

St Giles Presbyterian Church



The Conversion of St. Paul, oil painting, by Michelangelo Merisi de Caravaggio (1571-1610).

May 04, 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: *I Love to Tell the Story* *arr. Wilbur Held*

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Sing praises to the Lord, you faithful;

All: We will give thanks to God's holy name.

One: Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

All: We will give thanks to God's holy name.

One: God has turned our mourning into dancing!
Let us praise and not be silent!

**All: Lord our God, we will give thanks
to your holy name, now and always!**

****Hymn:** The strife is o'er, the battle done **257**

Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

God of the Risen Christ and the rising earth, we come giving thanks for all the wonder in your creation: for the tiny perfection revealed in a baby's fingers grasping ours; in each daffodil unzipping its jacket to

greet the spring, and each rock face worn by wind and water,

bearing its rugged beauty with your praise. These details lift our hearts to praise you, so let the details of the story of the Risen Christ do so likewise, that we may greet a new week as an occasion to discover him in our midst, making all things.

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of grace, we acknowledge ways in which we fall short of your will and your hope for us. We confess we find it difficult to forgive others and ourselves. We carry grudges about things done by others long ago, and things we have done still haunt us. Forgive us and give us the grace to forgive others; amend who we are and set us free to begin again with you and one another

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

Friends in Christ, while it is true we have all fallen short of God's intentions, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God, Jesus offers forgiveness and new life. So be at peace with God, with yourself, and with one another.

Scripture

First Reading: Acts 9:1–9

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

Psalm 30 (with refrain 1)

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have lifted me up,
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

**O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.**

**O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life
from among those gone down to the Pit.**

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to God's holy name.

**For the Lord's anger is but for a moment;
the Lord's favor is for a lifetime.**

**Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.**

As for me, I said in my prosperity,
"I shall never be moved."

**By your favor, O Lord,
you had established me as a strong mountain;
you hid your face; I was dismayed.**

To you, O Lord, I cried,
and to the Lord I made supplication:

**"What profit is there in my death,
if I go down to the Pit?**

**Will the dust praise you?
Will it tell of your faithfulness?**

Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me!
O Lord, be my helper!"

You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth
and clothed me with joy,
so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Second Reading: Acts 9:10–20

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So, Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something

like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn:** Will you come and follow me **634**

Sermon The Conversion of Ananias

Prayers of the People

****Hymn:** I have decided to follow Jesus **570**

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:** Lead on, O King eternal **742**

Benediction

Postlude *I Will Sing the Wondrous Story* arr. Wilbur Held



St Giles Events

Monday, May 05 ~ 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour by teleconference.

Wednesday, May 07 ~ 12:30 a.m.

St Giles Presbyterian Women will meet in person at 12:30 p.m. for a bag lunch. Meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. This is a good opportunity to bring mission money and past collections to build our general fund. **All Women who attend St Giles are Welcome!**

Thursday, May 08 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice, to God be the glory.

Friday, May 09 ~ 12:00 p.m.

Bible Study the Book of Revelation Chapter 3, Message to Seven Churches II.



Food Pantry of St. Giles

The 'Food Pantry of St. Giles' is an initiative authorized by the Session. Member and adherents are encouraged to donate their excess non-perishable food items, to be organized and displayed on the pantry shelves in the basement hall. People are free to take any items from the pantry as needed, the same way as the 'free table'. May God pour out blessings onto the congregation, so we can truly experience what it means when the Lord Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

Summer Interns

Starting May 1, St. Giles has hired two new interns. Joseph Burton is tasked with sorting out archival materials of congregational lives, and to integrate two distinct catalogues into a cohesive whole. Lenel Padilla is tasked with improving the online presence of St. Giles, so the wider community would be more aware and participate in the ministries of the congregation. Please make them feel welcome whenever possible. May God strengthen the work of their hands.

Bible Study - Book of Revelation

As the opening verse indicates, this is a book about Jesus Christ, the mysteries of his return, of things that "must soon take place". Traditionally understood as written by John the Apostle, while exiled to the penal colony of Patmos, around 90-95 A.D. The book of Revelation has historically invited multitudes of interpretive readings with mixed results. It is not an understatement to say that history is littered with end-time miscalculations based on this book, and sometimes with devastating consequences. How then should we read this book? What does it say to the Church of the 21st century? Is the end drawing near? Come and join us in exploring this fascinating book, every Friday at noon, via Teleconference.

150th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in Canada

The Presbytery of Ottawa is organizing a special service of worship on Sunday, May 4, 2025, at 3 p.m., at St. Paul's Church, 971 Woodroffe Avenue, Ottawa, to celebrate and give thanks for 150 years of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. All members, adherents

and friends of the presbyterian church are welcome to join this celebration. Choir members of St. Giles are also taking part in the joint choir for this event.

100th Anniversary of St. Giles Presbyterian Church

As part of on-going events planned by the Anniversary Committee, Rev. Amanda Currie, the Moderator of the 145th General Assembly of the PCC, has been invited as the guest speaker for the Sunday service of May 11, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. Having grown up at St. Giles, Amanda went on to pursue ordained ministry within the PCC. She is currently serving as the minister of First Presbyterian Church, Regina, and as the president of the Canadian Council of Churches. The worship service will be followed by a luncheon prepared by the Presbyterian Women's Association. All are welcome.

Fundraiser Concert for Gracefield

Sunday June 1st, 2025, at St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, 579 Parkdale Avenue, Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre will be having a fundraiser Concert featuring St Stephens's choir with Pegi Jenkins, Music Director, and Deanna Singh, Soprano. Online donations and free will offerings, will go to support Gracefield. (see poster at side entrance for further info)

Mission Moment

Through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, the Presbyterian Church in Canada supports Rivière des Prairies, a ministry that reaches out to immigrants in the east end where there is a growing presence of new Canadians, mainly from Cameroon. The mission celebrates multilingualism, creating an open and welcoming space for newcomers to Canada and fostering a strong sense of community and support for individuals on their shared faith journey.



(Photo from PCC)



Presbyterians
Sharing



The Presbyterian Church in Canada