

**Please take a few moments in silent meditation to prepare our minds and hearts to worship God. Please stand as you are able when the beadle enters with the Bible.**

Prelude

### WE APPROACH GOD

Lighting of the Candle of Love (see insert) Lit by Steve, Lori, Adria & Jacob Marsh

Introit: "People in darkness" vs. 1 #124

*People in darkness are looking for light.  
Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.  
People with blindness are longing for sight.  
Come, Lord Jesus Christ.  
These days of adventure when all people wait  
are days for the advent of love.*

\*Prayer of approach

\*Opening Carol: "What child is this" #161

Please be seated

Prayer of Confession:

L: We come to confess our sin and failings because you are a God of grace and forgiveness who desires us to be free and to begin again with you and one another.

**P: You call us to live joyously within your creation, but we look for joy in things that do not last. We build up possessions, expecting that we will find joy in their security. We shut ourselves off from one another expecting that we can protect our joy from hurt and disappointment. We chase after fleeting pleasures expecting them to satisfy our hungry hearts. We hold riches and resources to ourselves expecting them to ward off fear. Forgive us, O God, and help us to seek joy in loving you without reservation, and in loving one another with kindness. Amen.**

L: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Friends, accept the Good News: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**P: We will, thanks be to God!**

L: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**P: And also with you.**

### WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Responsive Reading: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

L: Listen to us, O Shepherd of Israel; hear us, leader of your flock.

**P: Seated on your throne above the winged creatures, reveal yourself to the tribes of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh. Show us your strength; come and save us!**

L: Bring us back, O God!

**P: Show us your mercy, and we will be saved!**

L: How much longer, LORD God Almighty, will you be angry with your people's prayers?

**P: You have given us sorrow to eat, a large cup of tears to drink. You let the surrounding nations fight over our land; our enemies insult us.**

L: Bring us back, Almighty God!

**P: Show us your mercy, and we will be saved!**

L: Preserve and protect the people you have chosen, the nation you made so strong.

**P: We will never turn away from you again; keep us alive, and we will praise you.**

L: Bring us back, LORD God Almighty.

**P: Show us your mercy, and we will be saved.**

\*Carol: "O little town of Bethlehem" #165

*The children are invited to come to the front during this hymn*

Life and Work of the Church

Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16 p. 636

Talking about signs

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25 p. 1

Joseph gets a sign

\*Carol: "Twas in the moon of wintertime" #144

### CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Talking about Baptism

Presentation (by Steve Marsh, Clerk of Session)

Questions for the candidate

Question for the congregation:

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Erik by word and deed, with love and in prayer, encouraging him to follow the way of Christ and to be a faithful member of his church?

**We do.**

Apostles' Creed #539

Act of Baptism

Presentation of new members

\*Carol: "Away in a manger" #149

### WE RESPOND

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Offering & Offertory:

Doxology

#145 v.4

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

Prayer of dedication:

**Father, teach us how to listen for your call in our lives. Teach us how to be faithful stewards with the gifts you have entrusted to**

**us. Teach us how to use this offering as a source of your ministry and mission. Teach us how to bow down on our knees and to spend time beholding the miracles all around us. In the name of the greatest teacher, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn: "He is born" #169

\*Sending and Choral Response #137 v. 4

*Hope of the world, Mary's child,  
you're coming soon to reign;  
King of the earth, Mary's child,  
Walk in our streets again.*

Postlude



Welcome to our **Family Advent Service!** Please join us downstairs to enjoy a time of fellowship following the service. There is a Hot Chocolate Bar, some seasonal activities for the children, and a special visitor might just stop in, too!

## GIVING TUESDAY™

This is the fourth week of our month long *GivingTuesday* campaign! We are well on our way to meeting our goal of \$45,000. St. Andrew's is fortunate to be in the heart of the Village of Hespeler, where we can live out our motto: "Living in Christ, Sharing His Love" with so many people and groups.

We will continue with our *GivingTuesday* "rolling board" at the back of the sanctuary. If you haven't had a chance please take a moment to sign the poster and describe why St. Andrew's is important to you or how you are a part of our church & community.

Please plan to join us next week as we celebrate our *GivingTuesday* campaign and for our big announcement that will reveal the grand total!

### Special Date for Sunday School Children:

**Sunday, December 29:** "It's Almost New Year's Eve" party; show up in your pj's! Come for breakfast and some fun activities during church time.



For unto you is born  
this day in the city of  
David a Savior which  
is Christ the Lord.  
Luke 2:11

**Please check the bulletin boards by the elevator for upcoming community and Christmas events!**

**The 2020 envelopes are available.  
Please pick yours up at the back table.**



Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to our Christmas Baskets and presents for the community children this year. With your help we were able to give out 80 baskets and over 30 presents!

