

St Giles Presbyterian Church



December 03, 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 Administrator: 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: *Home of the Soul* by Van Denman Thompson
Welcome

Call to Worship

Voice 1: The prophets call and the psalmist sings
to announce that hope comes from God.

Voice 2: "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence." (Isaiah 64) "We shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living." (Psalm 27)

Voice 1: The world cries for justice and transformation. Advent summons us to watch, to wait and to hope. In the destruction of the current order is the promise of a new order beyond our imagination. Signs of hope are all around us if we have the patience to wait and to see them.

Voice 2: Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

All: Jesus Christ comes as the hope of the world.

Voice 2: We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

All: We light this candle to bear witness to hope.

While lighting the candle of hope sing verse 1 of

A Candle Is Burning

**A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our heart's we prepare now, for Jesus is nigh.**

Words by Sandra Dean 1986
Used with permission

****Hymn:** Come, thou long-expected Jesus **110**

Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

Creator God, maker of the heavens and the earth. You set the planets in their courses, lit the sun with fire, caused the stars to shine and the world to turn. Life springs up wherever your breath moves. In Jesus Christ, you brought hope into a world full of fear and despair. You sent your Spirit to enliven us and guide us on the way. Now we wait in anxious times for the world to be made new. Move in us and in all your creation to bring forth new life, while we wait with hope.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Redeeming God, we confess that waiting is difficult when the world around us is on edge. We are impatient with each other, waiting for someone to make a difference. We are impatient with you, O God, waiting for a sign that things

will improve. Forgive us, O God. Turn our hearts to you again and again, and show us how to act in hope for sake of Jesus.

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

Hear the Good News! There is nothing we have done, nothing we will ever do, that can separate us from the love of God made known in Jesus Christ. Take hope in this love, and live as forgiven and forgiving people.

Scripture

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1–9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your
presence.

From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 *(with refrain 1)*

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!

**You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,
shine forth
before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.**

**Stir up your might,
and come to save us!**

Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's
prayers?

**You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

**You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.**

Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.

**Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.**

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn:** Jesus, where’er thy people meet **431**

Sermon Restore Us, O God

Prayers of the People

****Hymn:** Jesus, lover of my soul **676**

Passing of the Peace

Announcements

Offering

**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:** We are God's people

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Benediction

Postlude *Chorus in C Minor*

by George Blake



St Giles Events

Monday, December 04 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour by teleconference.

Wednesday, December 06 ~ 10:30 a.m.

St Giles Women's Association will meet by teleconference.

Wednesday, December 06 ~ 5:00 p.m.

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

Thursday, December 07 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice

Friday, Dec 8 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study has finished the Book of Job. We will take a pause. Resumption to be determined. If you have a suggestion for the next book to study, please contact the Rev. Wu.





Update: Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI)

The presentation A Meaningless Hour by Tom Sherwood presented at St Giles in October, raised over \$700.00 in support of MHI. It's not too late to donate to MHI, either directly to MHI or through St. Giles. Giving Tuesday is November 28th should you wish to donate to MHI and other missions or charities

MHI exists to build affordable housing and aims to provide at-risk people with secure, safe homes. A roof over your head means better health, more stability. MHI is a not-for-profit charitable organization in Ottawa, Canada established in 2002.

Together we can make a difference. If you would like to be involved in on going missions please connect with an elder or email the office at office@stgilesottawa.org.



"Things at camp can get really busy, especially in the summer. When the quiet times come, I am left to reflect on everything that we accomplished. Thank you to the staff for all their hard work! Thank you to the board for their advice and the many volunteer hours they dedicate to the camp! Thank you to our many volunteers, donors and supporters for their tireless efforts in supporting this Christian community! Thank you all!"

Mark Hamilton, Managing Director.

Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre would not exist without the generous donations of so many people. We invite you to partner with us in the mission of the camp, to invite all people to experience the loving presence of the living God, in creation, in Christ and in Christian community.

Donations can be e-transferred to

info@gracefieldcamp.ca or sent online at

www.gracefieldcamp.ca or donated through St Giles??

Mission Moment

On World Humanitarian Day, we honour countless individuals who have dedicated themselves to making a difference in the lives of others. Humanitarian work is often challenging, and those undertaking it face many risks, yet they continue to work tirelessly, motivated to help others and improve the world. From PWS&D partners who deliver food, water, and other essential supplies to those who work without respite to rebuild communities after disasters, humanitarian workers play a crucial role in ensuring the well-being of those in need. We also recognize the need for sustained support and investment in humanitarian efforts to address the root causes of human-made crises and provide lasting solutions for those in need. On World Humanitarian Day, let us recognize humanitarian workers and renew our commitment to supporting their vital work.



The Presbyterian Church in Canada