

# St Giles Presbyterian Church

**PRESSING  
TOWARD THE  
GOAL**

MG



**April 06, 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 *Récit* *Pierre du Mage*

Welcome

Introit Love Is All Our Joy Traditional  
arr. Malcolm Archer

Call to Worship

One: "I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert", says the Lord.

**All: The LORD does great things.**

One: "Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old", says the Lord.

**All: The LORD does great things.**

One: "I am about to do a new thing", says the Lord.

**All: The LORD does great things.**

One: Let us worship the Lord God with songs of joy  
and prayers of thanksgiving.

**\*\*Hymn:** God reveal your presence

**414**

Children's Story

## Prayer of Adoration

Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all life, we come with grateful hearts. We praise you, for the creation and its mystery that we seek to comprehend. We praise you, for Christ and his ministry that we seek to continue. By the power of your Spirit, lighten our hearts in this time of worship, and help us brighten the lives we touch this week in Jesus' name. And so we praise you, O God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all life, and offer you all glory and honour, this day and every day, now and evermore.

## Unison Prayer of Confession

**Lord Jesus Christ, we gather in your name today, aware that you keep moving closer and closer to the cross. We confess it is not easy to follow your story. We confess we often struggle to decide what to give and whom to help. Forgive us when we look for reasons not to share, and excuse ourselves from acting generously, as you did. Lead us to learn from and follow the pattern of Jesus Christ the Lord.**

## 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! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ – and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace.

### Scripture

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16–21

Thus says the Lord,  
who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,  
who brings out chariot and horse,  
army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.

The wild animals will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

Psalm 126 *(with refrain 1)*

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

**Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

then it was said among the nations,

“The Lord has done great things for them.”

**The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we rejoiced.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

**May those who sow in tears  
reap with shouts of joy.**

**Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
carrying their sheaves.**

## Second Reading: Philippians 3:7-14

Yet whatever gains I had; these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow, I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**\*\*Hymn:** Jesus, the very thought of thee

**367**

Sermon Press on Toward the Goal

Prayers of the People

**\*\*Hymn:** Will your anchor hold

**744**

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 power

**626**

Benediction

Postlude *Grand Jeu*

Pierre du Mage





## St Giles Events

**Monday, April 07 ~ 11:00 a.m.**

**Coffee Hour** by teleconference.

**Tuesday, April 08 ~ 3:45 p.m.**

**Financial and Maintenance Committee** will be meeting in person.

**Thursday, April 10 ~ 5:30 p.m.**

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

**Friday, April 11**

**Bible Study** will be taking a break and will resume on April 25<sup>th</sup> to study the Book of Revelation.

**Friday, April 18 ~ 11:00 a.m.**

**Good Friday** service. All are welcome.

### **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.

## **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 [prezminanimator@gmail.com](mailto:prezminanimator@gmail.com) or on Instagram @prezzyyouthonfire

## Mission Moment

PWS&D supports the Garu Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Centre in Ghana, offering life and vocational skills training for people with disabilities. Tilata Mahama shares her experience: “The CBR program came to my aid with a tricycle PWS&D supports the Garu Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Centre in Ghana, offering life and vocational skills training for people with disabilities. Tilata Mahama shares her experience: “The CBR program came to my aid with a tricycle



(Photo from PCC)



Presbyterian  
World Service  
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The Presbyterian Church in Canada