Please keep in mind that a congregational workshop will be held on congregational health and vitality on Sunday, January 19, 2020. Our worship leader will be the Rev. John-Peter Smit. Details are in the Advent Newsletter, *Andrew's Voice*.



Please take note of the following **Christmas Hours**:

Hope Clothing will be closed for the next two weeks. It will reopen on January 7th.

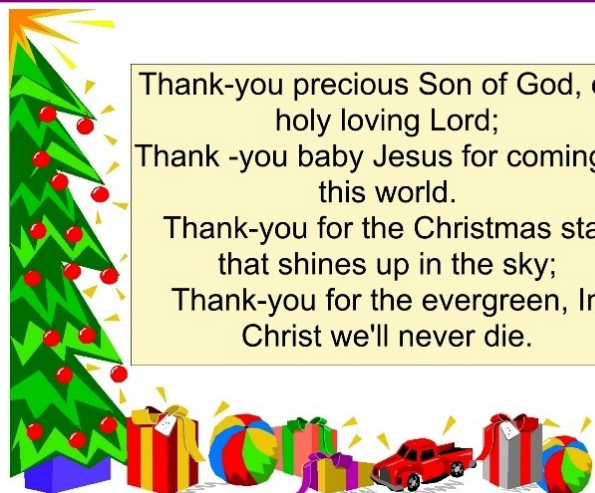
The Main Office will be open Monday, Tuesday, and Friday this week, and only Monday and Friday for the next week. Regular hours will resume January 6th.

Please check out the Children's Library on the 2nd floor. You will find many Advent & Christmas books and DVD's. This library is self-serve, so please fill out the card and leave it in the basket. Enjoy the book or DVD and return it when you are finished. Thanks go to Catherine Taylor for tidying up the library and getting it ready for this Advent season.



Our readings are taken from the Revised Common Lectionary a 3 year cycle of readings used by many Christian denominations. The readings for next week are: Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23.

Did you know that you can donate to St. Andrew's Hespeler online? For several years, St. Andrew's Hespeler has partnered with CanadaHelps to facilitate the acceptance of online donations. CanadaHelps itself is a charity whose purpose is to inform, inspire and connect charities and donors with the causes they care about. The online link to donate via St. Andrew's internet homepage is not only another means by which to donate regularly to St. Andrew's but it is also a great way to make memorial and honour gifts and the link to our website is easy to share using social media or e-mail. Scan this QR code to take you directly to our giving page!



Thank-you precious Son of God, our holy loving Lord;  
Thank -you baby Jesus for coming to this world.  
Thank-you for the Christmas star that shines up in the sky;  
Thank-you for the evergreen, In Christ we'll never die.

**This Week at St. Andrew's**

Tuesday	6:00 pm	No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant
Tuesday	8:00 pm	Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service
Wednesday	7:00 pm	A-A Meditation Group
Thursday	11:00 am	Hope Clothing
Friday	8:00 pm	A-A, Al-Anon, Al-Ateen

Next Week:  
"It's Almost New Year's Eve" party



(Pyjamas encouraged!)

**A Thank You from Ray and Jean Godin**

to everyone for your good wishes, thoughts, and prayers. Ray is improving and we will let everyone know when he gets home.

Ultimate Dining Card 7% (along with many other restaurants), Stokes 8%, Winners/Marshalls/HomeSense 8%, Esso and Shell 3%, Sally Beauty 12%, and Rona 4%.



Order goes in next week, December 29th.

**Thank you to all who participated in today's service:**

Music Director: Corey Cotter Linforth  
Beadle: Linda Inglis  
Worship Assistant: Steve Marsh  
Greeters: Carol Johnston and Karen & Glen Nixon  
Ushers: Don Paddock and Trent English  
Tech Team: Randy Rattansingh  
Family Ministries & Sunday School Coordinator: Joni Smith  
Little Explorers (up to JK): Catherine Taylor  
Divine Detectives and The Holy Sherlocks (grades 4 to 6) are invited to participate in the service today.  
Nursery/Preschool Coordinator: Laura Einwechter

**St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church  
December 22nd, 2019  
4th Sunday of Advent  
Family Advent Service**



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Rev. Scott McAndless:  
smcandless@standrewshespeler.ca  
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Prayer Requests: prayerchain@standrewshespeler.ca  
Website: www.standrewshespeler.ca  
Office Hours this week:  
Monday, Tuesday, and Friday - 9:00 am - Noon

We are very pleased to welcome **Erik Robert Pescod** to our church by the sacrament of baptism today. Erik (19 years old) has decided to be baptized as an adult and as a profession of his growing faith in Jesus.

We are also very pleased to welcome **Sylvia Brooks** who recently transferred her membership to this congregation.