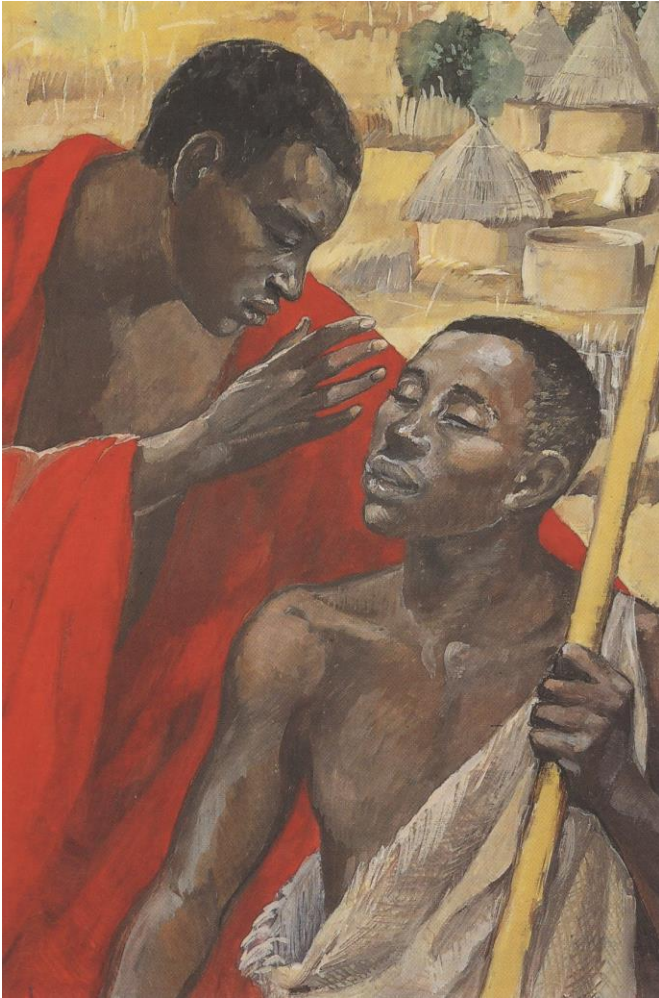


# St Giles Presbyterian Church



**Jesus cures the man born blind**, from Art in the Christian Tradition, JESUS MAFA (a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa).

**March 19, 2023**

# **St Giles Presbyterian Church**

## **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 an accessible 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.

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 Administrators: Patricia Brush and Rosemary Bann

Office hours: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

Vocalist: Katie Gratton

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: *Aria* by J.S. Bach

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: The Lord is our shepherd

**All: God leads us by still waters.**

One: Christ restores our souls.

**All: The Spirit leads us in right paths.**

One: Let us worship God who is always with us.

**All: We will praise our God, trusting in God's goodness and mercy!**

**\*\*Hymn: Return, Redeemer God** by Michael Forster  
(to the tune #457)

**Return, Redeemer God,  
With judgment and with healing:  
Our wayward hearts restore,  
Your light and truth revealing.**

**O leave us not alone,  
Nor let us go astray,  
But open every heart  
To know your perfect way.**

**Here let us wait and pray  
To greet the Lord returning,  
As watchers in the night  
With beacons ever burning:  
For none can know the hour  
His people long to see,  
When Christ, with justice, comes  
To set creation free.**

**May grace and peace be ours,  
From God the Father flowing,  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
His perfect truth bestowing.  
This Fellowship we share,  
The Father and the Son,  
Who with the Spirit, Three,  
Eternally are One.**

Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

Gracious and loving God, you are the source of all that sustains us. You are compassion, embracing us when we call for help. You are mercy guiding us

through anxious times. You are wisdom, revealing truth to challenge and renew us. Holy One, you bless us with your presence day by day, so we turn to you in worship, to seek your blessing once again. We offer you our love and loyalty, our prayers and our praise, for you are Love, Light and Life for us, and we yours

### Unison Prayer of Confession

**God of life and love, these days we confess that events around us shake our trust in your love. When terror strikes and innocents fall, we wonder if love can defeat violence. When truth is twisted by misleading claims, we wonder if love can prevail over lies. When we face trouble, we wonder if you love us at all. Forgive us, God, when we lose our trust in your love.**

