

ST GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Sunday, February 28, 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

Church Office, 181 First Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1S 2G3
613-235-2551 office@stgilesottawa.org www.stgilesottawa.org
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: There is none like you among the gods, O Lord

All: Nor are there any works like yours.

One: All the nations you have made shall come

All: And bow down before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

One: For you are great and do wondrous things;

All: You alone are God.

****Hymn: Holy, holy, holy**

299

- 1. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!
early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**
- 2. Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea,
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
who wert and art and evermore shalt be.**
- 3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though our eyes in sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.**
- 4. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
all thy works shall praise thy name in earth & sky & sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

Prayer of Adoration

O Creator God, how amazing is your creation of the cosmos, and of the humankind. How amazing that you continue to re-create us in your image.

As a potter working with clay, you sculpted a people for yourself out of the rocks of wilderness and fasting. As a covenantal God, you called out a people to yourself, as holy and righteous, not because of what we do, but because of who you are. We praise you, we give thanks to you, for in the glory of the cross, your Son embraced death and broke its hold over your people. Help us to take up your invitation to prayer and simplicity in these forty days of Lent. May these spiritual disciplines sharpen our hunger for the feast of your holy friendship, and wet our thirst for the living water you offer through Christ.

Draw near to us in our time of worship, O God, and open the way before us, so that we may follow Jesus without wavering, trusting him to lead us.

Prayer of Confession

Although following you brings joy, O God, we confess the way is sometimes hard for us. There are times we get tired and would eagerly settle for an easier road. Some days we find the task of loving others hard. Sometimes we choose anger over forgiveness, or ignore the needs of our neighbours. Forgive us when our commitment to you wavers. Forgive us when we take that easier path. Stir the embers of our devotion and kindle a brighter flame. Strengthen our determination to follow where you lead and renew our energy to serve in Jesus' name.

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

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. We are justified by God's grace which has come to us through Jesus Christ. By grace, we are forgiven and set free to find new life in Christ. Thanks be to God!

Scripture

First Reading: Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,

"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an

everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Psalm 22:22–31 Refrain 1



I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

**You who fear the Lord, praise God!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify God;
stand in awe, you offspring of Israel!**

For you, Lord, did not despise or disdain
the affliction of the afflicted;
**you did not hide his face from me,
but heard me when I cried to you.**

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord shall praise the Lord!
May your hearts live forever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord;

**and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.**

For dominion belongs to the Lord,
who rules over the nations.

**All who sleep in the earth
shall bow down to the Lord;**

all who go down to the dust,
shall bow before the Lord
and I shall live for God.

**Posterity shall serve the Lord;
future generations will be told about the Lord,
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that God has done it.**



Second Reading: Romans 4:13–25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So

numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness."

Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn: The God of Abraham praise**

331

- 1. The God of Abraham praise,
who rains enthroned above,
ancient of everlasting days, and God of love.
Almighty, great I Am! by earth and heaven confessed,
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.**
- 2. The God of Abraham praise,
at whose supreme command
from earth I rise and seek the joys at Gods right hand.
I all on earth forsake, it's wisdom, fame and power,
the Lord my only portion make, my shield and tower.**
- 5. There dwells the Lord our king,
the Lord our Righteousness;**

triumphant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace on Zion's sacred height God's kingdom still maintains, and glorious with the saints in light forever reigns.

6. The whole triumphant host
give thanks to God on high;
"hail, Father, Son and Holy Ghost" they ever cry.
Hail Abraham's God, and mine!
I join the heavenly lays;
all might and majesty are thine, and endless praise.

Sermon Reckoned as Righteousness

Prayers of the People

****Hymn: Glory to God** *(English, Latin, English)* 812

1. **Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!**
Glory to God, glory to God. Hallelujah, hallelujah!
2. **Gloria, gloria, in excelsis deo!**
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia! *Repeat verse 1*

Announcements

Offering (invitation)

Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow 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: My hope is built on nothing less**

349

1. **My hope is built on nothing less
then Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

Refrain

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand.**

2. **When darkness hides his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil.** *Refrain*

3. **His oath, his covenant, his blood
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay.** *Refrain*

4. **When He shall come with trumpet sound,
oh may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone.
Faultless stand before the throne.** *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 349 ~ Words: Edward Mote Music: William Batchelder Bradbury
Hymn 812 ~ Words: Luke 2:4 Music: Taizé Community
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Hymns 299 and 331 are in the public domain

Visitation and Funeral for Edna Fraser

Friday, March 5 ~ afternoon and evening

Visitation at Hulse, Playfair & McGarry at 315 McLeod. Contact 613- 233-1143 or www.hpmcgarry.ca to arrange your visit.

Funeral ~ Saturday, March 6 ~ 9:45 a.m. for 10:30 a.m.

The casket will be open for viewing between 9:45 and 10:15 a.m. The Funeral will commence at 10:30 a.m. followed by the burial at Pinecrest Cemetery, 2500 Baseline Road. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, there is limited capacity in the sanctuary.

Anyone who wishes to attend should contact Laurie Fraser at 867-333-6357 or shiplaf@yahoo.com

Service of Baptism / Reception of New Members

The Session of St Giles is organizing this Service on the upcoming Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021. For those wishing to know more about baptism, or confirmation of faith, or how to join the congregation of St Giles, please contact Rev. Paul Wu at 613-276-2551, or paulwu55@yahoo.ca

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 for helpful ideas.

<https://stilesottawa.org/news/>

We've Got Mail!



The Ottawa Mission is very grateful for the gift of \$475.00 received from St Giles. This donation will touch the lives of many lost and lonely people in our community and give them the gifts of hope and opportunity.

On behalf of all those who now have hope for a much better life, we want to thank you for your wonderful gift. We are very grateful for your generosity.

Blessings, Megan Felthan, Director of Annual Giving

(N.B. The \$475.00 was raised from our annual tradition of dedicating the open offering at the Christmas Eve service to The Ottawa Mission.)

Events

Monday, March 1 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour will meet by teleconference.



Wednesday, March 3 ~ 10:30 a.m

The **Presbyterian Women** will meet by teleconference.

Friday, March 5 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study on the Passion Narrative will continue by teleconference. Please prepare Matthew 26:17-35.

Friday, March 5 (World Day of Prayer)

We pray for wisdom and guidance to be better neighbours, to better care for the homeless, the elderly and those who are different from us, and to live in harmony with all of your creation.