

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

August 16, 2020

11th 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 16, 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: This is a Sabbath dedicated to our God. Let this gathering be for all people.

P: May God be gracious to us and bless us. May God's face shine over all the earth's people.

L: Let all the people praise the God of all nations. Let us give thanks and enjoy the blessings God gives.

P: May God grant us understanding and courage. May faith grow beyond our doubts.

L: The earth has yielded its blessing. Let all the ends of the earth revere our Creator.

P: God brings us together in unity of purpose. May our circle grow as we welcome new comers.

Prayers of approach and confession

L: Welcoming and generous God, you make all things new. We are glad to be together in your house of prayer this day. You invite all people into your fold to receive your blessing. Justice and right relations have their source in you. We are filled with joy to be counted among your children. As we gather, make us one in worship and thanksgiving. We lift our voices to proclaim your all-encompassing love. May our praise join with the praise of all your people. And reach the ends of the earth, for you are our Saviour and our hope.

P: Merciful and wise God, In your presence we confess that we have not lived as you taught us to live. Forgive us those times we have not welcomed others into our community; and those times we have avoided others because something about them made us uncomfortable. Forgive us the ways we have judged unfairly. Reveal to us our own prejudice which separates us from others and our failure to seek your goodness in those who seem different from us.

L: Dear friends, while it is true that we have all sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say, In Jesus Christ our sin is forgiven. Be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

Responsive Psalm 67 (Microphones on)

L: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah

P: that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

L: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

P: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Selah

L: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

P: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

L: May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

Ongoing life of the church

Scripture: (see below)

Celebration of Generosity

Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Sermon: Rev. Karen Kovats will preach a live sermon over Zoom. The sermon title is, "The Words of our Mouths"

Benediction

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, August 16

40 Years of Partnership in Mauritius

In September of 2019, the Presbyterian Church of Mauritius (PCM) celebrated a milestone: the 40th anniversary of their autonomy from the Church of Scotland. The Presbyterian Church in Canada's partnership with PCM began in 1981 with the appointment of the Rev. Brian Crosby and continued through the years with 11 Canadian Presbyterians serving as ministers and music consultants. Today, our partnership continues through annual grants sent to Formation Biblique et Théologique à Maurice (FBTM), a theological training program for over 1,700 Christians. FBTM's director, the Rev. Maurice Davantin, gratefully acknowledges that, "Due to the generosity of the PCC, FBTM has been able to continue its ministry in spreading the study of God's Words among Christians in Mauritius."

Presbyterians Sharing works with mission partners around the world



Prayer Partnership

Monday, August 17 We pray for members of the advisory committees that support the work done in the offices of the denomination.

Tuesday, August 18 We pray for the Rev. Rick Warne who serves as the convener of the Students and Colleges Committee for the Presbytery of Hamilton.

Wednesday, August 19 (World Humanitarian Day) We celebrate in prayer as families in Somalia receive necessary nutrition support through a Presbyterian World Service & Development project.

Thursday, August 20 We pray for Cindy Stephenson, convener of the Life and Mission Agency Committee.

Friday, August 21 We pray for all who are sick, that they may find healing; for all who are without homes, that they may find shelter; and for all, God's love and peace.

Saturday, August 22 We pray for the ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Central Alberta.

Announcements

Hope Clothing is **unable** to take donations of clothing at this time. We are putting together a plan to re-open, hopefully in the fall. There are many considerations to make to ensure that we keep all of our staff, volunteers and clients safe. Thank you for your patience.



As you can imagine there are several families within our communities who are struggling financially and even more so with everything happening with COVID-19. With school re-opening there is an added pressure on these families. We would like to fill a few backpacks to help out some of these families. The following items would be much appreciated:

- backpacks
- lunch bags
- hand sanitizer
- small Kleenex packages
- pencils
- pencil crayons
- markers
- pens
- rulers
- pencil sharpeners

If you can help out there will be a Rubbermaid tote placed outside of Door #1 for you to drop off items. Or you can contact Joni (jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca) to make arrangements for drop off or pick up. Please keep all of our teachers, students and their families in your prayers for a safe re-opening of school.

Please note:

- We will no longer be collecting batteries. Please do not drop any batteries off at church. There is a risk of them starting a fire that we don't want to take. Thank you for your support of this project for the past couple of years.

- The Christian Education Committee has decided NOT, at this time, to collect pop cans. The safety of our volunteers remains our priority. They cannot be stored at the church until we can cash them in because the ants and bees like them too much! We will let you know when we start collecting again. This has been a great way to raise funds for the Sunday School children's mission projects. Thank you, to everyone, who has collected pop cans for us, we appreciate your help.

Dates & events to keep in mind:

- **Potato Harvest Sunday: September 27th**; watch your bulletin and emails for details of how we are actually going to do this! There is a plan! We will have fun with this and we will stay distanced and safe.
- **Anniversary "Dream Auction" will be held in October** (date to be announced). This year the Dream Auction will only be by "silent" auction and will be held virtually. Donations of prizes would be gratefully accepted.
- The Christian Education Committee's **Annual Handcrafters' Market will be held VIRTUALLY on November 21st, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm**. Stay tuned for details. If you are a crafter and are interested in participating please ask Joni for an application form.

Keep scrolling for the scripture readings.

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to
the LORD,

to minister to him, to love the name of
the LORD,

and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not
profane it,

and hold fast my covenant—
⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of
prayer;

their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;

for my house shall be called a house of
prayer

for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord God,

who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Romans 11:1-2, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By
no means! I myself am an Israelite, a
descendant of Abraham, a member of the
tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not rejected his
people whom he foreknew. Do you not know
what the scripture says of Elijah, how he
pleads with God against Israel?

²⁹ for the gifts and the calling of God are
irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once
disobedient to God but have now received
mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so
they have now been disobedient in order
that, by the mercy shown to you, they too
may now receive mercy. ³² For God has

imprisoned all in disobedience so that he
may be merciful to all.

Matthew 15:10-28

¹⁰ Then [Jesus] called the crowd to him
and said to them, “Listen and
understand: ¹¹ it is not what goes into the
mouth that defiles a person, but it is what
comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹² Then
the disciples approached and said to him,
“Do you know that the Pharisees took
offense when they heard what you
said?” ¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my
heavenly Father has not planted will be
uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind
guides of the blind. And if one blind person
guides another, both will fall into a
pit.” ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain this
parable to us.” ¹⁶ Then he said, “Are you also
still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not
see that whatever goes into the mouth
enters the stomach, and goes out into the
sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth
proceeds from the heart, and this is what
defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil
intentions, murder, adultery, fornication,
theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are
what defile a person, but to eat with
unwashed hands does not defile.”

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to
the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a
Canaanite woman from that region came out
and started shouting, “Have mercy on me,
Lord, Son of David; my daughter is
tormented by a demon.” ²³ But he did not
answer her at all. And his disciples came and
urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she
keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I
was sent only to the lost sheep of the house
of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before
him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He answered,
“It is not fair to take the children’s food and

throw it to the dogs.”²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.