

St Giles Presbyterian Church



Baptism of Jesus, 2021, drawing by Liz Valente, Brazil
(www.instagram.com/donalizvalente/). From *Art in the Christian Tradition*

January 11, 2026

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

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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: *Jesus, My Lord*

Bertha R. Frick

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We are called to serve in the name of Jesus,
God's beloved Son,

All: God calls us by name because we are beloved.

One: God calls us to be a light to the nations.

**All: We wait for God's teaching
and to learn justice.**

One: We are witnesses to God's goodness and grace
who claims and loves us.

All: God's name be praised!

****Hymn:** O splendour of God's glory bright **817**
(tune of Melcombe, #815)

Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

Creator God, you formed the heavens and stretched them over us; you spread out the earth and made it fruitful. From your glory, you came to us in Jesus, your Son, to touch the earth with healing and hope. We

praise you for all the gifts you have given us in Christ and in creation. In the strength of the Spirit, we come to renew our commitment to you, to serve in the name of Christ Jesus, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and always.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, in baptism you promise us forgiveness and new life. We confess that we often prefer our old ways. We resist the new opportunities you set before us. We cling to harmful habits and nurse grudges, failing to forgive one another. Have mercy upon us, O God, and guide us to live with more grace and generosity through Christ our Lord.

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, forever. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Here is the good news of Jesus, 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: Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,

to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the Lord; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Psalm 29 (*with refrain 1*)

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: Matthew 3:13–17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him, and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn:** What was your vow and vision

182

(tune of Ellacombe, #218)

Sermon A Bruised Reed He Will Not Break

Prayers of the People

****Hymn:** O servant of God

459

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:** One more step along the world I go

641

Benediction

Postlude *Rondeau*

Jean Joseph Mouret
arr. Elaine C. Gardner



St Giles Events

Wednesday, January 14 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Presbyterian Women will meet by teleconference.

Thursday, January 15 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice, all are welcome.

Friday, January 16 ~ 12:00 p.m.

Bible Study by teleconference. The Book of Samuel 8, Israel Demands a King.

Mission Related Giving at December 31/25

Mission	Donations So Far	2025 Goal
Operating Account	\$81,600.59	\$83,000.00
Special Sundays	5,390.75	7,500.00
Presbyterian Sharing	\$4,034.00	\$12,000.00
PWS&D	3,180.00	n/a
Presbyterian College	2,580.00	5,000.00

Year End Reports

Anyone who has a report or other input for the St Giles Annual Report should provide a digital copy to the church office no later than **Wednesday, February 04, 2026**. Please edit your submission before sending it. Contact the church administrator at office@stgilesottawa.org if you have any questions.

Presbytery Youth Event

Join us on Saturday, January 31st from 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm at St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa (82 Kent Street) for an afternoon to bust the winter blues and exam stress.

Come and try a Winterlude Scavenger Hunt with friends old and new. Snacks and hot chocolate provided for warming up afterwards at St. Andrew's. Parking is available at the Supreme Court or on the street. Youth groups can enter through the green doors on Kent Street. Waivers must be signed in order to attend.

For your convenience a physical waiver can be found on the side entrance bulletin board and a digital waiver can be found at the following link.

<https://forms.gle/gZZ9chogz1z9V2zYA>

Presbyterian College

The Presbyterian College is offering a six-week online course, starting March 10, 2026, on Pastoral Visiting and Care. This study will introduce you to important themes around care, visiting, grief, life transitions, in order to build your comfort and confidence in visiting and care for others. For more information, please contact the Rev. Paul Wu (or check out this

link: <https://presbyteriancollege.ca/2025/12/15/pastoralvisiting/>)

Talk Film, Talk Faith

An opportunity to gather with other members of the downtown Presbyterian community (Knox, St. Giles, St. Andrew's). This month, **The Choral**, a film set in England during the Great War and starring Ralph Fiennes, offering a reminder of the importance of community and the power of music to strengthen souls in troubled times

<https://www.bytowne.ca/movies/the-choral/> Friday January 16, 6:30 p.m. at the Bytowne Cinema on Rideau Street. Discussion will follow in the home of Andrew Johnston, a ten minute walk from the Bytowne. Please RSVP by Thursday January 15, to Andrew at talkfilmtalkfaith@gmail.com

Ottawa Police Service

In order to increase transparency, accountability, and community engagement, the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) has launched a significant update to its Community Safety Data Portal, giving residents a clearer and more accessible way to explore local safety information. Public can access the portal by visiting **data.ottawapolice.ca**.

Lansdowne Renewal

The City of Ottawa has committed to the Lansdowne 2.0 project, with the goal to revitalize and modernize the publicly owned assets. Preparatory works for the new Event Centre has already. Visit **ottawa.ca/LansdowneRenewal** to stay informed of upcoming work.

Mission Moment

"The lack of drinking water in the home is tiring and disappointing," explains 28-year-old Carolina Coronado. "During this year, the water pressure of the piped [municipal] system decreased a lot." To help respond to this challenge in Guatemala, PWS&D, together with our partner, the Maya-Mam Association of Research and Development, provided water tanks to families in need. Carolina explains: "Now I will be able to continue planting vegetables in my family garden. I am very grateful."



(Photo from PCC)



Presbyterian
World Service
& Development



The Presbyterian Church in Canada