

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

August 2, 2020

9th Sunday after Pentecost

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

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Website: www.standrewshespeler.ca

Office Hours:

The office is currently closed

Order of Online Worship for August 2, 2020

We will meet online for as long as people want to stay on at 10 am. The link will be sent out by email and posted (with a password) on the website.

Call to worship (Microphones on)

L: The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.

P: Our eyes look to you, for you give us food in every season.

L: The Lord is near to all who call on him in truth.

P: You open your hand, O God, and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

L: The Lord fulfils the desire of all who fear him and watches over all who love him,

P: So our mouths will speak the praise of the Lord, and the God's holy name for ever and ever.

Prayers of approach and confession

L: Mysterious and merciful God, we praise you for the many ways you come to us and offer us abundant life. When the sun rises and the earth blooms around us, we are filled with grateful thanksgiving for your gift of a new day. When evening falls and we find ourselves in deserted, lonely places, we count on you to provide for our needs. For the times you show us the way when we are in need of guidance, we praise you. For the times you provide healing when we are broken and hurting, we rejoice. Your grace makes the poor rich, the hungry satisfied, and the weak strong; and so we worship you as the Source of life and love, comfort and courage.

Gracious and merciful God, as we gather to worship, we are aware that we have fallen short of the life you desire for us. So we confess together:

P: Through Christ you have shown us the way of compassion, generosity and forgiveness, yet we neglect the suffering of others. We blame and judge in the very moments you call us to act with kindness and mercy. We cling to what we own rather than share our blessings with others. Free us from greed and from grievances. Open our hearts so that we may embody the teachings of your Son, our Saviour. Amen.

Responsive Psalm 17:1-7 (Microphones on)

L: Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry;

P: give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.

L: From you let my vindication come;

P: let your eyes see the right.

L: If you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress.

P: As for what others do, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent. My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped.

L: I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words.

P: Wondrously show your steadfast love, O saviour of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.

Ongoing life of the church

Scripture: (see below)

Celebration of Generosity

Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Sermon: Elder Steve Marsh will preach a live sermon over Zoom.

Future Services

We seem to be living in a time when all of the plans we make are subject to change, but here are our plans for worship over the next little while.

- During August, Scott will take his vacation time. Service will be exclusively online. We will have a group of excellent guest preachers (including Steve Marsh, Karen Kovats and Darrell Clarke) to lead and inspire us.
- While Rev. Scott is away, other local ministers will be available to offer support in event of an emergency. Names and phone numbers will be updated in the weekly bulletins.
- On September 2, Rev. Scott will return for a service led from the sanctuary. It will be a communion service (everyone will need to supply their own bread and wine in a form that works for them) and we expect that most will participate online (though we will again welcome people in the sanctuary).
- The session will discuss the next steps. We are not yet in a position to announce when a launch of full in-person worship will begin. Please continue to pray for wisdom and discernment moving forward. Thank you for worshipping with us!

Rev. Scott is on vacation. If you need pastoral assistance this coming week, you may contact Rev. Mark Gaskin (519-621-3630), Rev Aubrey Botha (519-623-1080) or Rev. Bill Bynum (519-653-6691).

Mission Moment – Sunday, July 26

Making Space for a New Generation of Believers

The Well Church in Mississauga, Ont., started with a group of only 13 people. They were drawn together by their deep love of Jesus and a desire to share that love with others. Inspired by a vision to become a welcoming space for second-generation immigrants, they developed a style of evangelism and worship that spoke to those they desired to reach. Since the congregation started worshipping together three years ago, their community has grown and has become a home for many young people who had strayed from the church. Please pray for the Well Church and the many other churches in The Presbyterian Church in Canada that are making space for a new generation of believers.

Presbyterian Sharing supports new faith communities

Prayer Partnership

Monday, August 3 We pray for new ministers in first pastoral charges.

Tuesday, August 4 We pray for congregational leaders who are taking vacation this month. May this be a time of rest and renewal.

Wednesday, August 5 We pray for the Assembly Council as it continues to give leadership to the denomination during these changing times. Give thanks for each member's leadership and commitment to serving our church, and especially for the convener, Ms. Sandra Cameron Evans.

Thursday, August 6 (Anniversary of the 1945 bombing of Hiroshima) We remember the victims from the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 and pray to God for an end to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Friday, August 7 We give thanks for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a guiding light on the path to justice and reconciliation.

Saturday, August 8 We pray for Indigenous women in Guatemala as Presbyterian World

Genesis 32:22-31

²² The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

Romans 9:1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit— ² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵ to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Matthew 14:13-21

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.