

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church March 29, 2020 5th Sunday in Lent

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church
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Email: office@standrewshespeler.ca

Prayer Requests: prayerchain@standrewshespeler.ca

Website: www.standrewshespeler.ca

Order of Online Worship for March 27, 2020

We will meet online for a half hour of worship at 10 am on Sunday, March 29. Use this link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/476249052> or open Zoom and go to meeting #476 249 052

Call to worship — See Lenten Liturgy below (Microphones on)

Prayers of approach and confession

Responsive Psalm 130 (Microphones on)

L: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

P: Lord, hear my voice!

L: Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

P: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

L: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

P: my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

L: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

P: It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Ongoing life of the church

Ezekiel 37:1-10 (see below)

Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Celebration of our Generosity

Global Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Feel free to stay and chat for a while.



Please Note: All church activities have been suspended until further notice. This includes choir, Bible Study (moving to online, see next page), and all in-person meetings. The doors at the church will be locked to avoid foot-traffic. If you have any questions or need to come to the church for some reason, please contact us by phone or email. Phone messages will be still be checked daily.

Other cancellations: Athalie Read Garage Sale, Thursday Night Supper and Social Gala, and the Annual Meeting.

If you have any questions or concerns, or we can provide support to you in any way during this time, please feel free to contact us by calling the church (messages are being checked regularly) or email us at office@standrewshespeler.ca.

Looking for encouraging music during these uncertain times?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMmmbJIWhTk>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXGuWHb5INk>



For Sunday School students (or anyone who would like to participate) check out the daily Facebook page or our webpage for the daily activity. This is either in place of our Easter Scavenger Hunt or in addition to it. For each daily activity completed (send Joni "proof") you will receive a virtual ticket and will be able to exchange them for an Easter treat when we are able to get back together again.

We are ordering **Easter flowers** again this year.

Please fill out the insert in the bulletin and return with payment to Joni or into the office by April 5th. We will make a decision closer to the date about ordering flowers.

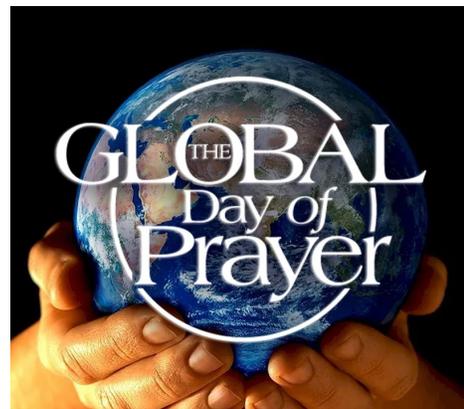
Thank you for your participation and support!



Please visit our website www.standrewshespeler.ca for our daily devotion and daily updates.

Response to COVID-19 – Global Day of Prayer and Fasting

The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada joins the World Evangelical Alliance in inviting Canadians to participate in a Global Day of Prayer and Fasting TODAY Sunday, March 29th.



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!



Fifth Sunday in Lent



Written by the Rev. Iona MacLean
(The Church of Saint David, Halifax)

One: God set the prophet down in a valley of dry bones
Many: asking, "Can these bones live?"
commanding, "Hear the word of the Lord,"
promising, "I will put my spirit in you, you shall live."

One: Jesus wept at the tomb of his friend
Many: hearing the grief, "Lord, if you had been here..."
knowing the doubt, "Could not he...?"
commanding life out of death, "Lazarus, come out!"

One: We are tempted by hopelessness and despair
Many: in our own pain,
at the world's brokenness,
saying, "Our bones are dried up, our hope is lost."

One: Lord, have mercy
Many: Christ, have mercy
One: Lord, have mercy

Let us pray:

Creator God,
we wait for you and in your word we hope.
For with you is steadfast love
and great power to redeem.
Help us to trust you
and to share your resurrection life
with all people and the whole creation.
So may all be raised from despair to hope,
from darkness to light,
from death to life;
through Jesus Christ, who is
the resurrection and the life. Amen.



WeRespond.ca
50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
1-800-619-7301 • pwsd@presbyterian.ca

We will begin our online, live - interactive service on Sunday by reading this Lenten Liturgy together. Please plan to join in.

