

ST GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Sunday, March 7, 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 *Air* by Samuel Wesley

Call to Worship (from Psalm 104)

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, you are very great.

**All: You set the earth on its foundations,
so that it shall never be shaken.**

One: You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills,

**All: You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to use.**

One: May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works—

**All: May our meditation be pleasing to him,
for we rejoice in the Lord.**

****Hymn: Oh worship the King vs 1,4,5**

1. **Oh worship the King, all glorious above;
oh gratefully sing God's power and God's love,
our Shield and Defender the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.**

4. **Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.**

5. **O measureless Might, unchangeable Love,
while angels delight to hymn thee above,
the ransomed creation, in glory ablaze,
in true adoration shall sing to thy praise.**

Prayer of Adoration

Almighty God, you have set the whirling cosmos in motion and called all creatures into being. All that exists speaks of your majesty, yet no detail misses your care and attention. You know each of us by name, and make yourself known to those who seek you. Your wisdom delights the human heart and purifies the soul. We gather to enjoy your presence with us, and to listen for your Word for our times and our lives. God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, to you alone all worship, honour and glory are due, this day and every day, now and always.

Prayer of Confession

God of majesty and mercy, we are aware that you are present here and everywhere, drawing near to us. Yet we confess we are often distracted from your presence. Many things compete for our attention. We are tempted to seek things that cannot truly satisfy. We envy those who are successful in the world's terms, and so pursue our own desires, without questioning the cost to the earth or those in need. Forgive us, O God. Send us the Holy Spirit to awaken us to your purposes and pursue them with renewed commitment, for the sake of Jesus 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

Apostle Paul declared that the message of the Cross is foolishness to many, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God. By this power, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God for the wisdom to live as forgiven people.

Scripture

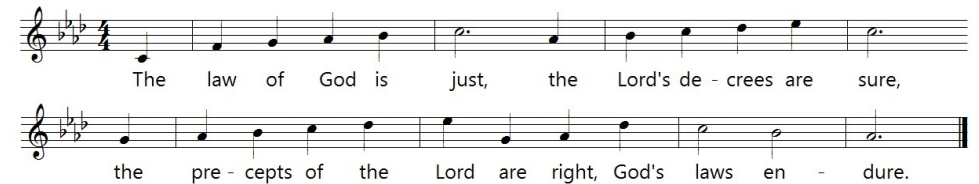
First Reading: Exodus 20:1–17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work — you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

Psalm 19 Refrain 1



The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

**Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**

There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

**yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

In the heavens God has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong runner pursues its course with joy.

**Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.**

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

**the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes;**

the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
**More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
But who can detect their errors?

**Clear me from hidden faults.
Keep back your servant also from proud thoughts;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.**

**Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18–25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God

through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn: Lift high the cross** **643**

Refrain

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

1. **Come, Christians, follow where the master trod,
our king victorious, Christ the son of God.** *Refrain*
3. **Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died.** *Refrain*
5. **So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory!** *Refrain*

Sermon Life-Giving Rules

Prayers of the People

****Hymn: We come to ask your forgiveness 201**

Refrain

**We come to ask forgiveness, O Lord,
and we seek forgiveness from each other.
Sometimes we build up walls instead of bridges to
peace, and we ask your forgiveness, oh Lord.**

- 1. Sometimes we hurt by what we do to others.
Sometimes we hurt with words that are untrue.
Sometimes we cause others pain by what we fail to do,
and we ask your forgiveness, O Lord. *Refrain***
- 2. For the times when we've been rude and selfish,
for the times when we have been unkind,
and for the times we refused to help our friends in
need, we ask your forgiveness, O Lord. *Refrain***

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: I heard the voice of Jesus say 671**

- 1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;**

**lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast!"**

**I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.**

- 2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down, and drink and live!"
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived
and now I live in him.**
- 3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun,
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.**

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 *Gavotte* by Samuel Wesley

Hymn 201 ~ Words and Music: Carey Landry

Hymn 643 ~ Words: George William Kitchin Music: Sydney H. Nicholson
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Hymns 313 and 671 are in the public domain

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/>

Mission Offerings

Twice a year the St Giles Presbyterian Women collect donations which are divided 50:50 between (1) Dr Pauline Brown Bursary Fund in India and (2) a local charity. The bursary fund supports education for hospital staff and community health workers in Jobat, India where St Giles member Pauline Brown lives. The local charity is chosen twice a year. This season we have chosen to support the Dementia Adult Day Program held at Abbotsford House, Glebe Centre. This program was greatly enjoyed by our own, much loved member, Edna Fraser who passed away on February 11, 2021. The women invite others who might like to contribute. Cheques should be made out to "St Giles Church" with "Women's Missions" on the memo line. They can be placed on the offering plate or mailed to the church.

Events

Monday, March 8 ~ International Women's Day

We give thanks for Presbyterian World Service & Development projects that work to break barriers to gender equality and empower women to achieve economic independence and improve their well-being.

Monday, March 8 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour will meet by teleconference.



Friday, March 12 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study on the Passion Narrative will continue by teleconference. Please prepare Matthew 26:35–56

Mission Moment

Staying Connected During the Pandemic

Serving Palestinians in Gaza, Jerusalem, the West Bank, Jordan and Lebanon since 1948, the work of the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) in health care, education and food security is essential. When COVID-19 struck, DSPR Director, Dr Bernard Sabella, knew they needed the support of their friends. DSPR invited partners to attend five webinars to learn and understand the economic and political challenges, and to hear from people working on the ground. Partners were asked to fund the webinars, and International Ministries was one of the first to respond. Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing have supported DSPR since 2011 in their ministry of maintaining human dignity and hope for Palestinian refugees.

