

St Giles Presbyterian Church



Shiphrah, Puah, Jocheved, Miriam, Pharaoh's Daughter, and the infant Moses, a mural in the Dura-Europos Synagogue, Syria.

(From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN)

August 27, 2023

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 and large print bulletins available. Please speak with an usher. 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

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Minister: The Rev. Paul Wu 613-276-2551 paulwu55@yahoo.ca

Church Administrator: Patricia 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: *Song of Hope* by M. Isabelle Ritter

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We give thanks to the Lord with all our hearts,
All: for God's faithful love endures forever.

One: We sing praises to the Lord, with all our strength,
All: for God's promises declare God's goodness to all the earth.

One: We place our trust in in God with full confidence,
All: and so we come to worship with hearts full of praise.

****Hymn:** Let us with a gladsome mind

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Prayer of Adoration

Eternal God, you are the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, and yet you come to us afresh each new day. You breathe new life into what has grown tired and discouraged. You offer healing for what is worn or broken. You restore hope when things seem impossible. You are the source of life and love for all

your creatures, and you renew us to put our love for you into action for the wellbeing of your creation. And so we worship you, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit, offering our prayers and praise to you, eternal and ever-present God, now and always.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your purposes. You set a path for us to follow, but we conform to the ways of this world. You give each of us gifts to use for the work of your kingdom, but we wait for others to do what needs doing. Forgive us for taking the easy way out, and renew in us the eagerness and energy to serve.

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 us? Only Christ – and Christ died for us.

Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace. So let us make a fresh start today!

Scripture

First Reading: Exodus 1:8–22

Now a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land."

Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites.

The Egyptians subjected the Israelites to hard servitude and made their lives bitter with hard servitude in mortar and bricks and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah,

“When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birth stool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.” But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live.

So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this and allowed the boys to live?” The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” So God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”

Responsive Reading: Psalm 124 (*with refrain 2*)

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side
—let Israel now say—

**if it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,
then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;
then the flood would have swept us away;
the torrent would have gone over us;
then over us would have gone**

the raging waters.

Blessed be the Lord,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth.

**We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the hunters;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped.**

(All:)

**Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

Second Reading: Exodus 2:1–10

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This

must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it.

When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn:** Now Israel may say **85**

Sermon: Life in the Midst of Death

Prayers of the People

****Hymn:** Immortal, invisible, God only wise **290**

Passing of the Peace

Announcements

Offering

**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:** All my hope on God is founded

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Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all. **Amen.**

Postlude *Ye Shall Go Out With Joy* by Homer Nearing



St Giles Events

Monday, August 28 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour by teleconference.

Thursday, August 31 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice



Between August 28 and September 1 (TBD)

Finance and Maintenance in person meeting.

Wednesday, September 6 ~ 5:00 p.m.

Prayer Group (Lectio Divina) will be meeting in person at St Giles.

All are welcome

Wednesday, September 13 ~ 12:30 a.m.

St Giles Women's Association in person meeting. Bring your own lunch and bring a friend. **All Women Welcome!**



Children Sunday School

The Children Sunday School is aiming to resume on September 10, 2023. This coming school year, we will be using a new curriculum "Sparkhouse" (from the Augsburg Fortress Press). It is a rich, collaborative, and multimedia resource that aims to spark within each child a glowing reminder of the Spirit of God. We are excited! Come join us.

From the 2023 General Assembly of the PCC

Congregations and individuals be commended for their support to PWS&D's overall mission through undesigned ("where most needed") gifts, which were received at a higher level than in 2021.

Appreciation be expressed to the congregations, individuals and groups who support Presbyterians Sharing with prayers, financial gifts, volunteering for committees and working group participating in programs and advocacy campaigns for justice.

Emergent Congregational Meeting

An emergent congregation meeting is called, by the authority of the Moderator, with the request from the Session and the Finance & Maintenance Committee, on Sunday of September 10, 2023, immediately after the worship service, to discuss the replacement of roof over the north-end of sanctuary.

Choir

St. Giles Church has history of choral singing and choir members. During the COVID pandemic, singing was forbidden then allowed on a much smaller scale, often with masks. This hiatus meant that our muscles and lungs got out of shape, and voices do not sound as they did pre-pandemic. The only solution to this is to sing, sing, sing. Singing is a very healthy activity. St. Giles is blessed with a dedicated choir. We need you to join us. No need to worry about ability, experience etc.

Please speak to me at coffee hour, or come out to rehearsal and give it a try. Heather Rice

Mission Moment



St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church in Grand Falls-Windsor, NL, has a long history of responding to the gospel of God's love in Christ through acts

of kindness and care for their neighbours. One of the many ways that they live out this mission is through a knitting ministry that produces hundreds of hats as well as mitts and booties for newborns at the local hospital. And the ministry is growing!

Another church has recently joined in their mission, allowing them to expand and provide baby sweaters, slippers and booties to several groups that serve the tiniest members of the community. Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing support St. Matthew's in its ministry.



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The Presbyterian Church in Canada