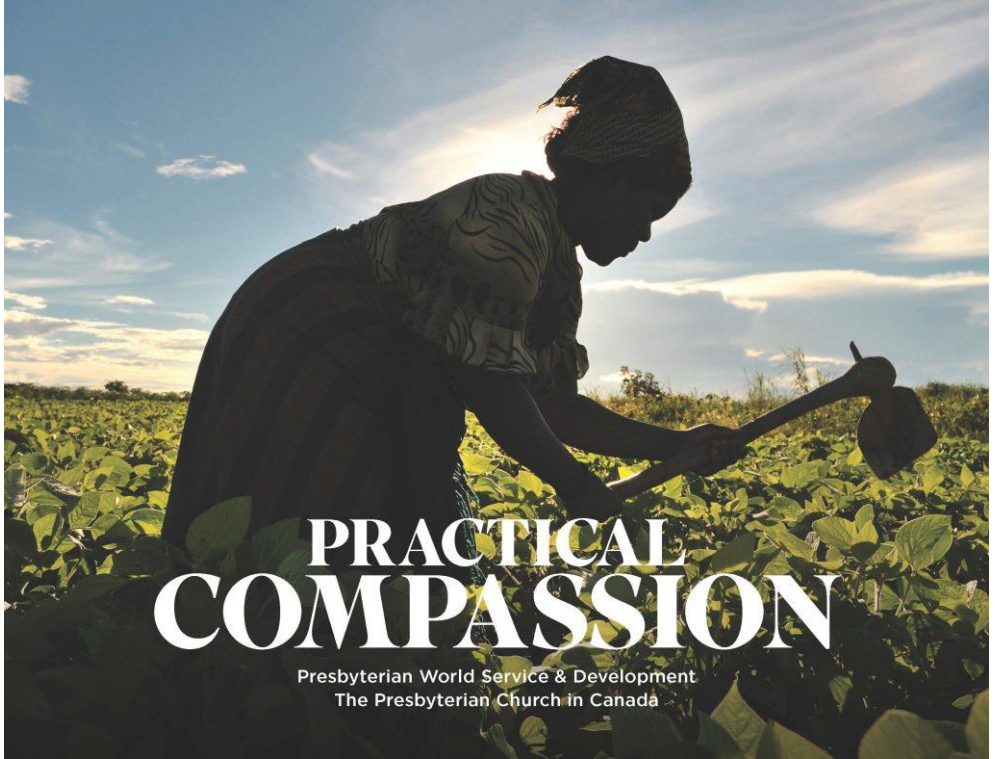


St Giles Presbyterian Church



PRACTICAL COMPASSION

Presbyterian World Service & Development
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

February 4, 2024

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 available. Please speak with an usher, if you have any questions. 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: *My Faith, It Is An Oaken Staff* by Stewart Landon

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We come as worshippers

All: Ready to worship Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit!

One: We come as listeners

**All: Ready to hear the voice of the Spirit
moving in this community!**

One: We come as participants

All: Ready to tend to the new life that is springing up!

One: We come as children of God

All: Beloved, embraced and free!

****Hymn:** Sing your praise to God eternal

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Prayer of Adoration

Holy God of amazement and wonder, you are the God of the Universe made known in Jesus Christ. You are the source of life and hope, the Creator of all things. We praise you for your creative power, your endless love and your peace that surpasses all understanding. You breathe life into your creatures, and we breathe every breath for you. We marvel at

the intricacies of the natural world, the human body, the cosmos— you made all of these, and you tend and care for each element of your creation with a love that is so perfect, so all-encompassing. And so, we worship you as the one who created us, who loves us and who guides us.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Generous God, you have invited us to love as you have loved. As much as we try to imitate you, we fall short. The earth suffers because we have not treated it gently or with compassion. Our neighbours are hungry and lonely, and we cannot summon the courage or the energy to help. Despite our awe of you, we pretend that we have all the answers. Your peace eludes us, because human beings seem to prefer violence and war. Your whole earth groans in labour, waiting for you to do something new. Raise up newness within us – within ourselves and within our community, so that we might find fresh life, and a renewed Spirit.

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

Jesus Christ was born, lived, died and rose again. All so that we could understand how much we are loved. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven for our sins. May we go forward to tend new life in our midst.

