

St Giles Presbyterian Church



Saint Francis in the Desert, 1480, by Giovanni Bellini, painting, panel, from Art in the Christian Tradition.

September 07, 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

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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: *Be Thou My Vision* arr. Cindy Berry

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Joy comes to those who follow God's ways.

All: We will follow the Lord with joyful hearts!

One: Those who follow the Lord are like trees
planted by the river, bearing fruit each season.

All: May our lives be fruitful and blessed by God!

One: Worship the Lord who leads us to joy and abundance.

All: Let us worship God now and throughout all our days.

****Hymn:** Stand up and bless the Lord **411**

Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

God of all creation, you have formed the world in beauty and filled it with creatures of your loving purpose. Each one declares your praise – the mountain reveals your majesty; the ripened field, your generosity. Birds flying aloft sing of your freedom; the tiny ant works with your persistence. And what do we declare

about you in our lives? We pray that our work will honour your justice and mercy; may our relationships speak of your love and compassion. May we praise you, O God, not just in this hour of worship, but in all our waking and our working. Challenge us today to live out the praise we offer you through the grace of Jesus Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of justice and mercy, we offer you our love and loyalty in worship, yet we admit we do not live out that love and loyalty. We don't always act on our good intentions, we fail to keep our promises, we hurt each other and then refuse to seek or offer forgiveness. People must look at us and wonder if this is what it means to follow Jesus. Forgive us, we pray and help us to do better.

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, as the Apostle Paul declared, we regard no one from a human point of view. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! Thanks be to God that we can make a new start this very day.

Amen.

Scripture

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15–20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that

means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

Psalm 1 (*with refrain 1*)

Blessed are those

who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;

**but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on that law they meditate day and night.**

They are like trees

planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they flourish.

The wicked are not so,

but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

**for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Second Reading: Luke 14:25–33

Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot

be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

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

Sermon The Cost of Discipleship

Prayers of the People

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

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:** Your hand, O God, has guided

477

Benediction

Postlude *Short Fantasy in G*

Walker Baylor



St Giles Events

Thursday, September 11 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice, all are welcome.

Friday, September 12 ~ 12:00 p.m.

Bible Study by teleconference. The Book of Revelations 15–16, Vision of the Seven Angels

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#.



Fall Youth Retreat - Grounded

The Presbyteries of Ottawa and Seaway-Glengarry are delighted to share the return of the Fall Youth Retreat, taking place **Friday October 3-Sunday, October 5 at Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre**. This event is for youth aged 11-17. This year's theme is Grounded: how do we stay grounded in Jesus as the core of our faith in the midst of everything else life throws our way? The weekend will include

worship, learning, and camp activities like archery, hiking, crafts, and wide games (games that take place across the property). Cost is only \$40/youth. Leaders are free if they sleep in a cabin with youth or \$25 to stay in White Pine (maybe sharing a room with another leader). A bus will leave St. Paul's Church, 971 Woodroffe Avenue, Ottawa at 6:30 pm on Friday and return to St. Paul's for 4:30 on Sunday. Leaders are responsible for making sure there is at least 1 leader per 5 youth attending but are welcome to work with other congregations to share leaders. **RSVP** with number of youths, preferred cabin assignment (male or female), and food restrictions **by September 26**. Questions and RSVP to the Presbytery Animator, Sunjay Henry: prezminanimator@gmail.com

CCSAC in support of our Centretown Community Food Centre

The Food Centre served over 15,000 hungry neighbours in 2024, a 54% increase over 2023. We are fundraising for the 10th annual Walk for the Centre, October 5, 2025, from 1:30 - 4:30 pm. We are hoping for the support of our parishioners, youth groups and choirs for church teams as we raise much needed funds for the Food Centre. We will meet in person in Canadian Martyrs church (100 Main St.) for our 10th annual festivities of music, guests and a Piper band to walk the Western Rideau River Pathway. Please endorse our Walk with an announcement after your Sunday Service.

We will enjoy the music and song of a Banjo performer at 1:40 pm, Guest Speakers followed by the Son's of Scotland Piper Band to lead us into the Walk at 2:20 pm. We welcome you and our parishioners to join us in our event and to remember us in prayer for our success. Thank you. www.centretownchurches.org/walkathon

Presbytery Bible Study

Presbytery Bible Study: Our weekly Bible study will resume on Monday, September 8th at 12 noon on Zoom. We will begin by studying the book of Hebrews. E-mail Presbytery Ministry Animator Sunjay Henry at prezminanimator@gmail.com

Ottawa School of Theology & Spirituality

The Ottawa School of Theology & Spirituality are offering courses for the Fall and Winter Term 2025. Most courses are offered by Zoom but a few are in person at All Saints in Westboro, Ottawa. Courses start September 22 till October 27 for the 1st session and November 3rd to December 1 for the 2nd session. Their home page is <https://www.osts.ca>. For further details please see poster and brochures at the side door entrance of St Giles.

Mission Moment

Israeli military and settlers have destroyed hundreds of thousands of olive trees belonging to Palestinian farmers. In support and solidarity, the Olive Tree Campaign provides olive tree saplings to these farmers, allowing them to remain on their land and earn a living. Since 2018, the PCC has been supporting this campaign. Funds from Presbyterians Sharing and donations help strengthen Palestinian resilience and help keep hope alive for a better future.



(Photo from PCC)



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