

St Giles Presbyterian Church



'In the bulb there is a flower', photo by the Rev. Larry Hollon, of the United Methodist Church

March 26, 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

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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: *Ich folge dir (I follow you)* by J.S. Bach
Vocalist: Katie Gratton

I follow you likewise, with joyful steps and do not leave you my life, my light.

Bring me on my way and do not cease to pull, push and urge me on.

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: More than those who watch for the morning,

All: we wait faithfully for God.

One: With our questions and our cries, in our hopes and expectations,

All: we wait faithfully for God.

One: Come, let us worship the Lord our God together,

All: and offer our prayers and praise in faithfulness.

One: For the Lord God is beyond all praising

****Hymn: O God beyond all praising**

448

Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

God in whom we live and move and have our being, we praise you. In the face of all that wearies us and worries us, your Word echoes across generations with hope. As we follow the footsteps of Jesus in this Lenten season, his Cross standing before us. We trust you are never far from our sorrows, walking with us, sharing our tears. In this time of worship, renew our trust in your resurrection promises. Draw near to us when we need you the most with love that will never let us go. And so we offer you our wonder and our praise in the name of Jesus who is the Resurrection and the Life.

Unison Prayer of Confession

God who knows us through and through, we confess our memories can cause us to struggle with our faith. We remember difficult times and wonder where you were. We remember tragedies and ask how you could let them happen. We remember our own mistakes and wonder how you could love us. Forgive us when our memories turn us away from you. Remind us that your love never lets us go and that its power holds us and heals us in every desperate moment.

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 11:1–16

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom

you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Responsive Reading: Psalm 130 (*with refrain 1*)

Second Reading: John 11:17–45

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had

been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn: In the bulb there is a flower** **674**

Sermon: I Am the Resurrection and the Life

Prayers of the People

****Hymn: Those who wait on the Lord** **662**

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: Blessed Assurance** **687**

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: *Dialogue Sur Les Grands Jeux* by F. Couperin

St Giles Events

Monday, March 27 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour by teleconference.



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

Choir Practice

Friday, March 31 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study (teleconference) the Book of Job 1:6-2:13.

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.



Condolences

With deep sadness, we regret to inform you of the passing of Robert (Bob) Fourney, in the morning of March 23, 2023. He died peacefully in his sleep, while surrounded by family members. Bob has been a long time member of St. Giles, who had blessed many others in his life. He will surely be missed. Further updates on funeral arrangement to come.

Pray for Those Affected by Tropical Storm Freddy

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. Please, say a prayer for the affected communities as they begin the long road to recovery.

Centretown Emergency Food Centre



Over 8,000 people received food assistance from the Food Centre in 2022. There were newcomers from Afghanistan and Ukraine as well as those experiencing food insecurity due to inflation.

The support of CCSAC churches is essential to the operation of the Food Centre. They are very grateful for the donation of \$348.22 made by our congregation at **St Giles Presbyterian Church**. Those donations were used to purchase healthy food choices, such as fruit, vegetables, ground beef, chicken, milk, and eggs.

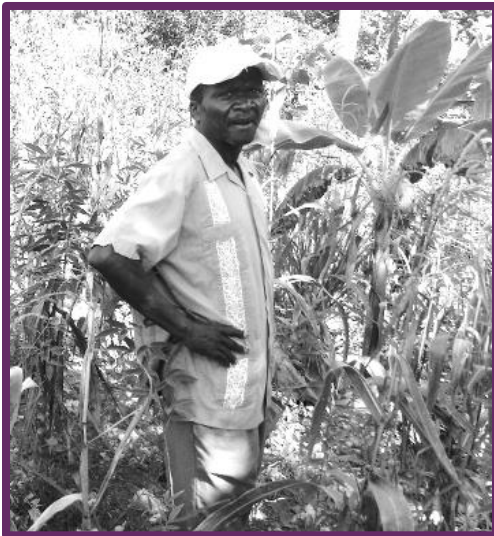


Community Event

An inter-faith demonstration of support for the Uyghurs minorities, who are being persecuted by the Chinese Government, is being organized by Stop Uyghur Genocide Canada. The protest will take place, at 515 St. Patrick Street, on Monday, April 3, from 3 to 4 pm. Please come out and join us.

Mission Moment

In Haiti, Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) is supporting farmers and their families. As a farmer, 62-year-old Emmanuel Joseph has experienced changes to his land for decades. When Emmanuel joined a farmer's collective supported by PWS&D in 2013, he began learning conservation agriculture practices like composting and crop rotation. Now, Emmanuel's garden produces more and better food year-round, and his wife is able to bring produce to the market to sell. Projects focusing on food security benefit farmers and their loved ones by providing education and resources to help achieve better food security and address the impacts of climate change — both now and in the future.



The Presbyterian Church in Canada