**St. Andrew’s Hespeler Presbyterian Church**

**73 Queen Street East,**

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Rev. Scott McAndless: smcandless@standrewshespeler.ca

Email: office@standrewshespeler.ca

Prayer Requests: prayerchain@standrewshespeler.ca

Website: www.standrewshespeler.ca

Office Hours:

The office is currently closed.

**St. Andrew’s Hespeler**

**Presbyterian Church**

**May 24, 2020**

**Ascension Sunday**

Order of Online Worship for May 24, 2020

We will meet online for as long as people want to stay on at 10 am on Sunday, May 17. The link will be posted on the Website and FaceBook page.

Call to worship (Microphones on)

L: Let us be joyful before God! Let us be jubilant this day.

**P: We will sing praises to God’s holy name.**

L: Let us lift up a song to the One who rides upon the clouds,

**P: For God also protects orphans and widows, and gives the desolate a home.**

L: Sing to God, O nations of the earth;

**P: We will sing praises to the Lord, our God!**

Prayers of confession

**Responsive Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35** (Microphones on)

L: Let God rise up,

**P: let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him.**

L: As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;

**P: as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God.**

L: But let the righteous be joyful;

**P: let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.**

L: Sing to God, sing praises to his name;

**P: lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds– his name is the Lord – be exultant before him.**

L: Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

**P: God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land.**

L: O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,

**P: the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished;**

L: your flock found a dwelling in it;

**P: in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.**

L: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;

**P: sing praises to the Lord,**

L:O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens;

**P: listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.**

L: Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; and whose power is in the skies.

**P: Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!**

Ongoing life of the church

Celebration of Generosity

Acts 1:3-14 (see below) – Read by Karen Nixon

Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Benediction \*Feel free to chat for a while.

Sermon: Rev. Scott will preach a live sermon over Zoom for those who wish to stay for it. The sermon will also have already been posted on YouTube for streaming whenever you like. The YouTube sermon may have better video and/or audio quality and will feature some graphic illustrations. It will otherwise be the same sermon. The sermon title is:



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The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Fred Stewart. Fred passed away this week. Please remember his family in your prayers.

**Buttons, Buttons!  Who’s Got Buttons?**

A new project is underway to support Frontline Workers who must wear face masks for each 12 hour shift. To relieve the pressure on their ears a group has begun knitting.

To support this initiative, they are looking for 1/2 inch and 3/4 inch buttons.  They do not have to match.  Also, they need **cotton** yarn to knit the bands.

If you are able to donate buttons and/or Cotton yarn, Brenda Sangster is happy to gather and drop off the items. Let us know if you need help getting in touch with her.

**YOUTH NEWS**

Watch your emails on Monday for the date/time of our Skribbl IO get together. The Doodle Poll was sent out on Friday, so we should have a time/date that works best for everyone by Monday morning.

Any questions: please ask Joni (jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca)

A valuable lesson!

Last week we encountered technical issues with our worship on zoom. Due to internet issues that Zoom had we were unable to meet in the morning. It wasn’t anything any of us did, nothing we could do to “fix” it. If this happens again, please check the website/your emails for further information. Within approximately 40 minutes of discovering there were issues the website was updated and an email sent out to let everyone know what was going on. Thank you all for your patience! Sometimes even technology wants a break!

 **Sunday School news:**

Don’t forget to watch the Children’s Message. It is posted on the website by 9:00 am Sunday mornings. Please email me any prayer requests from your children to include in the prayer.

**Parents, please watch your emails Monday morning. A Doodle Poll was sent out on Friday morning to decide the best day/time to all meet together; Sunday School children, their families, leaders and assistants. I will send out the day/time that suits the most people on Monday morning.**

Thank you and have a splendid week!

Blessings,

Joni

jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca

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Please Note: All church activities have been suspended until further notice. If you have questions or concerns, or if we can support you in any way, please contact us by calling the church (messages are checked regularly) or email us at [office@standrewshespeler.ca](mailto:office@standrewshespeler.ca). We care about you! You are not alone!

**Prayer Partnership**

**Sunday, May 24 (Healing and Reconciliation Sunday)** We pray that hearts and minds will be opened to continue learning the truth about the harm of colonization and the Indian Residential School system. We pray that all Canadians will work for the healing and well-being of Indigenous communities.

**Monday, May 25** Give thanks for church communities that are caring for creation and taking steps to reduce their carbon footprint. Pray that we will reflect God’s love of creation every day.

**Tuesday, May 26** **(National Accessibility Week)** We pray for a more inclusive and accessible church community. Help us create a community that is free of barriers.

**Wednesday, May 27** We pray for General Assembly commissioners as they read and reflect on the reports and recommendations they are to consider.

**Thursday, May 28** We pray for grace, understanding and forgiveness in our relationships with one another.

**Friday, May 29** Please pray that the Lord of the harvest would send forth labourers.

**Saturday, May 30** We pray for the millions of Canadians on the margins of our society. May God open the hearts of those in the centre to create room for all.

**May 24: Equipping congregations through webinars**

Are you interested in learning about digital giving? Church renewal? Sharing your congregation’s story in inspiring ways? Moving forward with your church’s vision? The PCC’s webinars provide online learning opportunities that equip congregations on topics relating to leadership, renewal and stewardship. Recorded and posted online for viewing at any time, each webinar is free, made possible by gifts to Presbyterians Sharing. It’s easy to register and participate. To find out about upcoming webinars, visit [presyterian.ca/webinars](https://presbyterian.ca/webinars/).

***Presbyterians Sharing provides learning opportunities.***

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**Acts 1:3-14**

3 After his suffering [Jesus] presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4 While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” 9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11 They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. 13 When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

**1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. 8 Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. 10 And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. 11 To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

**John 17:1-11**

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. 4 I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. 5 So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

6 “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; 8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. 9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. 11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

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**Here’s our next Sunday School project:**

Do you know that there are many people in our community who do not have enough food? Now, more than ever, there are people who can’t afford to buy food for their family. The Cambridge Self-Help Foodbank needs help serving the growing needs of people in our community. At this time, they can only take money (to be safe)

donations.

**Here’s your project:**

\*start a journal and at least once a week, write out or draw what you are grateful for. We have much to be grateful for! If you would like to share with me (jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca) I would love to post on social media so that we can be an example to other people!

\*start a food basket or box and once a week put an item of food in it. When we can safely get back together, at church,

we will bring in all of our baskets of food and donate them to the Cambridge Self-Help FoodBank.

\*challenge your friends, cousins, neighbours to do the same

and donate the collected food to the food bank in their own

community.

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