

St Giles Presbyterian Church



Parable of the Two Sons, 2013, painting by Andrei Mironov, from
Art in the Christian Tradition

September 27, 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 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: *Bring Forth the Kingdom*

Marty Haugen

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We come to worship because we love God.

All: All creation praises God's goodness and love.

One: We come to worship seeking healing and wholeness.

All: Through God's son, compassion, love, and grace flow in abundance.

One: We come to worship, yearning to be transformed:

All: Guided by the Spirit of God, we work to build a more peaceful and just world.

Let us worship God together!

****Hymn:** Come, children, join to sing

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Children's Story

Prayer of Adoration

Steadfast God, as the seasons change, we see that you are still at work in the world, transforming hearts and minds. You have shown us the true face of love

in Jesus Christ, reaching out with healing and hope to those who are hurting, lost or alone. We praise you for your love that works for shalom among neighbours and nations in this divided world. May we see the face of Jesus in each person we meet. May you renew our hope by the gift of your Spirit at work among us, so that we can live to praise you with the whole Church that bears the name of Jesus.

Unison Prayer of Confession

All-embracing God, in recalling all that you are and all that you have done, we recall who we are and what we have done or failed to do. We confess that we have failed to comfort those in pain, ignored the needs of others, failed to stand with our neighbours in their struggle for dignity and respect. We confess the sins of your church in running residential schools that separated children from their families. We repent of our past sins and pray for the wisdom to walk in a new way with you and with 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, forever. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. By God's grace we have been saved and this is not our own doing; it is a gift of God. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

Scripture

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from

all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore, I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise, iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Psalms 25:1–9 (*with refrain 1*)

To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

**O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
**let them be ashamed who are wantonly
treacherous.**

Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
**for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.**

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD,
and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

**Do not remember the sins of my youth
or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!**

Good and upright is the LORD;
**therefore the Lord instructs sinners in the way,
leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches them the way they should go.**

Second Reading: Matthew 21:23–32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet."

So, they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

****Hymn:** Blest are they

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Sermon Parable of the Two Sons

Prayers of the People

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

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Passing of the Peace

Announcements

Offering

Doxology:

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**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

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Benediction

Postlude *Bishop's Jig*

Robert Fleming





St Giles Events

Thursday, October 01 ~ 5:30 p.m.

Choir Practice, all are welcome!

Friday, October 02 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Bible Study by teleconference. The Book of 2 Samuel, 5:6–6:23 Jerusalem – Political and Religious Capital

Sunday, October 04 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion as part of the World Communion Sunday St Giles will be observing Holy Communion

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#.

Walkathon Volunteers

Looking for individuals interested in donating and/or walking with Jean and Stan for the October 4th walkathon as seen below. If so, please call Stan at 613-233-0538

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 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 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.

Voices of our Christian Sisters and Brothers in Palestine

On Saturday October 3, 3 p.m. St. Andrew's Church (82 Kent Street, Lyon O-train station), you are invited to a presentation by the Rev. Dr. Dorcas Gordon, Principal Emeritus of Knox College Toronto, the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Dorcas has a long history of accompanying Palestinian Christian sisters and brothers in their witness, including three trips to Palestine since October 7, 2023, and has published a report and study commissioned by the national WMS. An opportunity to grow in personal awareness and prayerful solidarity. For further details, contact Janet Mrenica, Peter Lamont and Andrew Johnston, voicesinottawa@gmail.com

Glebe St. James United Church presents **JEFF BIRD the Music of Hildegard von Bingen**

Please join us Saturday October 24 at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary at Glebe St James United Church, 650 Lyon Ave. S., Ottawa. Doors Open at 3:15 pm. Tickets: \$30 Advance @ Eventbrite Tickets or \$35 at the door for more info: www.glebestjames.com

Mission Moment

International Day of Peace is a worldwide event celebrated annually on September 21. It provides a chance for individuals, groups and nations to reflect on and take action to promote peace within their communities. Today, peace feels elusive. Yet, even in the darkest times, inspired by our faith, we find hope in the efforts to bring relief. PWS&D is dedicated to promoting peace by delivering lifesaving aid to those affected by conflict around the world and by engaging in advocacy to decry injustices.



(Photo from PCC)



Presbyterian
World Service
& Development



The Presbyterian Church in Canada