Scripture

First Reading: Exodus 1:15–21

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

Psalms 104:24–34 *(with refrain 3)*

O Lord, how manifold are your works!

**In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

Yonder is the sea, great and wide,

**creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.**

There go the ships,

and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

These all look to you

**to give them their food in due season;
when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.**

When you hide your face, they are dismayed;

**when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.**

**When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.**

May the glory of the Lord endure forever;

may the Lord rejoice in these works—

who looks on the earth and it trembles,

who touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

**May my meditation be pleasing to the Lord,
in whom I rejoice.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Praise the Lord!

Second Reading: Romans 8:18–27

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn:** Breath on me, breath of God **389**

Sermon Creation Groans

Prayers of the People

****Hymn:** He's got the whole world in his hands **339**

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:** Lord, you give the great commission **778**

Benediction

Postlude *I Will Praise Thee*

by Benton Price



St Giles Events

Monday, February 05 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour by teleconference.

Thursday, February 08 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice all are invited to attend.

Friday, February 09 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study Romans 2:17–3:8, theme “No one is righteous...not the Jews,” by teleconference.

Tuesday Feb 13 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Pancake Tuesday in the banquet hall.

Wednesday Feb 14 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary

Joining the Meeting, Conference Call or Bible Study

1. Three to five minutes before the start time, call toll-free 1-888-884-4539.
2. You will be asked to enter a passcode number which is 7455703#.
3. Make sure to press the # after the number.
4. You will then be asked to say your name. Say it.
5. Press the # again.



From The Session

To allow more time for preparation, the upcoming congregational meeting of St Giles, originally scheduled for Feb 25, has been postponed by one week, to March 3.

Glory be to God

The text of our opening hymn, 'Come Sing O Church In Joy' was written by Brian Dill in 1988. It was the winner in a hymn competition sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Bicentennial Committee for the 1988-1989 observance, which had the theme 'Celebrate the Journey'.



Singing is a very healthy activity. As one organist/choir director said, 'Music takes us beyond the words.' It is spiritual. The fun and friendships that comes from this are God's gift.

Give it a try. You can speak to me, Heather Rice at coffee hour or use my email: gowans978@gmail.com. Soli Deo Gloria

Pancakes and Ash

St. Giles is again partnering with Bytown Community Church to put together 'Pancake Tuesday' dinner (Feb 13, 6pm) and Ash Wednesday service (Feb 14, 7pm). We hope these event will foster closer cooperation between the two congregations, engage the wider community, and mark the beginning of the season of Lent. Please come and invite your friends.

Condolences

We are saddened by the passing of William Alexander Brien on January 26, 2024. The funeral took place on February 2, 2024 at Hulse, Playfair & McGarry in a service presided by the Rev. Paul Wu. May God be gracious with the family.

Friday Bible Study

The Book of Romans was written by the Apostle Paul, around 55-57 A.D. It is sometimes considered by biblical scholars as a systematic theology outlined by Paul, especially on justification and salvation. Others have called it the Good News according to Paul. This book offers a breathtaking theological and spiritual vision that is relevant to the ancient and contemporary readers alike. Come and join us! For more information, please contact Rev. Paul Wu.

Centretown Community Food Centre

The number of people visiting the Centretown Community Food Centre increased 54% in 2023 compared to 2022. We are now providing food for over 1,200 people every month! In order to meet this increased demand, the Food Centre will be open one more day each week starting in March.

To make this happen we need some additional volunteers for Client Service on Thursdays from 12pm to 3pm and for Shelf Stocking and Food Portioning on Fridays from 8am to 10am.

Please contact Diana Mahaffy, manager@ccfcottawa.ca, if you would like to volunteer at the Food Centre and help us meet this need in our community.

Mission Moment

For decades, Presbyterian World Service & Development has faithfully dedicated itself to serving those in need across the globe. In collaboration with our valued partners, PWS&D is actively contributing to positive transformation within our global community. From responding to emergencies to helping families and communities access nutritious food, clean water, adequate health care and quality education, PWS&D is helping people thrive. As people of faith, we respond to Christ's call to walk with the distressed and marginalized, work towards equality, the restoration of human dignity, peace, and care for God's creation. Together, we are working towards a sustainable, compassionate and just world.



The Presbyterian Church in Canada