

St Giles Presbyterian Church



Holy Spirit and Fire with Baptismal Font

January 12, 2025

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: *The Light of Faith* by Roy E. Nolte

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Beloved, God chooses us and calls us by name.

All: We belong to God. Alleluia!

One: Our lives have purpose because we belong to God.

All: We are called to be like Christ and follow him.

One: We will find joy, peace, and restoration through God's amazing grace.

**All: Let us worship God who claims us and loves us!
Praise be to God!**

****Hymn:** Songs of thankfulness and praise

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Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

Creator of the sun and moon and stars, you stir in our midst to reveal your light. By the work of your Spirit, you lead us in new directions. Your beloved Son has called us to new life and by his grace, reconciles the divisions among us. Holy One, we praise you for the blessings you give us in our baptism into Christ, and through your love that surrounds us day by day. To you we give all praise, glory and honor, through Jesus Christ, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and always. Amen.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, but we confess that we prefer our old, familiar ways. We cling to destructive habits, we harbor grudges, and we are reluctant to welcome a stranger or forgive one another. Nostalgia for the past, prevents us from exploring new possibilities. In your loving kindness, forgive us. Have mercy upon us and move among us so that we might pursue new life in Christ together.

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

Do not be afraid, for Christ has redeemed you. Baptized in the deep waters of death, he has washed away your sins. Risen from death, he invites you to be washed in the cleansing tide of God's mercy. Your sins are forgiven; be at peace with God, with yourself, and with each other

Scripture

First Reading: Acts 8:14–17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 29 (with refrain 2)

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 to 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 makes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in the temple of the Lord all say, "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: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "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:** O God, whose fire lit the stars

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Sermon Water and Fire

Prayers of the People

****Hymn:** O Master, let me walk with thee

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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, you give the great commission **778**

Benediction

Postlude *Psalm of Glory*

by Lani Smith



St Giles Events

Monday, January 13 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour by teleconference.

Thursday, January 16 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice is resuming, to God be the glory.

Friday, January 17 ~ 12:00 p.m.

Bible Study by teleconference. The Book of Proverbs 18,
19 The Proverbs of Solomon V

Wednesday, January 22 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Session Meeting in person

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 the passcode number 7455703#.



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 poster for the winter term is on the bulletin board by the side entrance to the church.

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

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. Soli Deo Gloria

Mission Moment

With support from Presbyterians Sharing, Hummingbird Ministries promotes healing for Indigenous generations, addressing the trauma of a colonial past while nurturing hopes for a brighter future. Led by the Rev. Mary Fontaine, the ministry fosters healing and reconciliation through cultural arts and connects with congregations across the PCC to provide healing through workshops and events.



Presbyterians
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The Presbyterian Church in Canada