

St Giles Presbyterian Church



***Cross with Wheat Chaff**, Benton Chapel, Vanderbilt University,
Nashville, TN*

March 17, 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: *Beauty in God's Creation* by A.F. Schultz

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Come, all who desire to know God.

All: We come, for we want to see Jesus.

One: Come, all who thirst for the Spirit.

All: We come, for God is in our midst this day.

One: So let us praise God's holy name.

All: We will worship God with heart, mind, strength and soul, and declare God's goodness to us.

****Hymn:** Your word, O God, awoke the uncreated **508**

Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

Creating God, loving Christ, guiding Spirit, with the promise of spring and new life awakening, you wake us from our slumbers. You are faithful to us through every season of the year and every season of life. The hope you offer in Jesus Christ draws us together, as your Spirit rises within our hearts. Even as the cross looms on the horizon, we praise you for the courage

and compassion Jesus, which bring renewal to us in the midst of all our challenges. We praise you, O God, for such love that will never let us go.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious and Loving God, as we draw closer to the Cross, we recognize ways we fall short of your hope for us. We get lost in our own concerns and neglect to show love, even to those right beside us. We find some people too difficult to care for. We think others unworthy of your love and ours. Forgive us and renew a right spirit within us, so that we find the courage to go on and the compassion to reach out in your

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 said, Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Friends, trust that peace and forgiveness are God's gifts to you this day. Be renewed by the power of the Spirit that moves with you into each new day.

Scripture

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31–34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Psalms 119:9–16 (*with refrain 1*)

How can young people keep their way pure?

By guarding it according to your word.

With my whole heart I seek you;

do not let me stray from your commandments.

I treasure your word in my heart,

so that I may not sin against you.

Blessed are you, O Lord;

teach me your statutes.

**With my lips I declare
all the ordinances of your mouth.
I delight in the way of your decrees
as much as in all riches.
I will meditate on your precepts
and fix my eyes on your ways.
I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.**

Second Reading: John 12:20–33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have

glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn:** Brother, sister, let me serve you **635**

Sermon A Grain of Wheat

Prayers of the People

****Hymn:** You satisfy the hungry heart **538**

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 of all hopefulness

748

(to the tune of Slane, #461)

Benediction

Postlude *It Is Well With My Soul*

by Lee Rogers

St Giles Events

Monday, March 18 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour by teleconference.



Wednesday, March 20 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Sessions Meeting in person.

Thursday, March 21 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice all are invited to attend.

Friday, March 22 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study Romans 7, theme "Jesus replaces the law of sin and death," by teleconference.

Friday, March 29 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Good Friday Joint Service between St Giles and Bytown Community Church.

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#.



Women's Missionary Society

"Is There Hope?" Synodical of Quebec and Eastern Ontario, Spring Meeting and AGM. The meeting will take place at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 6810 Rideau Valley Dr S, Kars, ON K0A 2E0, on Saturday 13th April, 2024, from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm. The Guest Speaker will be Rev Marianne Emig Carr – Refugees. Lunch \$10

Please register by 1st April with Catherine at 1-613-923-1571 or catherineblatch@gmail.com.

Gracefield Christian Camp

The Registration for Gracefield summer camp has begun. There are two separate weeks for Trailblazer (Age 7-12), July 7-12 and July 21-26. For those age 13-15, the Woodlander or the Frontier camp are available on the week of July 28 to August 2. There are two new camp being introduced this year: STEM

(science, technology, engineering, math), and MADD (music, art, drama, dance) for those age 10-15, on the week of July 14-19. There is an early bird discount of 10% (before March 31). For more information, contact Rev. Paul Wu, or check out www.gracefieldcamp.ca

Easter Blood Drive

Please consider donating Blood this Easter. Last Easter, a new city-wide interdenominational Christian effort, the [Easter Blood Drive](#), began to mobilize Christians in Ottawa to donate blood or plasma. This was an effort to help the blood supply recover from declining donations due to the pandemic. The need to donate remains ongoing: **while 1 in 2 Canadians are eligible to donate, only 1 in 81 does.**

Christians are a giving and grateful people – and donating is another impactful way to live out these qualities. In 2023, the Drive achieved 200 donations.

Our 2024 goal is to double the team's donors to 300 and double donations to 400. If you are already a registered donor, all you need to do is click on "partners" from the menu when logged into your profile at www.blood.ca or while using the app and select "Easter Blood Drive".

All donations during 2024 will be counted towards the goal. Visit Easterblooddrive.ca to learn more. **Canadian Blood Services has also reserved spots for Easter Blood Drive donors on March 23 and March 30 as a special team event and to provide the opportunity for fellowship and some fun.**

If you have any questions or need assistance to register, Owen Mahaffy of St. Stephen's Presbyterian is representing the Ottawa Presbytery and can be reached at owenmahaffy@gmail.com. You can also contact the Easter Blood Drive directly at info@blooddrive.ca for answers or to let them stay in touch with you.

Music and Choir

The text of our closing hymn was written by Joyce Anstruther(1901-1953), an English teacher, poet and novelist. She wrote 11 hymns for 'Songs of Praise' using contemporary style and language. Her hymns were among the first to address God with the pronoun 'You'. Her pen name was Jan Struther - her 'Mrs. Miniver became a popular film.

Mission Moment

For hundreds of years, roads have been providing important networks of connection and community. Not only in a physical sense, but by creating equal access to vital places like schools, churches and hospitals, and fostering a sense of community. With support from Presbyterians Sharing, the Life and Mission Agency and the Band Council on Mistawasis Plains Cree Reserve in Northern Saskatchewan are working together to create a road system through the reserve that will connect Mistawasis Memorial Presbyterian Church with the rest of the community. In turn, it will open up the possibilities of new ministry opportunities by bringing together the community and creating a sense of hope and connectedness.



Presbyterians
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The Presbyterian Church in Canada