

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

August 23, 2020
12th Sunday after Pentecost

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

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Website: www.standrewshespeler.ca

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-12pm

Order of Online Worship for August 23, 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: We give you thanks, O Lord, with all our hearts

P: for your faithful love ensures forever.

L: We sing your praise, O Lord, with all our might

P: for your promises speak of your goodness to all the earth.

L: We place our trust in you, O Lord, with full confidence

P: for your salvation continues from generation to generation. And so we come to you, O Lord, and lift up our hearts in praise.

Prayers of approach and confession

L: Eternal God, you are the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, and yet you come to us afresh each new day. You breathe new life into what has grown tired and discouraged. You offer healing for what is broken and worn. You restore hope for what seems impossible. You are the source of life and love for us and all your creatures, and so we worship you as Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit, one God, now and always. Amen.

P: Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your purposes.

You set a path for us to follow, but we conform to the ways of this world.

You offer us your transforming love, but we cling to familiar patterns and habits.

**You give each of us gifts to use for the work of your kingdom,
but we wait for others to do what needs doing.**

Forgive us for taking the easy way out and failing to serve you with eager hearts.

L: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ – and Christ died for us. Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace. So, let us make a fresh start today!

Responsive Psalm 138 (Microphones on)

L: I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

P: I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;

L: for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

P: On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

L: All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

P: They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.

L: For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.

P: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;

L: You stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

P: The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Ongoing life of the church

Scripture: (see below)

Celebration of Generosity

Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Sermon: Darrell Clarke will preach a live sermon over Zoom. The sermon title is, "BC/AC and Us"

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 6, 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. Aubrey Botha (519-623-1080) or Rev. Bill Bynum (519-653-6691).

Mission Moment – Sunday, August 23

World Humanitarian Day

Ravaged by almost three decades of conflict as well as recurrent droughts, Somalia's population suffers from chronic food insecurity. Lacking access to basic necessities, many are vulnerable to disease and malnutrition. In response, Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) and Canadian Foodgrains Bank are providing vital humanitarian assistance to those in need. Pregnant and lactating women, as well as children under five, are being screened for malnutrition and receiving supplementary feeding. Additionally, the project is empowering vulnerable women with lessons about how to prevent further malnutrition, eat a balanced diet and maintain nutrition, providing them with the tools and knowledge they need to live a life full of nourishment.

PWS&D supports food security and nutrition.



Prayer Partnership

Monday, August 24 We pray that we catch a glimpse today of God's reconciling love so that we may not lose heart but get caught up in your mission for Christ's sake.

Tuesday, August 25 We thank God for Canada's fresh lakes and running rivers.

Wednesday, August 26 We pray for the PCC Archives staff as they endeavour to organize, preserve and make available the rich historical collection held in the archives, all of which serves to provide vital information to those within the denomination and also the general public.

Thursday, August 27 We thank God for ecumenical ministerials and councils. May the diverse gifts of the Body of Christ enrich and strengthen our ministry and mission.

Friday, August 28 We pray for congregations embarking on the New Beginnings congregational renewal process.

Saturday, August 29 We pray for The Presbyterian College in Montreal, Que., as it goes through a time of transition in leadership. May those involved be guided by the Spirit of God.

Announcements

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Steve & Lori Marsh, Adria & Jacob on the recent death of Steve's step-mom, Jeanne Marsh.

 Please keep the Marsh family in your prayers at this difficult time.

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 is a Rubbermaid tote inside Door #1 for you to drop off items. You will be able to drop off your items on Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings, 9:00 am – noon, while Paula is in! 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 51:1, 6-8

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the LORD.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were
dug.
⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like
gnats;^[a]
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.
⁷ Listen to me, you who know righteousness,
you people who have my teaching in your
hearts;
do not fear the reproach of others,
and do not be dismayed when they revile
you.
⁸ For the moth will eat them up like a
garment,
and the worm will eat them like wool;
but my deliverance will be forever,
and my salvation to all generations.

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to

the measure of faith that God has assigned.⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function,⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith;⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching;⁸ the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.