

St Giles Presbyterian Church

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“If Robin Hood takes from the rich and gives it to the poor, then eventually *everyone* will be poor. Explain to me again why that makes him a hero?”

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September 08, 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: *Prelude* by Ludwig von Beethoven
arr. Harold K. Marks

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Put your confidence in God.

All: We have God as our helper and so we rejoice.

One: God gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry.

All: God frees the prisoners and opens the eyes of the blind.

One: So put your trust in God's goodness.

**All: May God's goodness endure forever!
Let us worship God.**

****Hymn:** Joyful, joyful we adore you

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A Service of Commissioning

Prayer of Adoration

Eternal God, you are our beginning and our end. You gave breath to all living things. By your Spirit, you come among us this day, breathing new life into familiar patterns, as the gift you offer us through Christ Jesus. By your grace, you open new possibilities for the world you love. So we offer you our lives in worship and in service, joining our voices with all your creatures, to offer you honour and blessing, glory and gratitude, now and always.

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, you keep an eye out for those who dwell on the margins of life. We confess we fail to keep our eyes open for those on the margins. We have been silent when we should have spoken up in the face of injustice. Our generosity to others does not match what you offer us. Forgive us for thinking of ourselves first. Renew our commitment to show others the kindness we meet in Jesus Christ.

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 us? 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. So be renewed to live according to God's generous grace.

Scripture

First Reading: Proverbs 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favor is better than silver or gold.

The rich and the poor have this in common:
the Lord is the maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of anger will fail.

Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.

Do not rob the poor because they are poor
or crush the afflicted at the gate,

for the Lord pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

Psalm 125 (*with refrain 2*)

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved but abides forever.

**As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the Lord surrounds the people of God
from this time on and forevermore.**

For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest
on the land allotted to the righteous,
so that the righteous might not stretch out
their hands to do wrong.

**Do good, O Lord, to those who are good
and to those who are upright in their hearts.**

But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways,
the Lord will lead away with evildoers.

Peace be upon Israel!

Second Reading: James 2:1–10

My brothers and sisters do not claim the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory while showing partiality. For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here in a good place, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit by my footstool," have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the

poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor person. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into the courts? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well. But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn:** Teach me, O Lord, your way of truth **80**
(to the tune of 366)

Sermon The Partiality of Impartial God

Prayers of the People

****Hymn:** Blest are they **624**

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:** I'm gonna live so God can use me

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Benediction

Postlude *Air for Trumpet*

by Georg P. Telemann
arr. Lani Smith



St Giles Events

Monday, September 09 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour by teleconference.

Tuesday, September 10 ~ 12:30 p.m.

The Presbyterian Women will meet for a bag lunch and monthly meeting, at 1:00 pm. This will be in person at St. Giles. All women in the congregation are welcome.

Thursday, September 12 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Choir practices will begin on Thursday, September 5 at 5:30pm. **Come and join in the song!**

Friday, September 13 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study will resume in September.

Sunday, October 06 ~ 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Walk for the Centre 2 or 4 km walk to raise funds for the Centretown Community Food Centre.

Children Sunday School

The Children Sunday School at St. Giles is restarting on the Sunday of September 8, 2024. Please keep in your prayer the team of teachers and helpers, and pray also as Keon, Hanga, Anika, Aaron, Lennix, Ethan, Cedra, and Nova grow in stature so would their love for God. May we faithfully make Jesus known so our students will walk humbly before the LORD all the days of their lives.

Walk for the Centre

The Annual "Walk for the Centre" – Sunday, October 6, 2024, 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, "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. Please speak to Stan or Jean Currie at 613-233-0538, if you would like to join us as a walker or make a donation. They will also take donations (cash or cheque) up until the day of the Walk.

More information and pictures are available at the Walkathon information page at <https://www.centretownchurches.org/walkathon> where you will also find a link to donate using Canada Helps. Please make your online donation in support of our team, "St Giles Walkers

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, September 8: We give thanks for teachers at Francisco Coll School in Guatemala who equip students with skills and knowledge that will help them succeed in furthering their education.

Monday, September 9: Dear Lord Almighty, we pray for those who work to build relationships that are broken in our communities. Continue to hold our leaders from the World Council of Churches and the Canadian Council of Churches in your care as you guide those working for peace and unity.

Tuesday, September 10: We pray for search committees in vacant congregations as they discern who God is calling for them to invite to be their new minister.

Wednesday, September 11: We pray for Samuel House, a ministry of the Reformed Church in Romania, and Csilla Bertalan, Director, as they serve underprivileged children in Romania.

Thursday, September 12: We pray for Edmonton Urban Native Ministries, which runs a drop-in centre out of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, and the people it serves.

Friday, September 13: We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Brandon.

Saturday, September 14: We pray for sessions as they help the members and adherents of their congregations grow in faith and participate in the ministry of Christ locally and around the world.

Mission Moment

At Samuel House, a ministry of the Reformed Church in Romania, vulnerable children receive nutritious food and homework tutoring so that their potential can be realized in a caring Christian environment. Responding to God's call, Csilla Bertalan first opened the doors in June 2003 to welcome underprivileged children living in difficult circumstances. Csilla is grateful to God and partners for their support in transforming so many young lives. She shares, "I am grateful that the PCC has been standing beside us in this mission. Thank you!" Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing have been supporting Samuel House since 2014.



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