

JOINT SERVICE OF  
ST GILES PRESBYTERIAN  
SOUTHMINSTER UNITED  
GLEBE-ST. JAMES UNITED



**Hand of God**, freestanding sculpture by Auguste Rodin (1840–1917).  
Photo by Ad Meskens, Rhode Island School of Design Museum.

September 4, 2022

## 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 and large print bulletins available. Please speak with an usher. The church is fully accessible with an elevator, ramps and a properly-appointed 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.

### **St Giles Presbyterian Church**

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: Patricia Brush

Office hours: Tuesdays, 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: *Ich folge dir* from *St John Passion* by J.S. Bach

Ich folge dir gleichfalls  
Mit freudigen Schritten  
Und lasse dich nicht,  
Mein Leben, mein Licht.  
Befördre den Lauf  
Und höre nicht auf,  
Selbst an mir zu ziehen,  
Zu schieben, zu bitten.

I follow you likewise  
with joyful steps  
and do not leave you  
my life, my light.  
Bring me on my way  
and do not cease  
to pull, push  
and urge me on.

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We've come to worship God,

**All: who loved us before we were yet born**

One: The Lord knows us even better than we know ourselves,

**All: whose presence never leaves us,  
and whose love for us never ceases.**

One: This is the Lord our God.

**All: Let's worship the Lord God in truth and in Spirit!**

**\*\*Hymn: O Lord my God! (Ow great thou art)**

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**1. O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed,**

*Refrain*

**then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art! how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
How great thou art!; how great thou art!**

- 2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze,   *Refrain***
- 3. And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
he bled and died to take away my sin,   *Refrain***
- 4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!   *Refrain***

Prayer of Adoration

God of all creation, in awesome wonder we praise you. Your creation declares your praise — the stars sing of your generosity; the rolling thunder your majesty. And what do we declare about you in our lives? We pray that our work will honour your justice and mercy; our relationships speak of your love and compassion. So in awesome wonder we praise you, O God, not just in this hour of worship, but in all the days of our lives. Challenge us today to live out the praise we offer you through the grace of Jesus Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

## Unison Prayer of Confession

**God of justice and mercy, we offer you our love and loyalty in worship yet we admit we do not live out that love and loyalty. We don't always act on our good intentions, we fail to keep our promises, we hurt each other, and then refuse to seek or offer forgiveness. People must look at us and wonder if this is what means to follow Jesus. In your mercy, hear our confession in this 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 and ever. Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

From now on, Apostle Paul declared, we regard no one from a human point of view. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! Thanks be to God that we can make a new start this very day!

## Scripture

### First Reading: Jeremiah 18:1–11

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay

was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

### Responsive Reading: Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18 (with refrain 2)



O Lord, you have searched me and known me.  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.  
**You search out my path and my lying down  
and are acquainted with all my ways.  
Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O Lord, you know it completely.**

You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
that I know very well.**

**My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.**

**Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.  
In your book were written all the days  
that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.**

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!

**I try to count them — they are more than the sand;  
I come to the end — I am still with you.**

Second Reading: Philemon 1:4–21

I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love — and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am

appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother — especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**\*\*Hymn: Open my eyes, that I may see**

**500**

**1. Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
place in my hands a wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see;  
open my eyes: illumine me, Spirit divine!**

2. **Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear,  
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see;  
open my ears: illumine me, Spirit divine!**
3. **Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
open my heart and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see;  
open my heart: illumine me, Spirit divine!**

Sermon In the Potter's Hand

Prayer of the People

**\*\*Hymn: Abba, Father** by Carey Landry

*Refrain:*

**Abba, Abba, Father. You are the potter;  
we are the clay, the work of Your hands.**

1. **Mold us, mold us and fashion us  
Into the image of Jesus Your Son, of Jesus Your Son.**

*Refrain*

2. **Father, may we be one in You.  
May we be one in You, as He is in You, and You are in Him.**

*Refrain*

3. **Glory, glory and praise to you.  
Glory and praise to You, forever amen, forever amen.**

