

St Giles Presbyterian Church



Guarding Words and Actions (2009), photograph by Stephen Poff,
from Art in the Christian Tradition

September 15, 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: *Recit de Chromhorne* by François Couperin

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Come, people of God, worship the One
who listens to our prayers.

All: We will worship the One who hears us.

One: Come, people of God, worship the One
who watches over us

**All: We will worship the One
who cares deeply for us all.**

One: Come, people of God, worship the One
who offered his life for us.

**All: We will offer thanks and praise to the One
who gives us life.**

****Hymn:** Praise the Lord with the sound of Trumpet **466**

Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

Living God, you are the artist of the changing skies
and architect of the steadfast earth. Loving Christ,
you were born to walk life's journey with us and show

us God's purposes. Spirit of life, you are always moving in us and among us, offering us wisdom for every choice. Creator, Christ and Spirit, we honour you in our prayers and our praise. In this time of worship, show us how we can serve you,
for we seek your guidance and your grace now and always

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of time and eternity, we confess that we have long memories, especially for moments we resent or regret. Each week we seek your forgiveness for our mistakes, but we confess we do not forgive others so faithfully. Sometimes we seek opportunity to even the score. Confront us with your mercy, O God, and open our hearts to its cleansing power.

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

From now on, the Apostle Paul declared, we regard no one from a human point of view. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Through Christ, God has reconciled us and given us a ministry of reconciliation. Thanks be to God that we can all make a new start, this day and every day!

Scripture

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4–9

The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

All of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

Psalm 116:1–9 *(with refrain 2)*

I love the Lord, who has heard
my voice and my supplications.

**Because God inclined an ear to me,
therefore I will call on the Lord as long as I live.**

The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.

**Then I called on the name of the Lord:
“O Lord, I pray, save my life!”**

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;
our God is merciful.

**The Lord protects the simple;
when I was brought low, God saved me.**

Return, O my soul, to your rest,
for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.
**For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling.
I walk before the Lord
in the land of the living.**

Second Reading: James 3:1–12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will face stricter judgment. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is mature, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So, also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of life, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one

can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse people, made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth comes a blessing and a curse. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives or a grapevine figs? No more can saltwater yield fresh'

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn:** Let there be light **727**

Sermon Taming the Tongue

Prayers of the People

****Hymn:** Open my eyes, that I may see **500**

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:** We are one in the Spirit

471

Benediction

Postlude *Dialogue*

by François Couperin



Robert Fleming, "Let there be light."

Robert Fleming, composer of hymn 727 'Let there be light' was a Canadian composer, pianist, organist, choirmaster & teacher. He was a staff composer & music director with the National Film Board; organist/choir director at Glebe United Church 1954-1956. Mr. Fleming joined the faculty of Carleton University in 1970 & in 1972 became organist/choirmaster at St. Matthias Anglican Church.



St Giles Events

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

Coffee Hour by teleconference.

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

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

Friday, September 20 ~ 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.

Ottawa School of Theology and Spirituality (OSTS)

They are a multi-denominational Christian-based organization. Their lecturers are drawn from Ottawa's universities, clergy of various backgrounds, and other knowledgeable educators and individuals who give courses on theology, spirituality, philosophy, Bible studies, ethics, social justice issues, the arts and religion. Courses can be on Zoom or in person. Course details and further information can be found on the school's homepage at <https://www.osts.ca/>.

The OSTS has been part of the Ottawa church and religious community since 1964.

Synod 2024

The Synod of Quebec & Eastern Ontario is scheduled to meet on October 18 and 19, at St. Andrew's Church, Arnprior. The featured speaker is Carey Nieuwhof (careynieuwhof.com), a former Presbyterian minister, best-selling author, speaker, podcaster, church planter and the founder of The Art of Leadership Academy. Carey's mission is to help church leaders identify and scale their next growth barrier. He has extensive experience helping organizations lead through change, develop high-capacity teams, and deepen their personal growth as well as their health. If you are interested to attend, please contact the Rev. Paul Wu for more details.

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."

Mission Moment

After participating in the New Beginnings program, which guides congregations through a renewal process to discern God's call for their future, St. Giles Presbyterian Church in St. Catharines, ON, is exploring innovative ways to engage with their community. The congregation is turning faith into action by fostering a welcoming and supportive environment for individuals with disabilities and their families. They have created a multi-sensory space where individuals with sensory sensitivities can find comfort and engagement. They hope to offer respite programming and support groups for caregivers who demonstrate a commitment to walking alongside them in their journey. The New Beginnings program receives funding from Presbyterians Sharing.



(Photo from PCC via Flickr)



Presbyterians
Sharing



The Presbyterian Church in Canada