

# St Giles Presbyterian Church



**Prophet Jonah Before the Walls of Nineveh, by Rembrandt  
Harmenszoon van Rijn, (1606-1669)**

**January 21, 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: *Jesus, My Lord*

by Bertha R. Frick

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: God our rock and our salvation.

**All: We will not be shaken!**

One: Trust in God at all times, O people.

**All: We will pour out our hearts to God, our refuge.**

One: Today, let us turn to God and accept the good news.

**All: We will listen for Christ's call and follow him.**

**\*\*Hymn:** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

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Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

Lord Jesus Christ, you have called us together as your people, and invited us to follow you. Your church has grown from scattered homes in ancient times – to a worldwide community, embracing men and women, young and old, from many nations and cultures. We marvel at the miracle of your church, and praise you

for our place among your people. Your love keeps drawing us to you and to each other, and so we offer you our wonder and praise with all those who also gather in your name this day.

### Unison Prayer of Confession

**O forgiving God, we confess your mercy can disturb us. We sit in judgment on what we hear, and cannot imagine offering forgiveness for dreadful actions. We prefer to think that your judgment matches ours. Forgive us for presuming we see as you see, and understand all that you understand.**

### 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 mercy of our God is from everlasting to everlasting. Friends, hear the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, God's generous love reaches out to embrace us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to begin again. Let us give thanks for God's most generous love.

## Scripture

### First Reading: Jonah 3:1–10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish."

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Psalms 62:5–12 *(with refrain 2)*

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.

**He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.**

On God rests my deliverance and my honor;  
**my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.**

Trust in him at all times, O people;  
**pour out your heart before him;**  
**God is a refuge for us.**

Those of low estate are but a breath,  
those of high estate are a delusion;  
**in the balances they go up;**  
**they are together lighter than a breath.**

Put no confidence in extortion,  
and set no vain hopes on robbery;  
if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

**Once God has spoken;**  
**twice have I heard this:**  
**that power belongs to God,**  
**and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.**

**For you repay to all**  
**according to their work.**

## Second Reading: Mark 1:14–20

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**\*\*Hymn:** Jesus calls us, o’er the tumult

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Sermon God Changed His Mind

Prayers of the People

**\*\*Hymn:** O God of Bethel, by whose hand

**654**

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

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Benediction

Postlude *Lift Up Your Songs of Praise* by Camille Saint-Saens  
(arr. Stewart Landon)





## **St Giles Events**

**Monday, January 22 ~ 11:00 a.m.**

**Coffee Hour** by teleconference.

**Thursday, January 25 ~ 5:30 p.m.**

**Choir Practice** all are invited to attend.

**Friday, January 26 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

**Bible Study** Romans 1:8–2:16, theme "No one is righteous...not the Gentiles," 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.

### **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.

## **Friday Bible Study**

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.

## **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

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.



**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

## 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

We are God's people, called to serve God with our many gifts. We belong to a denomination that is connected by faith, governance, history and mission. Presbyterians Sharing is one of the ways that Presbyterians across Canada work together to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, sharing God's love and hope in our communities, in Canada and around the world. Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing help build strong congregations, serve vulnerable people, walk with Indigenous people, seek justice and share God's love. When we work together, we can accomplish so much more than we ever could on our own.



Presbyterians  
Sharing



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