

St Giles Presbyterian Church



The Late-arriving Workers, JESUS MAFA on Matthew 20:1-16, a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*.

September 20, 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.

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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 12 p.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: *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*

(Rachel Aarons after Henry Purcell)

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Give thanks to God who is good.

**All: We will call on God's name
and make known God's wonderful works.**

One: Seek the Lord continually.

**All: We will watch and listen for
signs of God's grace.**

One: Together let us worship God.

**All: We will rejoice in God's presence
and praise God's holy name.**

****Hymn:** Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet **466**

Children's Story - Commissioning

Prayer of Adoration

God of all creation, you open the world around us
and fill it with creatures of your love and purpose.
The wonder of each creature declares your praise –

the mountains state your majesty; the ripened field, your generosity; the oceans your power and the skies your grandeur. Birds sing of your freedom; the ant works with your persistence. We pray that our work will honour your justice and mercy, and our relationships speak of your love and compassion. So may we praise you, O God, not just in this hour of worship, but in all our waking and our working. May we live your praise and promise through Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and always.

Unison Prayer of Confession

God, you are the giver of all good gifts, yet our generosity is often limited. We complain about our circumstance. We compare ourselves to others and see what they have that we do not. We share some of what we have, but we worry about running short. Forgive us our jealousy and greed and give us generous hearts that trust in you day by day.

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

God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Believe the Good News! In Jesus Christ, God's generous love reaches out to embrace us. In Christ, we are forgiven and set free to begin again. Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

Scripture

First Reading: Exodus 16:2–15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So, Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning, you shall see

the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning, you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'" In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning, there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

Psalms 105:1–16 (*with refrain 1*)

O give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name,
make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Sing to the Lord, sing praises,
tell of all God's wonderful works.

Glory in God's holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Seek the strength of the LORD;

seek the Lord's presence continually.

**Remember the wonderful works God has done,
the miracles, and the judgements God has uttered,
O offspring of Abraham God's servant,
children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.**

Second Reading: Matthew 20:1–16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So, they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them,

'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn:** God, whose giving knows no ending 663
(tune of Beach Spring, #262)

Sermon Last Will Be First and First Will be Last

Prayers of the People

****Hymn:** I'm gonna live so God can use me

648

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:** Lord of all power 626

Benediction

Postlude *Postlude* Emma L. Ashford



St Giles Events

Wednesday, September 23 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Session meeting, in person.

Thursday, September 24 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice, all are welcome!

Friday, September 25 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Bible Study by teleconference. The Book of 2 Samuel, 3:6-5:5 David Becomes King of Israel

Joining a Meeting, Conference Call or Bible Study

Three to five minutes before the start time, call toll-free 1-888-884-4539. You will be asked to enter the passcode number 7455703#.

Update: Flooding in Nepal

Since the onset of the flood in Nepal, PWS&D's partner, INF Nepal, has been actively assessing needs and delivering immediate relief support. Initial response activities have focused on displaced families in Nuwakot, particularly in Bidur Municipality.

Bibhu Singh (UMN) asks that people continue to pray for Nepal and expresses gratitude for the PCC's support. Through your gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, the PCC will be sending USD \$5,000 to support the relief efforts.

Lacing Up for Our Neighbours:

Join us on Sunday, October 4th, 2026, from 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM for the annual Centretown Churches Social Action Committee (CCSAC) walkathon. We will gather and begin our walk at Canadian Martyrs Church on Main Street, following a 2 km or 4 km route along the Rideau Canal. This is a wonderful, family-friendly event, so please feel free to bring strollers and leashed dogs! 100% of all funds raised go directly to the Centretown Community Food Centre. To register, volunteer, or make a donation, please visit

www.centretownchurches.org/walkathon—donations can also be made at the walk or mailed to CCSAC at 507 Bank Street, Ottawa, K2P 1Z5.

Glen Soderholm concert for Urban Christian Outreach

Join us at Trinity Presbyterian Church Kanata on September 26, 2026, at 7:00 PM (Eastern Time) for an evening with Glen Soderholm. All proceeds will go to support Urban Christian Outreach.

Mission Moment

Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing bring hope and transformation to vulnerable people and communities in Canada and internationally. Together, we support the PCC's efforts of confession, truth and reconciliation with Indigenous people. We equip ministers through PCC theological colleges and help congregations discern God's call and create a plan for their future through renewal programs. We live out the biblical call to seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. And so much more. Together, we are making mission and ministry happen!



(Photo from PCC)



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The Presbyterian Church in Canada