

St Giles Presbyterian Church

**WHY ARE YOU STANDING AROUND
LOOKING UP TO HEAVEN?**



From the Pastor Blog of Robert Hurst, United Church of Huntsville

May 21, 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.

We welcome Bronwyn Kelly as our vocalist this morning.

Prelude: *All Things Bright and Beautiful* by Robert Smith

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Let us be joyful before God!

All: We will sing praises to God's holy name

One: Let us lift up a song to the One who rides upon the clouds,

All: who protects orphans and widows, and gives the desolate a home.

One: Sing to God, all nations of the earth;

All: We will sing praises to the Lord, our God!

****Hymn: Hail the day that sees Christ rise**

265

Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

God of Majesty and Mystery, we praise you as Lord of all, maker of the multiple dimensions and delicate details of all that is. You live beyond time and hold all our days in your hands. You still come to us in Jesus as Lord of Mercy, to walk with us wherever we are in the world. You claim us as beloved children, blessed by the Spirit in his name. Receive our prayers and praise this day, and inspire us to live as witnesses to your grace and goodness here and everywhere, now and always.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus Christ, you call us to carry the Good News of God's love and forgiveness to the ends of the earth. Yet we often cannot find the words to tell others of our faith and hope. We fall silent when we should speak up. We try to act out your love, but we confess we usually act in our own best interests. Forgive us all the ways we fail to follow you.

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

While it is true that we have all fallen short in our call to follow Jesus, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through his grace. Remember the Good News! In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. Be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

Scripture

First Reading: Ephesians 1:15–23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love[a] toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this

power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Psalm 47 (with refrain 2)

Second Reading: Acts 1:1–11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the

kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn:** Open my eyes, that I may see

500

Sermon: Why are you looking up?

Prayers of the People

****Hymn:** Lord, spak to me

767

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: Jesus shall reign where're the sun**

275

Benediction

Postlude: *Postlude in G* by Arnold Cooke

St Giles Events

Monday, May 22 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour by teleconference.

Thursday, May 25 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice - Come and join us in the singing.

Friday, May 26 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study by teleconference. The Book of Job (12-14)

Saturday May 27 ~ 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Great Glebe Garage Sale

Sunday June 4 ~ Immediately after service

Emergent Congregational Meeting

Saturday June 10 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Dr Pauline Brown Memorial Service.



be accepted. We need lots of baking, plus muffins for the coffee corner. Volunteers are needed in all areas. If you can help, speak to Kaye Tate. 613-521-5625.

Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Program for 2023

Pastoral care helps to develop skills to become a compassionate and sustaining presence with others, and to support one another in ministry. OPCTP would like to highlight its up coming fall courses for 2023, in Basic Course, Advanced Course and a Continuing Education Event. For further information there are brochures on the Welcome table of St Giles or visit

www.ottawapastoralcare.com.

St Giles Art Exhibition ~ African Textiles

The next St. Giles art exhibition will feature textiles from Africa. They will be on display from July through to September. If you have any lengths of cloth from any country in Africa that we could select from for display in the Sanctuary, please drop it/them off at the church office with your name attached or contact Laura Brandon at laura@laurabrandon.ca to arrange a transfer time.

Thank you!

Mission Moment

When Esther was 13 years old, she got her period for the first time—just one day before the Malawi national primary school examinations, which would determine whether she would be admitted to secondary school. Esther was instructed by the older women in her village to not leave home and remain indoors for the next seven days in adherence with village customs. Caroline, an outreach volunteer for girls' rights, learned about Esther's situation and enlisted the help of the village's chief to speak with Esther's parents about letting her leave home isolation to write the exam. Esther was permitted to write her exam, allowing her to advance to secondary school. **With Presbyterian World Service & Development's support, local partners are raising**

awareness about the importance of girls' education for a successful future.



Presbyterian
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The Presbyterian Church in Canada