

# **St Giles Presbyterian Church**



**March 30, 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: *Air*

J.S. Bach

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation!

**All: Thanks be to God for such great mercy**

One: Everything old has passed away;  
see, everything has become new!

**All: Thanks be to God for new beginnings**

One: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation through Christ Jesus.

**All: Thanks be to God for trusting and calling us**

One: God is making appeal through us as ambassadors for Christ.

**All: We will lift our praises to God  
with hearts refreshed by grace**

**\*\*Hymn:** The glory of these forty days

**192**

Children's Story

## Prayer of Adoration

Loving God, we gather to worship in humility and hope because we trust you have the power to change the world. We gather to worship you, trusting that no person or situation is beyond your concern, or your embrace. Inspire us with a vision of love that will transform our lives, through the love and mercy we meet in Jesus Christ, your Son and our Saviour.

## Unison Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, when we pause for a moment in your presence, the daily details of our lives press in on us. We recall things left undone, opportunities ignored. We remember careless words spoken, disappointments that trouble our souls. In silence we offer to you our misspent moments and missed opportunities:**

**(a moment of silence)**

## 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

Remember the promise that the apostle Paul declares:

What can separate us from the love of Christ?

Hardship? Distress? Peril or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through the God who loves us. Therefore, be assured that neither death nor life, things present nor things to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Thanks be to God for such a promise! Amen.

## Scripture

First Reading: Joshua 5:9–12

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal, they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Psalm 2 (with refrain 1)

Why do the nations conspire  
and the people plot in vain?

The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the Lord and the Lord's anointed, saying,  
**"Let us burst their bonds asunder  
and cast their cords from us."**

The One who sits in the heavens laughs;  
and has them in derision.

Then God will speak to them in wrath  
and terrify them in fury, saying,  
**"I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill."**

I will tell of God's decree:

The Lord said to me,  
**"You are my son;  
today I have begotten you.**

**Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage  
and the ends of the earth your possession.**

**You shall break them with a rod of iron  
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."**

Now therefore, O kings, be wise;  
be warned, O rulers of the earth.

**Serve the Lord  
with fear and trembling;**

humble yourselves before the Lord  
Lest God be angry, and you perish in the way,  
for God's wrath is quickly kindled.

**Blessed are all who take refuge in the Lord.**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16–21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**\*\*Hymn:** When voices are confusing  
(to the tune of #479, Aurelia)

**636**

Sermon Ambassadors for Christ

Prayers of the People

**\*\*Hymn:** Out of my bondage, sorrow and night

**193**

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:** One more step along the world I go **641**

Benediction

Postlude *Allegro* J.S. Bach





## **St Giles Events**

**Monday, March 31 ~ 11:00 a.m.**

**Coffee Hour** by teleconference.

**Wednesday, April 02 ~ 10:30 a.m.**

**The St Giles Presbyterian Women** will be meeting by teleconference.

**Thursday, April 03 ~ 5:30 p.m.**

**Choir Practice**, to God be the glory.

**Friday, April 04 ~ 12:00 p.m.**

**Bible Study** will be taking a 3-week break and resuming after Easter.

### **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#.



## **Condolences**

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Margaret Elizabeth Stevenson on Saturday March 8, 2025, following a five-year illness with dementia. A Memorial Service presided by the Rev. Paul Wu will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 12, 2025, in the Pinecrest Remembrance Chapel, 2500 Baseline Road, Ottawa. You can find more details at [www.colefuneralservices.com](http://www.colefuneralservices.com), including service link, obituary, and video memory.

## **Session News**

The Session of St. Giles has approved a new renter, the United Christian Church of Ottawa, an ethnic Myanmar / Burmese congregation of 70 members. They plan to use the banquet hall of the church, on Sunday, from 1:00 pm to 3:45 pm, starting March 30, 2025. We pray for God's blessings on this congregation, and for a successful integration.

## **Anniversary Committee**

Universal Portrait Studios has committed to produce an anniversary photobook for St Giles. This studio brings families together for professional portraits while delivering high-quality Pictorial Church Directories. An email invitation will be sent with further information. Start date for this event will be May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and possibly May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

## **Help for the Needy**

In addition to their existing donation programs: food for the Centretown Emergency Food Bank, used stamps for Oxfam

poverty relief, and eyeglasses for the Lion's Club Recycle for Sight program, the Women's Committee is now collecting used coloured plastic milk bags to be woven into bed mats and seat cushions for the those in need in our neighbourhood and for use at the Centre 507 drop-in nearby. Donations can be left in marked containers in the Narthex at the church entrance. Thank you!

### **Calling ALL youth!**

As part of the Presbytery's 150th anniversary celebration on Saturday May 4th, the planning committee has asked for youth to join the celebration and participate in the following areas: possibly reading Scripture, ushering, serving refreshments, receiving offerings. If any of these areas interest, please reach out to Sunjay Henry via email at [prezminimator@gmail.com](mailto:prezminimator@gmail.com) or on Instagram @prezzyyouthonfire

### **Barrhaven Taskforce**

The Presbytery of Ottawa has reconstituted the Barrhaven Taskforce, to consider wisely and strategically on how its property (on Greenbank Avenue) might best be utilized in the furtherance of Christ's mission as we seek to faithfully witness in the Barrhaven Community. Specifically, the Presbytery is seeking those among our congregations who reside in Barrhaven or neighbouring areas, and/or who have an interest in property development to join this Taskforce. For more details, please contact the Rev. Paul Wu.

## Mission Moment

19-year-old Evidence Mhango, in her final year of secondary school in Malawi, has endured numerous challenges to reach this milestone, including walking 15 km daily. Despite the long distance and societal pressures to abandon her studies, Evidence remains determined to finish school. The PWS&D-supported Every Youth Empowered project has played a crucial role in motivating Evidence to work harder. Determined, Evidence shares, "My dream is to become a university lecturer, and nobody will take that away from me."



(Photo from PCC)



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