

St Giles Presbyterian Church



*Moses Striking the Rock, 3rd century, Catacomb of Callistus,
from Art in the Christian Tradition.*

October 1, 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: 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: *Way, way, way, Trad. Ojibwe Lullaby*

We Are Circling. Words & Music: Buffy Sainte-Marie after Trad. Campfire Song

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: The banqueting table is prepared
and God calls us to the feast.

**All: We have come from east and west,
from north and south, to sit at Christ's
table.**

One: Here compassion, love, and grace pour out
like fine wine.

**All: Here we taste the bread of life, bread for
our journey.**

One: There are gifts of God for all the people of God.

All: Let us taste and see that the Lord is good!

****Hymn:** Come, let us sing to the Lord our song **412**

Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

Steadfast God, as the seasons change, we see that
you are still at work in the world, transforming hearts

and situations. You have shown us the true face of power in Jesus Christ, reaching out with healing and hope to touch desperate lives. We praise you for your love that works for reconciliation among neighbours and nations in this divided world. May we see the face of Jesus as we break bread at his table. Renew our hope by the gift of your Spirit at work among us, so that we can live to praise you with the whole Church.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Creator, Healing God, on this National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, we lament all the childhoods and lives lost through the Residential School system; all the families broken and the communities wounded. We pray for healing for all those harmed by the schools. As a church we have repented for our role in running Residential Schools; but we know repentance is only the beginning. Continue guiding your church to live out our confession and work for reconciliation. Continue moving us to act, supporting justice for Indigenous people. Help your church hear how to walk the path of truth and reconciliation, and help all of us, always, to celebrate the hope and joy of every child. This we pray in the name of Jesus. 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 by God's renewing grace.

Scripture

First Reading: Exodus 17:1–7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He

called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Psalms 78: 1–4, 12–16 *(with refrain 1)*

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;

incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;

**I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.**

We will not hide them from their children;

**we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord
and the mighty wonders that God has done.**

In the sight of their ancestors God worked marvels
in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.

**The Lord divided the sea
and let them pass through it
and made the waters stand like a heap.**

In the daytime he led them with a cloud
and all night long with a fiery light.

**The Lord split rocks open in the wilderness
and gave them drink abundantly as from the
deep.**

**The Lord made streams come out of the rock
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.**

Second Reading: Isaiah 41:17–20

When the poor and needy seek water,
and there is none,
and their tongue is parched with thirst,
I the Lord will answer them,
I the God of Israel will not forsake them.
I will open rivers on the bare heights
and fountains in the midst of the valleys;
I will make the wilderness a pool of water
and the dry land springs of water.
I will put in the wilderness the cedar,
the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive;
I will set in the desert the cypress,
the plane and the pine together,
so that all may see and know,
all may consider and understand,
that the hand of the Lord has done this,
the Holy One of Israel has created it.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn:** You thirsty ones **190**

Sermon Water from the Rock

****Hymn:** Many and great, O God, are your works **301**

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.**

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,

...

we lift our hearts in joyful praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna
in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise you, most holy God,

...

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God,

...

almighty God, for ever and ever.

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

****Hymn:** All who hunger, gather gladly **534**

Breaking the Bread / Blessing the Cup

Prayer After Communion

****Hymn:** With the Lord as my guide **574**

Benediction

Postlude *Recessional* by Charles Gounod

'The only thing better than singing is more singing.' Ella
Fitzgerald

(So, come to choir practice, Thursday at 5:30.)

St Giles Events

Sunday, October 01 ~ 10:30 a.m.

World Communion Sunday This sacrament invites us to focus on the holiness of communion with God and one another.

Monday, October 02 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour by teleconference.

Wednesday, October 4 ~ 12:30 p.m.

St Giles Women's Association in person meeting. Bring your own lunch for 12:30. The meeting begins at 1:00p.m.

Wednesday, October 4 ~ 5:00 p.m.

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

Thursday, October 05 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice



Friday, October 06 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study by teleconference. The Book of Job (29-30)

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

Gracefield Christian Camp & Retreat Thanksgiving Dinner October 8, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

This year, we're changing things up with a delightful potluck-style feast. The camp will provide the main dishes and we ask each group to contribute a dish or two to share, ensuring everyone enjoys a variety of delicious creations. If you are interested in joining us please sign up on the Website.

<https://gracefieldcamp.ca/camp-events/2023thanksgiving>

Fatih and Work at Presbyterian College

How does our everyday work fit in with our faith? Think of nurses, software designers, project managers, mechanics, and others—how is their work a participation in God's mission for the world? The Presbyterian College is starting a five-week online study, titled "Meaning on Monday" to explore what the bible and theology say about our work, in relation to creation, salvation, and God's coming Kingdom. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Paul Wu.

A Meaningless Hour

St. Giles Presbyterian Church is hosting "A Meaningless Hour", a theatre presentation by Tom Sherwood on the Book of Ecclesiastes. It is an insightful and humorous view on life from the perspective of King Solomon. It will be an enriching evening for participants of all ages. Come and join us, on Friday, October 20, 2023, at 181 First Avenue. There will be snacks & refreshment from 6-7 pm. Theatre presentation

starts at 7 pm. Freewill offering is appreciated, with proceeds going to support the Multifaith Housing Initiative.

St. Giles Mission Committee needs members

Mission in all its forms is an integral part of who we are as a congregation. We are looking for new members to join this committee to help us promote mission.

If you are interested, please contact Stan Currie, 613-233-0538 or by email at scurrie@ncf.ca

Mission Moment

Hummingbird Ministries, one of the Indigenous ministries supported by gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, is



**Presbyterians
Sharing**

committed to bringing peace and healing to Indigenous families living in BC's lower mainland. Led by The Rev. Mary Fontaine, Moderator of the 2023 General Assembly, the ministry helps to restore hope by offering regular healing circles, working with the community in art and celebration, and providing educational and healing workshops, Bible studies, children's art and music programs. The ministry has also recently embarked on a journey to gather the wisdom and teachings of Indigenous elders through a series of interviews, reviving and preserving their treasured stories for generations to come



The Presbyterian Church in Canada