

ST GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Mitoraj, Igor. Head of John the Baptist, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

July 11, 2021

Greeting and Welcome

Leading in worship is our minister 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.

Interim Organist: Larry Kempffer
Guest Soloist: Garth Hampson

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg People. The Algonquin peoples have lived on this land since time immemorial. We are grateful to have the opportunity to be present in this territory.

Prelude

Call to Worship

One: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it.

All: The world and those who live in it belong to God.

One: Who is the King of glory?

All: The Lord, who is enthroned above the cherubim.

One: Of all the kings and kingdoms of the earth,

All: The Lord alone is God.

One: So lift up your heads and your hearts!

All: We will lift them up in praise!

One: Let us worship God in beauty and holiness.

All: We will offer God our steadfast love and faithfulness, now and always.

****Hymn: The kingdom of God is justice and joy 787**

**1. The kingdom of God is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.**

**2. The kingdom of God is mercy and grace:
the prisoners are freed, the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed, God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened in place of despair.**

**3. The kingdom of God is challenge and choice;
believe the good news; repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.**

**4. God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,
and all things cry, "Glory!" to God all in all.**

Prayer of Adoration

Gracious God, source of life and love in all creation, in a world marked by bitterness, you are compassion. In a culture marked by confusion, you are light shining in the darkness. In a time of conspiracies and suspicion, you are the truth that sets us free. Your stillness is peace when we are frantic. Your strength is comfort when we are fearful. Your wisdom is guidance when we are lost. For all that you are and all that you give, God, our Maker, Christ, our Saviour, and Spirit who leads us into life, we offer you all honour, praise and worship, in truth and in spirit.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Loving God, in a world marked by self-indulgence, you gave yourself for all. In a world marked by injustice, you send prophets to speak your words. In a world marked by vengeance, you are mercy and reconciliation. Forgive our selfishness; our lack of concern for the vulnerable; and our desire to settle scores rather than work things out. Renew us with your mercy and steadfast love. Strengthen our resolve to live generously, in words and deeds.

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! Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ — and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace!

Scripture

First Reading: Amos 7:7–15

This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the Lord said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

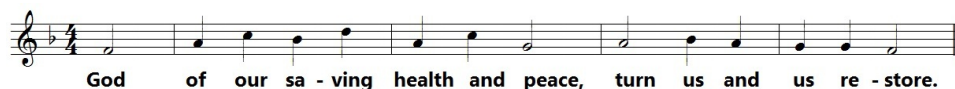
Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said,

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.'"

And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never

again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom." Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

Psalm 85:8–13 (*Refrain I*)



Let me hear what God will speak,
for the Lord will speak peace to the people,
to the faithful, to those who turn to God on their hearts.

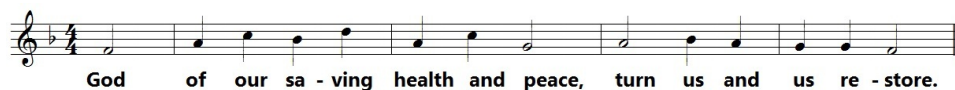
**Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear God,
that glory may dwell in our land.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

**Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

**Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.**



Second Reading: Mark 6:14–29

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one

of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him.

But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn: Isaiah the prophet has written of old**

782

- 1. Isaiah the prophet has written of old
how God's earthly kingdom shall come;
instead of the thorn tree the fir tree shall grow;
the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.
The mountains and hills shall break forth into song,
the people's be led forth in peace,
for the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God
as the waters cover the seas.**
- 2. Yet nations still pray on the meek of the world,
and conflict turns parent from child.
Your people despoil all the sweetness of earth;
the brier and the thorn grow wild.
Lord, hasten to bring in your kingdom on earth,
when no one shall hurt or destroy,
when wisdom and justice shall reign in the land,
and your people shall go forth in joy.**

Sermon Perplexed Yet Listening

Prayers of the People

****Hymn: Sing, praise and bless the Lord**

424

**Laudate Dominum, laudate Dominum
Omnes, gentes! Alleluia!
Sing, praise and bless the Lord.
Sing, praise and bless the Lord,
Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!**

**Praise the Lord, all you nations;
praise God all you peoples. Alleluia.**

**Strong is God's love and mercy,
always faithful forever. Alleluia.**

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Let everything living give praise to the Lord.

Sing, praise and bless the Lord.

Sing, praise and bless the Lord,

Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!

Passing of the Peace

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: Blest be the God of Israel 752**

**1. Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, who grants us liberty.**

The prophets spoke of mercy, of rescue and release;

God shall fulfil the promise to bring the gift of peace.

**2. Now from the house of David a child of grace has come,
a Saviour who will lead us to our eternal home.**

**Before him goes his herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the messenger of day.**

**On those who live in darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinners eyes;
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.
Oh bless our God and Saviour with songs that never cease!**

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



Joint **Summer Services** continue the next two weeks (July 18 and 25) at Southminster United Church. For a complete schedule with links and bulletin, please consult this page:

stgilesottawa.org/summer-services-2021/ Worship service at St Giles will resume on August 22.

We are pleased to announce that **Josée (Jo) Landry** will be joining the music ministry of St Giles as a Soloist, starting from August 22, 2021. She is a Masters student in the vocal program of the University of Ottawa. Her YouTube channel can be accessed here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/jotastic98>

St Giles is currently searching for a new **Music Director**. Rob Brandon is chairing the search committee. For more information, please consult:

<https://stgilesottawa.org/search-for-music-director/>

Last week we reported that we had sent **Care Packages** to six Camerons in Ukraine. This week we sent a care package to a Cameron in Mali.

Events

Sunday, August 22 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Services resume at St Giles.

Thursday, August 26 ~ 7:30 p.m.

Session will meet. The location is to be determined.

NEW DATE: September 19 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Anniversary Sunday — We will welcome the Rev Dr Roland De Vries, Principal of the Presbyterian College.



October 14-16, 2021

This year's Synod Conference will be offered virtually.

Climate Change: What Can I Do? Christian Caring for

Creation. Our keynote speaker is Dr. Normal Wirzba from Duke University. He will present 3 plenary sessions: What Kind of World Are We In? What is the Point of the World? Eating Our Way to Heaven. On Friday evening, October 15, we will have a Climate Change Town Hall, moderated by Thomas Mulcair. The invited panel includes Dr. Norman Wirzba of Duke University, David Heurtel, former Quebec Minister of the Environment, Dr. Jessica Moerman, an environmental scientist, and Dr. Caroline Begg, an ecological agriculturalist. www.vimeo.com/568505277

Mission Moment: From Outcast to Owner in Ghana

Aruk Atampure spends each day earning an income as the proprietor of a store in a community in Ghana. When Aruk was a small child, he contracted polio and lost partial use of his legs, causing him to be stigmatized by his family and others in the community. One day, a staff member from the Presbyterian World Service & Development-supported Garu Community Based Rehabilitation program encouraged Aruk to enrol in the program, where he received entrepreneurial training. Reflecting on the help he received at every stage of this journey, Aruk commented, "I am so grateful."

