

# St Giles Presbyterian Church



**Baptism of Christ**, Fresco painted by Fra Angelico, app. 1400-1455, from Art in the Christian Tradition

**January 07, 2024**

# **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 available. Please speak with an usher, if you have any questions. 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: *In His Presence*

by Lynda P. Loucks

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: The time has come!

**All: The time is now!**

One: The reign of God has drawn near.

**All: The kingdom of heaven is here.**

One: Let us turn our lives around and accept the good news.

**All: We will follow Christ and worship in his name.**

**\*\*Hymn:** On Jordan's Bank

**126**

Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

O Creator God, on this first day of the week, you began creating, bringing light to shine and bringing order out of chaos. On this first day of the week, you began your new creation, raising Jesus out of Jordan,

breathing new life into the world. On this first day of the week, you call us to waken from sleep and gather in your holy name. So we come to listen and wonder, to sing, pray, and be fed. By the gift of your Holy Spirit, make us your instruments of hope in a hurting world, as we offer prayer and praise this day in Jesus's name.

### Unison Prayer of Confession

**O Merciful God, we confess to you our wrongdoing: things we have done knowingly and things we have left undone; hurts we inflicted unintentionally and hurts we have tried to disguise selfish things we have done just to please others, and those just to please ourselves. Forgive us. In the year ahead, help us to choose a better way.**

### 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? 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 and set free to make a new start.

## Scripture

First Reading: Genesis 1:1–5

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Psalms 29 (*with refrain 1*)

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,

**ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**

Ascribe to the Lord the glorious name;

**worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;

**the God of glory thunders,  
the Lord, over mighty waters.**

The voice of the Lord is powerful;

**the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;

**the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.**

The Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf

**and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;

the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

**The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl**

**and strips the forest bare,**

**and in the temple of the Lord, all cry, "Glory!"**

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;

**the Lord sits enthroned as sovereign forever.**

O Lord, give strength to your people!

**O Lord, bless your people with peace!**

Second Reading: Mark 1:4–11

So John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and

he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**\*\*Hymn:** What was your vow and vision **182**  
(to the tune of Aurelia #479)

Sermon Beloved by God

Prayers of the People

**\*\*Hymn:** Thou whose almighty word **291**

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 word, O God, awoke the uncreated **508**

Benediction

Postlude *Allegro (Concerto in G)*

by J.S. Bach





## **St Giles Events**

**Monday, January 08 ~ 11:00 a.m.**

**Coffee Hour** by teleconference.

**Wednesday, January 10 ~ 5:00 p.m.**

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

**Thursday, January 11 ~ 5:30 p.m.**

**Choir Practice**

**Wednesday, January 17 ~ 7:00 p.m.**

**Session meeting** in person at St Giles.

**Please Note:** February meeting scheduled in January.

**Wednesday, January 31 ~ 10:30 a.m.**

**St Giles Women's Association** will be meeting by teleconference.



## **The Centertown Community Food Centre**

This is a reminder that there is a donation box in the front of the church for food donations. They also welcome money as they are able to buy in bulk.

## **In-Sanctuary Art Exhibition Series**

The current exhibition (January to April, 2024) features works of Gerald Trottie — a Glebe-born painter, sculptor, draughtsman, lithographer, printmaker, muralist, designer, teacher and poet who created art imbued with spirituality and humanity. The current works on display come from a place of profound belief: Trottier designed the interiors of a number of Ottawa churches. One print on display is also in the collection of the National Gallery.

### **Choir**

St. Giles Church has history of choral singing and is blessed with a dedicated choir. Why do we sing? Singing is a very healthy activity. As one organist/choir director said, 'Music takes us beyond the words.' It is spiritual. The fun and friendships that comes from this are God's gift.



**Come out to rehearsal and give it a try.**

You can speak to me, Heather Rice at coffee hour or use my email: [gowans978@gmail.com](mailto:gowans978@gmail.com). Soli Deo Gloria

## **Talk Film, Talk Faith**

An opportunity to gather with other members of the downtown Presbyterian community (Knox, St. Giles, St. Andrew's) to view and discuss a film. This month, **The Braid**, based on a bestselling novel with a story that weaves together the lives of three women in India, Italy and Canada, highlighting hope amidst adversity.

<https://www.bytowne.ca/movies/the-braid/> Friday January 19, 6:30 p.m. at the Bytowne Cinema on Rideau Street. 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. RSVP requested by Thursday noon January 18, to Andrew at [talkfilmtalkfaith@gmail.com](mailto:talkfilmtalkfaith@gmail.com)

## **Robbie Burns Dinner**

Knox Presbyterian Church will be having a Robbie Burns Dinner on Friday, January 26, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. There will Roast Beef, Haggis, Sing-alongs and toasts. Tickets are \$35.00 and can be purchased at St Giles. Please send your request to [office@stgilesottawa.org](mailto:office@stgilesottawa.org).

## Mission Moment

When the Rev. Lora Nafziger visited her sister in Nepal in 2022, she never imagined that she would return as Staff Care and Counselling Advisor with United Mission to Nepal (UMN). A faith-based international NGO, UMN strives to help all Nepalis achieve a fuller life through medical and community development programs. Responding to God's call, Lora departed for Kathmandu in early January 2024 with her spouse Mitch Rhodes and their two youngest children. Lora, who is also a clinical social worker, will provide spiritual and emotional support to expatriate UMN staff and Nepali staff. She is jointly supported by the PCC through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing and Mennonite Mission Network.



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