

St Giles Presbyterian Church



The Call of Samuel, by Frank Wesley (1923-2002), from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

January 14, 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: *Andante*

by F. Mendelssohn

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Before we were born, God knew us.

All: God knit us together in the womb.

One: God searches out our paths, and tracks us along

**All: So we praise God, for we are fearfully
and wonderfully made.**

One: There is nowhere we can go where God is not
with us.

**All: How wonderful are all God's works!
Let us worship God together.**

****Hymn:** Praise the Lord, ye heavens adore him **323**
(to the tune of Austria #483)

Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

God ever creating, ever loving, ever leading, you are
stillness when we are frantic; you are truth when we
are perplexed. You give us freedom when fear takes

hold; you send light when we have lost our way. You are love when we feel lonely and empty; you give us energy when we are ready to reach out. We praise you, Creator, Christ, Spirit, for all that you are, all that you have been, and all that you will be for us. In our worship we offer you our love and loyalty, here and now, now and always.

Unison Prayer of Confession

O merciful God, you call us to follow you and offer us purpose and new possibilities. Yet we confess we often hesitate. We are not sure what we have to offer you. We'd prefer that someone else take the lead and maybe we will follow them. Forgive us when we hesitate. Help us trust in you and to answer when you call.

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

Believe the good news! In Christ, God has offered us forgiveness for all our sins and shortcomings. Trust that this forgiveness is for you, and know that God's steadfast love and grace endure forever.

Scripture

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1–10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord

was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.' " So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Psalms 139:1–6; 13–18 (*with refrain 1*)

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

**You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

**Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.**

You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.**

**My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.**

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written

all the days that were formed for me,

when none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them—they are more than the sand;

I come to the end—I am still with you.

Second Reading: 1 Samuel 3:11–20

Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." So Samuel

told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him."

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn:** I the Lord of sea and sky **592**

Sermon Speak Lord, For Your Servant is Listening

Prayers of the People

****Hymn:** Those who wait on the Lord **662**

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:** Lord of all power

626

Benediction

Postlude *Thaxted*

by G. Holst



St Giles Events

Monday, January 15 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour by teleconference.

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

Session meeting in person at St Giles.

Thursday, January 18 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice all are invited to attend.

Friday, January 19 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study by teleconference.

Please Note: February meeting scheduled in January.

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

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

Friday Bible Study

For the upcoming Friday Bible Study, set to resume on January 19 at 10:00 a.m., we will be studying the Epistle to the Romans, chapter 1:1-7, an Introduction. The Book of Romans was written by the Apostle Paul, around 55-57 A.D. It is sometimes considered by biblical scholars as a systematic theology outlined by Paul, especially on justification and salvation. Others have called it the Good News according to Paul. This book offers a breathtaking theological and spiritual vision that is relevant to the ancient and contemporary readers alike. Come and join us! For more information, please contact Rev. Paul Wu.

Joining the Meeting, Conference Call or Bible Study

1. Three to five minutes before the start time, call toll-free
1-888-884-4539.
2. You will be asked to enter a passcode number which is 7455703#.
3. Make sure to press the # after the number.
4. You will then be asked to say your name. Say it.
5. Press the # again.

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.

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

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.

Mission Moment

Sohdi became the sole provider for her family when her husband died a decade ago. A farmer in Pakistan, she plants various crops, but droughts and floods have disrupted food production for three years. In 2021, Sohdi received aid through the Humanitarian, Early Recovery and Development project, supported by PWS&D, which provided food aid to households in need. This assistance enabled her family to eat properly even during times of failed harvests. The project also provided support for women artisans to improve their skills and market their goods, making them more resilient for the future. Sohdi is grateful for this support that allowed her to stay out of debt. Now, she dreams of her son's wedding as well as sending her other children to school.



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