Reducing Costs and Doubling Crops

In a group of mostly women, Komani stands out. The 34-year-old is one of just a few male farmers assembled under the shade of a mango tree in Karonga, Malawi.

Komani is meeting with other members of a village savings group, where farmers come together to share loans to buy farming supplies and meet other needs.

The savings group is part of a PWS&D and Canadian Foodgrains Bank project teaching farmers to grow more food and overcome hunger.

Komani reports that with extra money and training in sustainable farming methods like conservation agriculture, he has doubled his maize crop.

"This area is affected by dry spells," explains Komani. "With conservation agriculture, we've seen a difference. There is a positive outcome with both quality and quantity."

A champion for women's empowerment, Komani encourages his wife to decide how to allocate loans from the savings group. When women have more control over household savings, the well-being of the whole family tends to improve.

This Lenten season faithfully respond to equip farmers with the resources they need to combat hunger and care for their families.

PWS&D is a member of



PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY



Bible Study is moving to online! If you are interested in participating, please send us an email and we will send you the link to join in. The link will also be available on our website.



The development and relief agency of
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
WeRespond.ca

Prayer Partnership

Sunday, March 29 We praise God that, over the last six years, more than 500 refugees have been welcomed into Canada with the support of Presbyterian World Service & Development and the PCC.

Monday, March 30 We pray for the Rev. Stewart Folster who serves as Convenor of the Pastoral Care Committee for the Presbytery of Northern Saskatchewan.

Tuesday, March 31 We pray for the Vancouver School of Theology as they anticipate their 50th anniversary in 2021.

Wednesday, April 1 We pray for the Committee to Advise with the Moderator as it meets to count the ballots for Moderator of the 2020 General Assembly.

Thursday, April 2 Pray for gifts of wisdom and discernment for the members of the Committee to Nominate Standing Committees as they prepare recommendations for appointments to standing committees of the General Assembly.

Friday, April 3 Pray for the international students at the Presbyterian theological colleges who are far from family and friends. Pray that they sense God's presence in a special way.

Saturday, April 4 We pray for elders on Sessions as they care for members while reaching out to the broader community with compassionate service.

If you have any specific requests that we can pray about, please let us know by either calling the church or emailing the prayer team at prayerchain@standrewshespeler.ca

March 29: Saturday Helpers

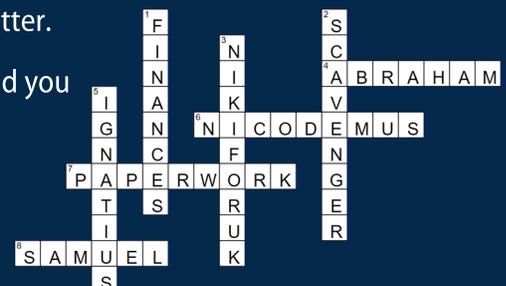
In Toronto's downtown inner city, as many as 150 people enter the doors of Evangel Hall Mission every day for meals, showers, toiletries and clothing. The desire to help people in need draws hundreds of volunteers from the Presbyterian Church community every year. A new program called Saturday Helpers will provide volunteer opportunities that are accessible to families with young children, seniors and people with mobility issues. It allows for small groups to come onsite and support ministry work outside the busyness of the Drop-In Centre. Activities include preparing sandwiches and meal items, assembling toiletry kits, knitting and crocheting cold weather items, and making special-occasion crafts. Please pray that this ministry will bless everyone who enters Evangel Hall's doors—both those in need and those with a heart to serve.

Presbyterians Sharing supports inner-city missions.



Here is the answer key to the puzzle in the newsletter.

How did you do?



The Revised Common Lectionary Readings for this week:

Ezekiel 37:1-14 The Valley of Dry Bones

37 The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹² Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

Psalm 130 - Waiting for Divine Redemption

A Song of Ascents.

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

² Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!

³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

⁶ my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.

⁸ It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

Romans 8: 6-11

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

John 11

The Death of Lazarus - Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life - ¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

Jesus Weeps - ²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life - ³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." ⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Revised Common Lectionary Readings for next week:

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35