

ST GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Return of the Prodigal Son,
carved wood sculpture by Marie Romero Cash

March 27, 2022

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 sermon texts and 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.

Music Director: Heather Rice 613-563-1409 gowans978@gmail.com

Vocalist: Jo Landry

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 *Andante Tranquillo* from *Sonata in A* by Felix Mendelssohn

Call to Worship

One: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation!

All: Thanks be to God for such great mercy.

One: Everything old has passed away;
see, everything has become new!

All: Thanks be to God for new beginnings!

One: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation
through Christ Jesus.

All: Together we will make a new beginning in Christ!

One: Let us worship God with joyful hearts,
trusting God to renew us and all things.

**All: We will lift our praises to God
with hearts refreshed by grace.**

****Hymn: Come, let us sing**

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**1. Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true, tender and true;
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.**

**2. Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell
joyfully came, joyfully came,
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame:
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.**

**3. Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
why do they roam? why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget;
home, weary wanderers, home:
wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.**

**4. Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love;
come and abide, come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride:
seeking to be, seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.**

Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

Merciful God, we gather to worship you in humility and hope because we believe you have the power to change the world; to change the world for the better. We gather to worship you trusting that no one or situation is beyond your concern or your love. Such grace astonishes us. Without your grace we cannot imagine how to live and breath and to be. Inspire us with a vision of your kingdom which will change the world and our lives through the love and mercy we meet in Jesus Christ, your Son and our Saviour.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Loving God, when we pause for a moment in your presence, the daily details of our lives press in on us. We recall things left undone, opportunities ignored. We recall careless words spoken, disappointments that trouble our souls. In silence we offer to you our misspent moments and missed opportunities:

(a period of silence is observed)

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 that the apostle Paul declares: What can separate us from the love of Christ? Hardship? Distress? Peril or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through the God who loves us. Neither death nor life, things present nor things to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Thanks be to God for such a promise!

Scripture

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16–21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old

has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 32 *(with refrain 2)*



Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**Blessed are those whom the Lord does not hold guilty,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;

**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;

at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.

**You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.**

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;

I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

**Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.
Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

Second Reading: Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable:

“There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer

worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe — the best one — and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

Reader: This is the word of the Lord,

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: *Now We Are Ambassadors* by Felix Mendelssohn

Now we are ambassadors in the Name of Christ.
And in his holy Name, be reconciled to God.

Sermon Between Lost and Found

Prayers of the People

****Hymn: Christ's is the world 758**

1. **Christ's is the world in which we move;
Christ's are the folk we're summoned to love;
Christ's is the voice which calls us to care,
and Christ is the one who meets us here.**

Refrain

**To the lost, Christ shows his face;
to the unloved, he gives his embrace;
to those who cry in pain or disgrace,
Christ makes, with his friends, a touching place.**

2. **Feel for the people we most avoid —
strange or bereaved or never employed.
Feel for the women and feel for the men
who fear that their living is all in vain. *Refrain***
3. **Feel for the parents who've lost their child,
feel for the women whom men have defiled,
feel for the baby for whom there's no breast,
and feel for the weary who find no rest. *Refrain***
4. **Feel for the lives by life confused,
riddled with doubt, in loving abused;
feel the lonely heart, conscious of sin,
which longs to be pure but fears to begin. *Refrain***

Passing of the Peace

Announcements

Offering

**Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow 830
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

Prayer of Dedication

****Hymn: Help us accept each other 632 to tune #801**

1. **Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.**
2. **Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all — not just for some,
to love them as we find them or as they may become.**
3. **Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.**
4. **Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!**

Benediction

Postlude *Con Moto Maestoso* from *Sonata in A* by Felix Mendelssohn

Recommendation on Masking

The Session of St Giles, in consultation with the Finance & Maintenance Committee, is recommending that members and adherents of the congregation should continue to wear masks when attending services at St Giles, in our efforts to protect those who may be immunocompromised. This recommendation will be reviewed by the Session on a monthly basis.

Our Events

Monday, March 28 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour will meet by teleconference.

Thursday, March 31 ~ 3:00p.m.

Choir Practice

Friday, April 1 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study is continuing the study of Tobit by teleconference

Wednesday, April 6 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Taizé Service. All welcome.

Friday, April 15 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Our **Good Friday Service** will be a shared service with the Bytown Community Church. Members of both congregations will take part and Pastor Dan Reid will be giving the sermon.

Community Events

Saturday, April 2 ~ 7:30 p.m.

Johannes Brahms, *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, a performance by the Rideau Chorale at Southminster Church, 15 Aylmer Avenue.

Tickets can be had at www.eventbrite.ca In-person seating (limited) and live-streaming options for this event.

Ukraine Crisis Appeal

Thousands of refugees from across Ukraine are desperately trying to get to safety in other countries. The invasion of Ukraine has created a humanitarian crisis. This devastating conflict has already displaced hundreds of thousands of people. The most urgent needs are for food, water and shelter. To help respond quickly to the escalating situation, PWS&D is receiving donations for Ukraine. As a member of ACT Alliance and Canadian Foodgrains Bank, we are well placed to provide urgently needed food and non-food support. ACT Alliance members have already begun setting up refugee support points and sending relief supplies to Ukraine. Canadian Foodgrains Bank members are also planning a response with urgently needed food assistance.

Please mark your donations: **PWS&D Ukraine**

Mission Moment

In Nepal, Pallu Oli knew something wasn't right when he felt a burning sensation on his leg. After seeing the doctor, Pallu was prescribed medicine but did not feel better after taking it. As his health worsened, Pallu wondered why he hadn't healed yet. His son suggested that he visit the Shining Hospital. At the hospital, Pallu was diagnosed with leprosy and entered a treatment program (which he has since completed). Sharing his experience, Pallu expressed, "I am very happy that my disease is diagnosed and is treated accordingly."

*The Shining Hospital is supported by
Presbyterian World Service
& Development.*

