

# St Giles Presbyterian Church



*The Word is Near You*

**March 09, 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

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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: *Little Prelude on*

*Winnagene Hatch St. Agnes, Durham*

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We live in the shelter of the Most High,

**All: For We abide in the shadow of Almighty.**

One: God is our refuge and our strength,

**All: For the Lord is the One in whom we trust.**

One: The Lord will deliver us from the perils that threaten us.

**All: Under God's wings, we will find refuge and not be afraid.**

One: So let us praise God, in song and in silence, with thankful hearts!

**All: We will worship God with heart, mind, soul and strength, now and always.**

**\*\*Hymn:** The glory of these forty days

**192**

Children's Story

## Prayer of Adoration

Holy and merciful God, you are our refuge and strength. We rejoice in your grace which has called creation into being and makes all life complete. We praise you for Jesus Christ who reveals your loving purposes for all people; in his face we glimpse your glory; in his life we see the pattern for our lives. We bless you for the Holy Spirit who guides us and strengthens us, drawing us into the embrace of your tender love. And so, we praise you, O God, our eternal, creating father who loves us with motherly care, united with Christ, our saviour, and your Holy Spirit, the breath of life, Three in One, now and always.

## Unison Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and most merciful God, on the first Sunday of Lent, we confess that we have sinned against you in things we have done, and things we have neglected to do. We have held back from giving to protect what we have. We have not trusted in your goodness and have instead relied on the world's empty promises. Forgive what we have done and direct who we shall become. Help us to see indeed we are dust, and to dust we shall return.**

## 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 and believe the good news! Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life is gone. The new life has come. Know that you are forgiven, and so, in Christ, forgive one another.

## Scripture

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1–11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I

declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Psalms 91:1–2, 9–16 (with refrain 1)

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
will say to the Lord,

**“My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust.”**

Because you have made the Lord your refuge,  
the Most High your dwelling place,  
no evil shall befall you,  
no scourge come near your tent.

**For the Lord will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.**

On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

**You will tread on the lion and the adder,  
the young lion and the serpent  
you will trample under foot.**

Those who love me, I will deliver;

**I will protect those who know my name.**

When they call to me, I will answer them;

**I will be with them in trouble,**

**I will rescue them and honor them.**

**With long life I will satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation.**

Second Reading: Romans 10:8b–13

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**\*\*Hymn:** How clear is our vocation, Lord **649**

Sermon The Word is Near You

Prayers of the People

**\*\*Hymn:** Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine **687**

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:** Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

**651**

Benediction

Postlude *Trumpet Tune*

by Gertrude Richolson



## St Giles Events

**Monday, March 10 ~ 11:00 a.m.**

**Coffee Hour** by teleconference.

**Tuesday, March 18 ~ 7:00 p.m.**

**Session** will meet in person.

**Friday, March 14 ~ 12:00 p.m.**

**Bible Study** by teleconference. The Book of Proverbs 29, The Proverbs of Solomon VIII

**Wednesday, March 19 ~ 3:30 p.m.**

**Centennial Committee** meeting



### **Guest speaker**

In celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Giles we have invited Dr. Roland De Vries as guest speaker for the Sunday, of March 16<sup>th</sup>. The Reverend De Vries is the principal of the Presbyterian College and will be sharing with us some exciting current ministries of the college.

### **Help for the Needy**

In addition to their existing donation programs: food for the Centretown Emergency Food Bank, used stamps for Oxfam poverty relief, and eyeglasses for the Lion's Club Recycle for Sight program, the Women's Committee is newly collecting used coloured plastic milk bags to be woven into bed mats

and seat cushions for the those in need in our neighbourhood and for use at the Centre 507 drop-in nearby. Donations can be left in marked containers in the Narthex at the entrance to the church. Thank you!

### **Ottawa and Seaway-Glengarry Presbytery**

Join your brothers and sisters across the Ottawa and Seaway-Glengarry Presbytery for an online Bible Study in 1 John that is being led by Sunjay Henry, the Presbytery Animator. The study takes place on Monday afternoons from 12pm-1pm. Please email Sunjay at [prezminanimator@gmail.com](mailto:prezminanimator@gmail.com) for the Zoom link or if you have any questions.

### **Presbytery Youth**

Our next presbytery event will take place on Friday March 28th at 7pm. We will be meeting at St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church. The evening will consist of fellowship, worship, activities, discussion and snacks.

Our special project for the event will be writing encouragement notes to university students who will be writing their final exams. Hope to see you there!

### **Calling ALL youth!**

As part of the Presbytery's 150th anniversary celebration on Saturday May 4th, the planning committee has asked for youth to join the celebration and participate in the following areas: possibly reading Scripture, ushering, serving refreshments, receiving offerings. If any of these areas interest, please reach out to Sunjay Henry via email at [prezminanimator@gmail.com](mailto:prezminanimator@gmail.com) or on Instagram @prezzyyouthonfire

## Mission Moment

Through our gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, we support ministries with vulnerable people, equip leaders, help congregations as they seek out new directions, support new faith communities and renew established ones. We work with international partners to share the good news of Christ. We speak up for children's rights and the asylum seekers, migrant workers and their families. We provide spaces for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to walk together on a journey of healing and reconciliation. Together, we are working to build a church where all are welcome.



(Photo from PCC)



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The Presbyterian Church in Canada