*Refrain*

Passing of the Peace

Announcements

Offering

**Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; 830  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

Prayer of Dedication

**\*\*Hymn: Guide me, O thou great Redeemer 651**

- 1 **Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore;  
feed me now and evermore.**
2. **Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all thy journey through:  
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield;  
be thou still my strength and shield.**
3. **When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to thee:  
I will ever give to thee.**

Benediction

Postlude *Postlude in C* by John Troutman



## Sunday School

The Children's Sunday School is resuming on September 11. We are still looking for more teachers and helpers. If you would like to contribute, please contact Daisy at [daisy43@hotmail.com](mailto:daisy43@hotmail.com)

## Additional Elders

The session of St. Giles has resolved to add two additional elders to the session, using the 'Ballot of Nominees' method (Book of Forms 132.2.1). The nominating period is now concluded whereby two nominees (Laura Brandon and Chrissie Kalonga) have received session approval as to their suitability for eldership and willingness to serve. A congregational meeting is therefore called for the Sunday of September 11, 2022, after the regular worship service. Should any professing member of St. Giles wish to vote by mail, please request a ballot in advance from a member of session. Mail-in ballot must be received no later than September 8, 2022.

## Centretown Emergency Food Centre

The Presbyterian Women has re-activated the practice of making regular donations to the Centretown Emergency Food Centre. There is a box in the narthex to hold lots of unperishable foods. Samples of donations would be: peanut butter, soups, dry beans, cans of beans (various kinds), cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, cans of tuna, salmon, and sardines.

## Walk for the Centre

Supporting Centretown Emergency Food Centre

Sunday, October 2, 1:30 to 4:00 pm

[www.centretownchurches.org/walkathon](http://www.centretownchurches.org/walkathon)

After two years of virtual walkathons, the walk will be an in-person event with walkers meeting at City Hall and walking together with a choice of a short walk of 2 km or a longer walk of 4 km.

With rising food prices and rents, low income people are most affected. Recently the Food Centre has seen increasing numbers of people coming for help. This year, the Walkathon is more important than ever in addressing food insecurity in Central Ottawa.

If you have questions or would like to join a team of St Giles walkers, please contact Stan or Jean Currie, 613-233-0538. As usual, you can donate either by giving your donation to Jean Currie or you can donate online in support of the St Giles team.

## The Ottawa School of Theology and Spirituality

<https://www.osts.ca> has published their fall and winter term schedule, with a number of courses relevant to the current study of the Bible Study Group at St. Giles. 'Free Registration' is possible, please contact Rev. Paul Wu.



## Our Events

**Monday, September 5 ~ 11:00 a.m.**

**Coffee Hour** by teleconference.

**Thursday, September 8 ~ 7:00 p.m.**

**Choir Practice** will resume.

**Friday, September 9 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

**Bible Study** by teleconference. Please read Joshua, chapters 17–19.

**Sunday, September 11 ~ after service**

**Congregational Meeting** for the Election of Elders

**Wednesday, September 14 ~ 10:30 a.m.**

**The St Giles Presbyterian Women** will meet by teleconference.

All women who attend St Giles are welcome.

**Wednesday, September 28 ~ 7:00 p.m.**

**Taizé Service**

**Sunday, October 2 ~ 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Walk for the Centre** in support of the Centretown Emergency

Food Centre. [www.centretownchurches.org/walkathon](http://www.centretownchurches.org/walkathon)



### Joining the Meeting, Conference Call or Bible Study:

1. Before the start time, call toll-free 1-888-884-4539.
2. Enter the passcode number which is 7455703#.
3. Make sure to press the # after the number.
4. You will be asked to say your name. Say it. Then press #.
5. You will then be connected.
6. You may find it preferable to put your phone on speaker.

## Mission Moment

Vanea is 15 years old and lives in Malawi with her parents and four siblings. When Vanea finished primary school, she wrote an entrance exam for secondary school and was selected to attend the Neno Girls School, supported by the PCC through Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D). Sadly, Vanea's parents couldn't afford the school fees and she was forced to withdraw. PWS&D recognizes the importance of education for young girls to achieve their dreams and gain self-confidence. PWS&D provides scholarships for orphans and vulnerable girls in Malawi to attend the Neno Girls School, who otherwise could not afford to due to financial constraints. Vanea was one of the students selected for this scholarship and is now completing her high school education.

