

St Giles Presbyterian Church



Tutankhamun's Box depicting chariot army of the New Kingdom, unearthed by Howard Carter in 1922, in the Valley of the Kings in Thebes.

September 17, 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

613-235-2551 office@stgilesottawa.org www.stgilesottawa.org

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: *Sarabande* by Jean-Marie LeClair

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Praise the Lord.

All: Let us praise God together.

One: For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is God's steadfast love;

**All: as far as the east is from the west,
so far God removes our sins.**

One: So let us rejoice in God's gracious presence.

All: Let us praise the God of mercy together.

****Hymn:** At the dawning of creation **512**
(tune 635)

Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

God, you are the power of liberation, calling your servant Moses to lead your people into freedom, and giving him the wisdom to proclaim your holy law. Be

our Passover from the land of injustice, be the light that leads us to the perfect rule of love. As we come before you in worship, renew us we pray, that we may be citizens of your unfettered reign, and serve you with joy in the name of Jesus.

Unison Prayer of Confession

O God, our lives do not always reflect your transforming power. You are gracious, but we cling to judgment. You are kind, but we can be cruel. You are forgiving, but we nurse grudges and old wounds. Forgive us, O God. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, and make us new through Christ, your Son and our Saviour.

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

The proof of God's amazing love is this: that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Know that you are forgiven by his grace and be at peace with God, with yourselves and with each other. Amen.

Scripture

First Reading: Exodus 14:19–31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses

stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Psalm 114 *(with refrain 1)*

When Israel went out from Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange
language, Judah became God's sanctuary,
Israel God's dominion.

**The sea looked and fled;
Jordan turned back.**

**The mountains skipped like rams,
the hills like lambs.**

Why is it, O sea, that you flee?

O Jordan, that you turn back?

O mountains, that you skip like rams?

O hills, like lambs?

**Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
who turns the rock into a pool of water,
the flint into a spring of water.**

Second Reading: Exodus 15:19–21

When the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his chariot drivers went into the sea, the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.”

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn:** When Israel was in Egypt's land

708

Sermon Into the Sea

Prayers of the People

Anthem Carol of the Exodus (by G.H. Woodward)

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: Blest be the God of Israel**

752

Benediction

Postlude *Air en Echo* by Michel-Richard de la Lande



St Giles Events

Monday, September 18 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour by teleconference.

Thursday, September 21 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice

Friday, September 22 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study by teleconference. The Book of Job (25-26)



Archival Committee

In the Fall term, Kari Valmestad will be working for St. Giles as an intern, focusing on archival research. She is a student of Carleton University, studying towards the M.A. degree in Public History. Kari will be supervised by Dr. John Walsh, associate professor and co-director of the Carleton Centre for Public History. This position is made possible by the generous donations of members of St. Giles towards the Memorial Fund. We hope this work will help the congregation to prepare for its Centennial Celebration in 2025.

Care Packages for Cameron Highlanders

As the regimental church of the Cameron Highlanders, St. Giles has long sent care packages, containing home baked goodies, to deployed soldiers of the regiment. This year we are sending 6 such packages. Those interested to help out, please contact Don Tate.

The 8th Annual "Walk for the Centre"

Sunday, October 1, 2023 from 1:30-4 pm

All the proceeds of this event go to support the Centretown Community Food Centre. We are looking for walkers for the St. Giles team. Please speak to Stan or Jean Currie if you would like to join us as a walker. We will take donations up until the day of the Walk. You can also donate online and make your donation in support of our team, "St. Giles Walkers".

The Walkathon begins and ends at Ottawa City Hall. Walkers can do the short walk 2 km or the longer 4 km distance along

the Rideau Canal path. More information and pictures are available at the Walkathon information page at centretownchurches.org/walkathon

Committal Services

Catherine Eileen Wilson, a long time member of St. Giles who passed away on November 27, 2022 at the age of 86, had a committal service this past Friday (Sep 15) at Pinecrest Cemetery. The service was presided by the Rev. Paul Wu.

Margaret Christine McLean, a long time member of St. Giles who passed away on February 5, 2020 at the age of 97, will have a committal service this upcoming Tuesday (Sep 19) at Capital Memorial Gardens (3700 Prince of Wales Dr, Ottawa), at 11:00 a.m.

Presbyterian Connection

The fall 2023 edition is now out and can be accessed at the Welcome desk upon entry to the church. In this issue you will find:

- A feature article on knowing and sharing the language of faith written by the Rev. Dr. Emily Bisset
- A special section on reimagining church properties
- A notice about the confession regarding racism within the PCC
- Information about how to claim your church on Google Maps
- An article about the special mission partnership with the PCC and Blantyre Synod, Malawi
- A discussion about the human tragedy of the climate emergency
- A reflection on the moderator's trip to Taiwan

Opera is alive in the City of Ottawa!

Come see our very own Katie Gratton performing as part of the ensemble in OperOttawa's production of Giacomo Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, as well as singing an aria from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. The performance will take place on Sunday, September 17, 2023 at 2:30 pm, at First Baptist Church, on the corner of Elgin and Laurier. Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$25 for students. Enjoy a wonderful afternoon of opera!

'Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!'

These are the opening words of hymn 757, written by Brian Dill 1949- . Singing has always been important in church. Remember the line from the night of the Passover when Jesus was with his disciples -

'And when they had sung a hymn...'

Why do we sing? As one organist/choir director said, 'Music takes us beyond the words.' It is spiritual. Can you imagine hearing that we will not sing hymns at Sunday Service? I think not!

Choirs rehearse hymns and learn new ones so they can lead the congregation on Sundays. Anthems are learned to praise God and enhance our worship. The fun and friendships that comes from this are God's gift.

Please join us for rehearsals on Thursdays. You can speak to me, Heather Rice at coffee hour or use my email: gowans978@gmail.com. Soli Deo Gloria

Mission Moment

For the five congregations that comprise the Northern New Brunswick Regional Ministry, 'church' goes well beyond someone's physical presence in the building on Sunday morning. Over the past year, they have asked themselves, "How do we reach out to those in our community and meet them where their needs are greatest?" Each congregation faces a wide diversity of social and economic challenge in their communities, including drug addiction, homelessness, unemployment, and food insecurity. A common thread that unites their communities despite distance: people are searching for acceptance and help. The congregations are working to meet these needs through compassion and care.



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