bulletin.
7. For the time being there will be no passing of the Peace.
8. After the service, those exiting the sanctuary should leave by the side aisles following the arrows to the elevator/single side doors at the back of the sanctuary.
9. Please avoid congregating inside the building after the service.

Watching the Service on Zoom

For those wishing to participate in St Giles's worship service online, you could join livestream via Zoom at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings, or you could watch the recording of the service that will be posted on YouTube afterward. Instructions on how to access these platforms are available on St Giles's website (<https://stgilesottawa.org/worshipservices/>)

How to Zoom

Following the worship service today (Sunday, February 21), there will be a Zoom testing / tutorial workshop for those who are unfamiliar with this online platform and wishing to learn more. Instruction on how to access this workshop is available on St Giles' website (<https://stgilesottawa.org/news/>)

Annual Meeting

Following the worship service of February 28, the Annual Meeting of the congregation will convene. All members and adherent of St Giles are welcome to attend either in-person or via the Zoom platform. The 2020 Annual Report is available on St Giles's website. Thanks to the Session of St Giles, physical copies will be delivered to mailbox of members and adherents of the congregation starting from February 21.

Income Tax Receipts

Your receipts were placed in the mail on Friday, February 19. If your letter doesn't show up or if you need your receipt sooner, contact the office to have a PDF of your receipt sent to you.

Events

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.

Monday, February 22 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour will meet by teleconference.



Friday, February 26 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study will continue by teleconference. Please prepare

Sunday, February 28 ~ 10:30 a.m.

We will reopen for **worship**.

Sunday, February 28 ~ after service
Annual Meeting

Mission Moment Certainty in the Midst of Change

We live in a world that is constantly changing. The past year brought unprecedented change, and we had to learn to adapt in our lives, jobs and congregations. In the midst of so much change, Presbyterians Sharing has continued to support the mission and ministry we do together — often in new and adaptive ways. What hasn't changed is our commitment to one another, discerning together, moving forward together, being in community together, sharing God's message together, confronting injustice together and caring for vulnerable people together. That's what Presbyterians Sharing is all about. As we put our gifts into God's hands, God is doing remarkable things.

God, we seek Your wisdom daily.
Be with people making decisions
that affect the lives and futures
of our families, communities,
countries, and the wider world.

We pray that they communicate
clearly, truthfully, and calmly
— with each other and with the public —
and that their messages are
received and heeded.

May truth and empathy be the
touchstones of people setting
policies for our protection.