### 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. Amen**

## Assurance of Pardon

Brothers and sisters in Christ, remember the words of St Paul: "Neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus." Today, let us trust that, no matter what is happening around us, no matter what we have done, God's deep love will never let us go. May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

## Scripture

First Reading: John 9:1–12

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others

were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

Responsive Reading: Psalm 23 (*with refrain 1*)

Second Reading: John 9:13–41

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and

asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here



is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**\*\*Hymn: Open the eyes of my heart**

(by Michael W. Smith)

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,  
Open the eyes of my heart;  
I want to see You, I want to see You. (Repeat)**

**To see You high and lifted up,  
Shining in the light of Your glory.  
Pour out Your power and love,  
As we sing holy, holy, holy.**

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,  
Open the eyes of my heart;  
I want to see You, I want to see You.**

**To see You high and lifted up,  
Shining in the light of Your glory.  
Pour out Your power and love,  
As we sing holy, holy, holy. (Repeat)**

**Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy;  
Holy, holy, holy; I want to see You.**

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,  
Open the eyes of my heart;  
I want to see You, I want to see You. (Repeat)**

Sermon: Surely We Are Not Blind

Prayers of the People

**\*\*Hymn: Amazing Grace**

**670**

Passing of the Peace

Announcements

Offering

**Doxology:**

**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: Be thou my vision**

**461**

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: *In Memoriam* by Denis Bédard

## Mission Moment

Hawa Issifu lives in Ghana with her husband. Hawa became ill with a disease that caused damage to her spinal cord. Her husband explored every option available to them in search of a remedy but found none. One day, Hawa was registered for assistance at the Garu Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Centre by the Centre's field staff during a community survey. With the support of Presbyterian World Service & Development, the CBR program provided Hawa with a tricycle and wheelchair, as well as business training and access to start-up capital for a small business. **This assistance helped Hawa get around independently, and her business is gradually expanding and creating new opportunities for her family.**



 Presbyterian  
World Service  
& Development



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

## St Giles Events

**Monday, March 20 ~ 11:00 a.m.**

**Coffee Hour** by teleconference.

**Thursday, March 23 ~ 5:30 p.m.**

**Choir Practice**

**Friday, March 24 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

**Bible Study** (by teleconference) Introduction to the Book of Job.

**Wednesday, March 22 ~ 7:00 p.m.**

**Session Meeting**

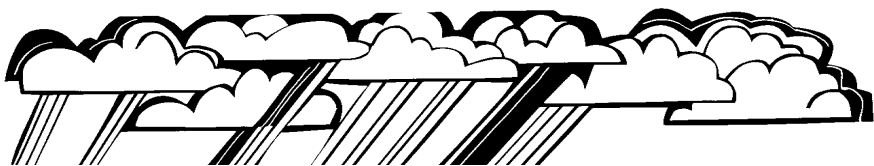
**Wednesday, April 5 ~ 5:00 p.m.**

**Prayer Group** (Lectio Divina) will be meeting in person at St Giles. All are welcome.

**Friday, April 7 ~ 10:30 a.m.**

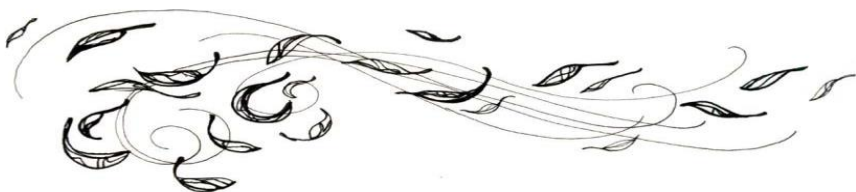
**Good Friday Service** in partnership with Bytown Community Church.





## **Pray for Those Affected by Tropical Storm Freddy**

For the second time in a month, Tropical Storm Freddy has wreaked havoc in Mozambique and Malawi. The storm's heavy rainfall has caused flooding in Malawi's southern district of Blantyre, resulting in the destruction of homes, roads and bridges. In response to the disaster, PWS&D is supporting its partner in Malawi to aid in rescue operations and conduct needs assessments ahead of future response efforts.



## **Be aware of Fraudulent Fundraising**

The PCC is aware of at least one instance of a member of a Presbyterian congregation receiving a phone call pressuring them to donate monthly to PWS&D. PWS&D and the PCC do not solicit funds over the phone and will never call demanding banking or credit card information.