

Saint Giles Presbyterian Church
5101 Oak Park Road
Raleigh, NC 27612
(919) 787-4790
office@saintgiles.org

July 29, 2020

Dear Ones,

Recording the podcast for Sunday, July 26th was a powerful and bittersweet experience. Our Wednesday podcast times have become sacred in a way I never expected - in a way that nurtures and sustains me far beyond Wednesday afternoon.

Wednesday afternoons are followed by Friday afternoons when Mona sends the “final” podcast, which she “stitches together” from what we record on Wednesday and what she records at her home studio. What I heard on Friday afternoon brought me to tears: powerful and tender music, strong and gentle words - the kind of balance for which we, as worship leaders, strive.

If you have not listened to the podcast for Sunday, July 26th, I urge you to do so:

Podcast: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/102332/4701983>

Extended Podcast: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/102332/4702004>

And I invite you to keep this prayer - the Prayers of the People¹ we offered on Sunday, July 26 - in an obvious and noticeable place: May it sustain *all of us* in the weeks and months ahead.

You have blessed us to this moment: **teach us to trust you with our future.**

Living God,
on this day of ending and beginnings,
we come to give thanks:
conscious of the ways you have
provided for us,
guided us, and
watched over us.

You have blessed us to this moment: **teach us to trust you with our future.**

Thank you for the countless ways
we have experienced your love:
in the faith you have nurtured,
in the strength you have given,
in the guidance you have offered, and
in the grace with which you surround out.

You have blessed us to this moment: **teach us to trust you with our future.**

Thank you for the many joys
we have celebrated:

for times of playful fellowship,
for moments of belly-shaking laughter,
for opportunities to serve as one body, and
for every occasion to welcome new siblings into our community.

You have blessed us to this moment: **teach us to trust you with our future.**

Thank you for the challenges
we have navigated:

for successes we have achieved,
for hiccups from which we have learned,
for ventures we have just launched, and
for opportunities just around the corner.

You have blessed us to this moment: **teach us to trust you with our future.**

Thank you for the opportunity to pray, and
hear our prayers:

for those who are sick and struggling,
for those who are caught in the throes of grief,
for those whose needs we know, and
for those whose needs are known only to you.

You have blessed us to this moment: **teach us to trust you with our future.**

Living God,
on this day of ending and beginnings,
remind us that tomorrow - every tomorrow
will be filled with your love,
sustained by your Spirit, and
saturated in your grace.

You have blessed us to this moment: **teach us to trust you with our future.**

Peace and love to you and yours,

Katherine

¹ Based on a prayer by Nick Fawcett. *Prayers for All Seasons: A Comprehensive Resource for Public Worship*. Kevin Mayhew: Suffolk, England, 1998.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has reached out to me via phone, email, text and through the in-person drive-through event on Sunday, July 26th. I am so very grateful for your words of care, concern and encouragement, and I covet your prayers as we move through this time of transition.

Peace, Katherine

Farewell to Katherine

Katherine will be stepping down from the staff team at the end of the month. Her final day in the church office will be July 31st.

- The congregation is warmly invited to contribute to a **Love Offering** for Katherine, in recognition of her longtime ministry with Saint Giles. Contributions to the love offering can be mailed to St. Giles Presbyterian Church at 5101 Oak Park Road, Raleigh, NC 27612. Please make out checks to Saint Giles, and mark envelopes or checks with "Katherine - Love Offering".
- **Notes or emails;** many of you have already reached out to Katherine - thank you! If you wish to reach out to her, she may be reached at katherine@saintgiles.org or via USPS: Saint Giles Presbyterian Church, 5101 Oak Park Rd, Raleigh NC 27612

Next Steps

The Session of Saint Giles has been busy working with folks from New Hope Presbytery to implement the first few steps in the future of Saint Giles. We are meeting with the Rev. Ted Churn (the Executive Presbyter of New Hope Presbytery) and Elder Toni Parker (Saint Giles' Liaison to the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry).

Ted and Toni have outlined our next couple of steps and will walk alongside us throughout this time of transition. Here is what you can expect:

1. At the July 20 Stated Session Meeting, Session elected an Interim Pastor Nominating Committee (IPNC). The members of our IPNC are Chris Maxwell, Carol Pope, and Mick Wilber.
2. The IPNC will meet with some "Bridge-Interim" candidates. A Bridge-Interim pastor is a short-term position. The primary responsibility of a Bridge-Interim is to keep things moving: lead worship, provide pastoral care, moderate Session and other essential ministry until an Interim Pastor is hired.

The IPNC will make a recommendation to Session who is authorized to hire a Bridge-Interim. Remember: this is a quick hire intended to provide stability following the departure of a pastor.

3. After a "Bridge-Interim" pastor is hired, the IPNC will write a Ministry Information Form (MIF) which will be approved by Session, Ted Churn and one of the co-moderators from the COM. Then the IPNC will interview potential

Interim Pastors. The Bridge-Interim pastor may be a candidate for the Interim Pastor.

4. When the IPNC has completed interviewing potential Interim Pastors, they will bring a recommendation to Session, who is authorized to hire an Interim Pastor.

What can you do?

- Pray for our Session.
- Pray for our IPNC.
- Stay informed: read the weekly mini-newsletter and all communications from Saint Giles.
- Offer your gifts: with what tasks can you help? Could you assist with “snail-mail” mailings? Could you help with small projects on the church campus (something on-your-own or with your immediate family)? Could you encourage our staff-team and elders? Could you help with congregational care? Could you step-up and lead a ministry team so our elders can focus on transition? These are just ideas....the question is: what gift can you offer?

May God be with us.
May God guide our steps.
May God shape our decisions.
And may we be open to God.

Church Sanctuary Available for Meditation

Several members of our faith community have inquired about coming to Saint Giles for quiet meditation in the Sanctuary.



Currently the Sanctuary will be unlocked and available for personal meditation on Mondays (from 11am-2pm), Wednesdays (10am-1pm) and Fridays (10am-12pm). If these times do not work for you, please contact Emmie (office@saintgiles.org) and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

Please follow these guidelines:

1. Self-monitor for symptoms by taking your temperature before coming to church and asking yourself whether you are experiencing new onset of any of the following symptoms: fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
 - a. If you are symptomatic, please remain at home.
 - b. If you have been on-campus and become symptomatic, please contact Emmie at 919 787 4790.
2. Use hand sanitizer upon entering the sanctuary. Hand sanitizer will be available on a table as you enter the sanctuary.
3. Wear a face mask. Masks will be available by the hand sanitizer for anyone who needs a mask.
4. Bring your own pen or pencil and sign the sign-in sheet upon entering the sanctuary. This sign-in process will provide information for contact-tracing in the event someone tests positive for COVID-19.
5. Maintain social distance (6 feet or greater).
6. Use hand sanitizer before leaving the sanctuary.

The health and safety of our faith community is our TOP priority. These arrangements are subject to change. To learn more about deciding to go out visit the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/deciding-to-go-out.html>

Photo by Ben White on Unsplash

If you need assistance with shopping or other errands, please contact Emmie (office@saintgiles.org) or Katherine (katherine@saintgiles.org).

If you are able to offer assistance with shopping or other errands, please contact Emmie (office@saintgiles.org) or Katherine (katherine@saintgiles.org).