

St Giles Presbyterian Church



Fig Tree, 2010 photo by Naveedanjumkhan, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*.

March 23, 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: *Sarabande*

Gilbert M. Martin

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Seek the Lord while God may be found.
Call upon God who is near.

All: We will return to the Lord our God.

One: God's thoughts are not our thoughts.
God's ways are not our ways.

All: We come, seeking new paths to follow.

One: As the heavens are higher than the earth
so are God's ways higher than ours.

**All: We come as pilgrims on the journey,
praising God along the way.**

****Hymn:** Come, let us sing to the Lord our song **412**

Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

God, our Creator and Sustainer, in you we live and move and have our being. In your depths we find meaning; in your heights we find light and joy. You

are the source of peace and hope for all who turn to you. You alone have been our help and our guide, and in you we find rest and welcome along the way. So, we praise you, O God, for your steadfast love. Draw near to us once more in this time of worship. Reveal your purposes for us and prepare us for the days ahead, so that our lives may witness to your mercy and grace as we follow Jesus.

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of grace and mercy, we confess that our thoughts are so often not your thoughts; our ways are rarely your ways. Our tempers are short, and we fail to act with kindness. Our confidence is weak, and we treat others without respect. Our faith falters and we lose track of you. Forgive the many ways we fail you and inspire us to follow you more faithfully.

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. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. By Christ's mercy, we can make a fresh start following him.

Scripture

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1–9

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,

because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found,

call upon him while he is near;

let the wicked forsake their way,

and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways

and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalm 63:1–8 *(with refrain 1)*

O God, you are my God, I seek you,

my soul thirsts for you;

my flesh faints for you,

as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,

beholding your power and glory.

Because your steadfast love is better than life,

my lips will praise you.

So I will bless you as long as I live;

I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,

and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

**when I think of you on my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.**
My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.

Second Reading: Luke 13:1–9

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.'

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn:** You thirsty ones **190**

Sermon A Nameless Hunger

Prayers of the People

****Hymn:** Dear Father, Lord of humankind **451**

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:** Great is thy faithfulness **324**

Benediction

Postlude *Litany of the Bells*

Walker Baylor



St Giles Events

Monday, March 24 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour by teleconference.

Thursday, March 27 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice, to God be the glory.

Friday, March 28 ~ 12:00 p.m.

Bible Study by teleconference. The Book of Proverbs 31
The Words of King Lemuel.

Wednesday, April 02 ~ 10:30 a.m.

The St Giles Presbyterian Women will be meeting by
teleconference.



Session News

The Session of St. Giles has approved a new renter, the United Christian Church of Ottawa, an ethnic Myanmar / Burmese congregation of 70 members. They plan to use the banquet hall of the church, on Sunday, from 1:00 pm to 3:45 pm, starting March 30, 2025. We pray for God's blessings on this congregation, and for a successful integration.

Anniversary Committee

Universal Portrait Studios has committed to produce an anniversary photobook for St Giles. This studio brings families together for professional portraits while delivering high-quality Pictorial Church Directories. An email invitation will be sent with further information. Start date for this event will be May 20th, 2025 and possibly May 21st, 2025.

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 now 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 church entrance. Thank you!

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 prezminimator@gmail.com or on Instagram @prezzyyouthonfire

Barrhaven Taskforce

The Presbytery of Ottawa has reconstituted the Barrhaven Taskforce, to consider wisely and strategically on how its property (on Greenbank Avenue) might best be utilized in the furtherance of Christ's mission as we seek to faithfully witness in the Barrhaven Community. Specifically, the Presbytery is seeking those among our congregations who reside in Barrhaven or neighbouring areas, and/or who have an interest in property development to join this Taskforce. For more details, please contact the Rev. Paul Wu.

Mission Moment

Five years after getting married, Cristina's husband emigrated to the United States from Guatemala, leaving her in debt. Unable to pay off the debt, she lost her land and struggled to earn enough daily to feed her young children and repay the debt and interest. She received support from Fraternidad de Presbiteriales Mayas, PWS&D's local partner, learned about healthy and nutritional diets as was trained how to manage her cornfields, family gardens and backyard animals. She also received financial support to raise livestock and grow vegetables.



(Photo from PCC)



Presbyterian
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The Presbyterian Church in Canada