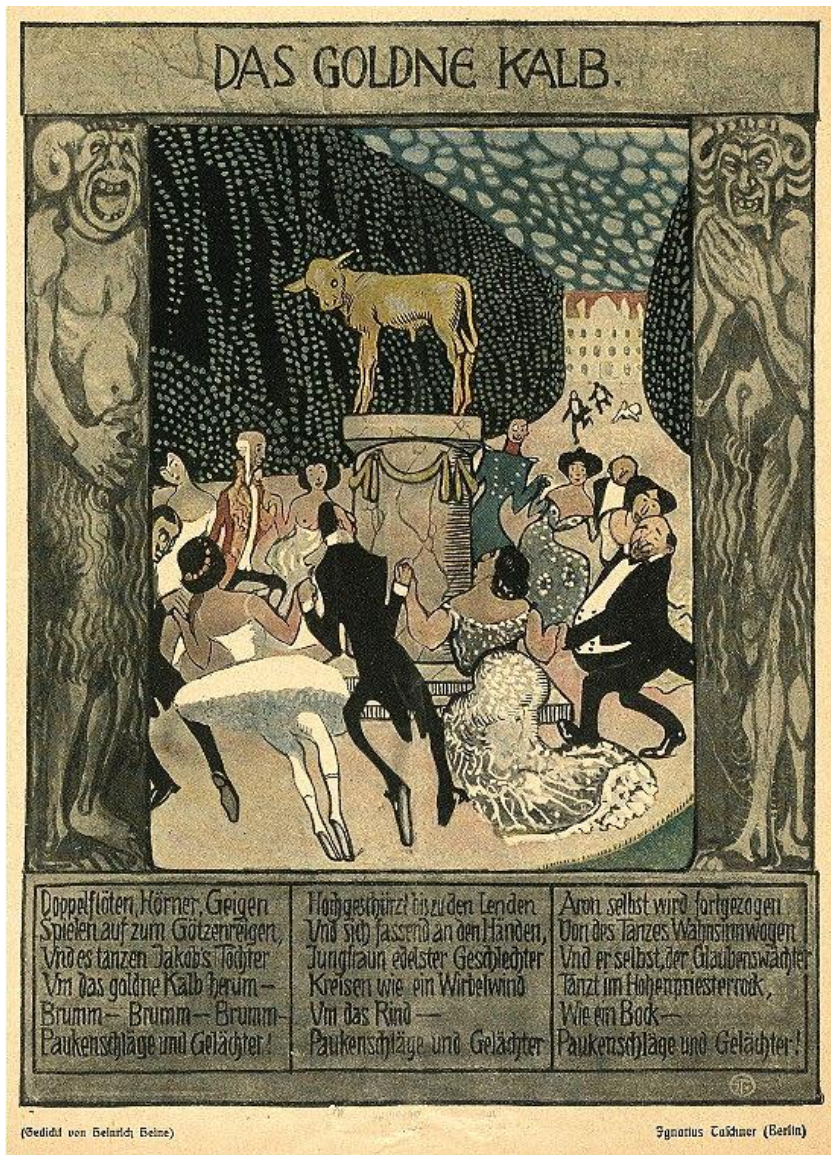


St Giles Presbyterian Church



Das Goldne Kalb, by Taschner Ignatius (1871-1913), cover illustration to a satiric poem by Heinrich Heine, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*.

October 15, 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: *The Tender Shepherd*

by van Denman van Denman

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We gather in God's holy presence,
where God embraces us with grace.

All: Here God will transform us into disciples.

One: We glorify God, who yearns for justice
for the last and the least.

**All: Here God will write compassion
on our hearts.**

One: We give thanks to God
for God's persistent love that seeks us out.

**All: Here God will breathe the Word of Life
into our lives, and so we will praise our God!**

****Hymn:** Word of God, across the ages

497

Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

God of all time and space, you have called people to meet you over the centuries, in many different places, in many different ways. We praise you for

welcoming us, receiving us as we are. You hear our prayers and claim us as your own. In this hour of worship, send your Spirit upon us to revive our faith and guide our footsteps in the way of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Saviour.

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of all life and each life, you know all about us, our deepest concerns and our fondest hopes. We confess we are often anxious to see results. We lose patience when we cannot see progress. We blame others rather than seek solutions. Forgive us. Help us claim your peace when our hearts are anxious.

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

While it is true we have all sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. So be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

Scripture

First Reading: Exodus 32:1–14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. He took these from them, formed them in a mold, and cast an image of a calf, and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it, and Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord." They rose early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being, and the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to revel.

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These

are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.”

But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Psalms 106:1–6. 19–23

(with refrain 1)

Praise the Lord!

O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good,
God’s steadfast love endures forever.

Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord
or declare all God's praise?

**Blessed are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times.**

Remember me, O Lord, when you show favor
to your people;

help me when you deliver them,
that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,
**that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
that I may glory in your heritage.**

Both we and our ancestors have sinned;
we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.

They made a calf at Horeb
and worshiped a cast image.

**They exchanged the glory of God
for the image of an ox that eats grass.**

They forgot God, their Savior,
who had done great things in Egypt,
wondrous works in the land of Ham,
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.

**Therefore God would have destroyed them—
had not Moses, the chosen one,
stood in the breach before God,
to turn away the wrath that would destroy them.**

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1

My dear, dear friends! I love you so much. I do want the very best for you. You make me feel such joy, fill me with such pride. Don't waver. Stay on track, steady in God.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn:** Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness **174**

Sermon Standing in the Breach

Prayers of the People

****Hymn:** Father, we love you **300**

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:** Your hand, O God, has guided **477**

Benediction

Postlude *Toccata* by Robert Thygerson



St Giles Events

Monday, October 16 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour by teleconference.

Wednesday, October 18 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Taizé Service sounds and prayers of healing. All are welcome.

Thursday, October 19 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice come sing with us.

Friday, October 20 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study by teleconference. The Book of Job (34-35)



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.

Talk Film, Talk Faith

Something new - an opportunity to gather with other members of the downtown Presbyterian community (Knox, St. Giles, St. Andrew's) to view and discuss a film.

Our first evening will be a screening of **A Brighter Tomorrow** from veteran Italian director Nanni Moretti. Part of the Official Competition at Cannes 2023, this a warm comedy/drama about a director trying to wrap up a film on the crisis within the Italian Communist Party after the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956, while his own marriage is in crisis. (English subtitles).

Sunday October 15, 5:45 p.m. at the Bytowne Cinema (English subtitles).

Discussion will follow in the home of Andrew Johnston, a ten minute walk from the Bytowne. For further information, speak to Stan Currie or Andrew, and RSVP to Andrew at talkfilmtalkfaith@gmail.com



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

The hardening of the US sanctions and the global financial crisis are contributing to a shortage of food, fuel, clean water and medicine in Cuba. With partners' support, the Evangelical Seminary of Theology in Matanzas carries on, providing



high quality, diversified theological education, and serving the community through diaconal projects. In 2022, the PCC helped improve the infrastructure for hybrid teaching and assisted with the renovation to the library and the Historical Archive. The Rev. Dr. Carlos Ham, Rector, shared at the 2023 General Assembly: "We appreciate the ways in which you accompany our work, not only providing much-needed financial support, but also through prayers."



Presbyterians
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The Presbyterian Church in Canada