

St Giles Presbyterian Church



The Poor Invited to the Feast, JESUS MAFA, a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*

January 26, 2025

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: *Sabbath Visions*

by Louise E. Stairs

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: There is one true God

**All: whom to know is life eternal,
whom to serve is joy and peace.**

One: God creates all that is.

**All: The whole universe displays
the majesty and power of its Maker.**

One: We worship God as the source of all life.

**All: With thanks we acknowledge
God's wisdom, power, faithfulness, and love.**

****Hymn:** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

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Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

Creator, Christ and Spirit; you are the maker of a better world; you are the creator of lasting peace. We worship you for the gifts of peace and healing that you bring into troubled lives. You have shown us the way of justice, to love friend and enemy alike, to

build a better world. In this time of worship, inspire us to believe our work in your name makes a difference. So may we live to bring glory to you, through the communion we share with so many around world as your faithful disciples.

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of grace and harmony, we confess we can be divisive when you call us to unity, quarrelsome when you call us to seek peace, and critical rather than caring. We have grown used to our own ways and cannot imagine how we could change for the sake of the Gospel. Forgive us when we mistake our familiar traditions for your truth. Show us, in this time of silence, how we can witness to your love through working and worshipping together ...(a brief silence is kept)

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

God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. It shines into the world and scatters the darkness. Know that you are forgiven and forgive one another. Be at peace and walk in the newness of life, led by God's light.

Scripture

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

So, they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Psalms 19:1–10 (*with refrain 1*)

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

**Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**

There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

**yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

In the heavens God has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his
wedding canopy,

and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

**Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.**

The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;
**the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;**
**the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes;**
the fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.
**More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12–26

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not

belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn:** Help us accept each other

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Sermon Battered, Bruised and Broken Yet Honoured

Prayers of the People

****Hymn:** O for a world where everyone

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Passing of the Peace

Announcements

Offering

Doxology:

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**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:** Onward to the Kingdom by David Haas

Refrain: **Sing we now, and on we go;
God above and God below;
Arm in arm, in love we go
Onward to the kingdom**

**Star above to show the way
through the night and in today,
with the light we won't delay
onward to the kingdom**

Refrain

**Come now sisters, brothers all,
time to heed the Lord's call,
we will travel standing tall
onward to the kingdom**

Refrain

**In the promised land we'll be,
one with God, where all are free,
the deaf will hear, the blind will see
when we reach the kingdom**

Refrain

Benediction

Postlude *Allegro*

by Nicolas Le Bégue



St Giles Events

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

Coffee Hour by teleconference.

Thursday, January 23 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice is resuming, to God be the glory.

Friday, January 31 ~ 12:00 p.m.

Bible Study by teleconference. The Book of Proverbs
21:1-22:16 The The Proverbs of Solomon VI

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 the passcode number 7455703#.



Year End Reports

Anyone who has a report or other input for the St. Giles Annual Report should provide a digital copy to the church office no later than Wednesday, February 5th. Please edit your submission before sending it. Contact the church administrator at office@stgilesottawa.org if you have any questions.

Projects from the Presbyterian Women

The women are reviving the giving of spare change for water wells in Malawi and adding 2 new ones: used stamps for Oxfam and used eyeglasses for recycling by the Canadian Lions club.

The collection baskets will be in the Narthex. Of course, the collecting of donations for the Food Bank will continue in the same space.

Anniversary Committee

St. Giles is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2025. The Anniversary Committee is planning a number of activities and events in the upcoming months and will be needing volunteers to participate in the work of the committee. Should you be interested, please contact the convener Kaye Tate or Rev. Paul Wu for more details.

Mission Moment

Impaired by polio at age five, Georgina Musah was stigmatized and prevented from attending school in her community in northern Ghana. Through a PWS&D-supported program, Georgina received physiotherapy and a tricycle for mobility. She also took part in training in climate-resilient farming and dressmaking, enabling her to generate an income and improve her life.



(Photo from PCC)



Presbyterian
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The Presbyterian Church in Canada