

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

August 30, 2020

13th 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 30, 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 gather in our separate places to worship the God of our fathers and mothers—
the God of Abraham and Sarah, of Miriam and Moses—

P: The God who hears the cries of His people and comes to their aid;

L: The God who meets us on holy ground and calls us to follow;

P: The God who invites us to leave our selfish ways behind, take up our cross, and discover what it means to truly live.

L: This is our God!

P: Let's worship together.

Prayers of approach and confession

L: As we come before you this morning, give us open hearts and open hands. Make us eager to hear your voice and seek your guidance. Open our minds to your ever-present spirit that is always moving within and around us Open our spirits to your nudging and open our lives to your love.

P: Loving God, you call us to turn away from our own selfish interests, to take up our cross, and to follow you. To find our lives, by losing them. Lord we have not always been willing to heed your voice. Now Lord with your help, may we live in service of your mission.

L: Lord as we confess our sins, we ask for your forgiveness and your mercy. You lead us out of the constriction of fear and out of the prison of hate, into the wide space of freedom. Let us rejoice in the warmth of your love together with our enemies. Amen.

Responsive Psalm 105:1-6, 23-36, 45c (Microphones on)

L: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

P: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

L: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

P: Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

L: Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,

P: O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

L: Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham.

P: And the Lord made his people very fruitful, and made them stronger than their foes,

L: whose hearts he then turned to hate his people, to deal craftily with his servants.

P: He sent his servant Moses, and Aaron whom he had chosen.

L: They performed his signs among them, and miracles in the land of Ham.

P: He sent darkness, and made the land dark; they rebelled against his words.

L: He turned their waters into blood, and caused their fish to die.

P: Their land swarmed with frogs, even in the chambers of their kings.

L: He spoke, and there came swarms of flies, and gnats throughout their country.

P: He gave them hail for rain, and lightning that flashed through their land.

L: He struck their vines and fig trees, and shattered the trees of their country.

P: He spoke, and the locusts came, and young locusts without number;

L: they devoured all the vegetation in their land, and ate up the fruit of their ground.

P: He struck down all the firstborn in their land, the first issue of all their strength.

ALL: Praise the Lord!

Ongoing life of the church

Scripture: (see below)

Celebration of Generosity

Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Sermon: Rev. Canon Karen Kovats will preach a live sermon over Zoom. The sermon title is, "Take Up the Cross. Really?"

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.

*We are excited that Rev. Scott will be back with us **next Sunday!** This service will be 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).

*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.

*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 30

Sharing the Good News with Each Other

In only three years, the *Presbyterian Connection* newspaper has become a much-loved resource for the national denomination. The newspaper is distributed four times a year to churches and individuals across Canada. The mission of *Presbyterian Connection* is to equip leaders, connect congregations and missions, facilitate communication, and highlight denominational work. Sharing our successes and celebrating our ministries through stories, reflections, interviews and articles not only keeps congregations and Presbyterians continually informed and connected, but also strengthens our denominational ties across the country. Support from Presbyterians Sharing helps to ensure this important ministry continues.

Presbyterians Sharing shares the good news.



Bringing Shared Ministry to Life



Members of the Pinaua Christian Fellowship.

Prayer Partnership

Monday, August 31 We pray for the Atlantic Mission Society executive as it meets to prepare for the AMS Annual Meeting to be held in September.

Tuesday, September 1 (Labour Day) We pray for the Leading with Care Committees in congregations, camps, colleges and other ministries.

Wednesday, September 2 We pray for congregations that are encountering struggles to support all the areas of ministry they would like to do in Christ's name.

Thursday, September 3 We pray for children who are starting school this week. May this year be a time of growth and learning.

Friday, September 4 We pray for a smooth transition as the Graduate School of Nurses in Indore, India, partners with the Christian Hospital in Indore to start a four-year degree program in Nursing.

Saturday, September 5 We pray that the faculty of Knox College, The Presbyterian College of Montreal and the Vancouver School of Theology find joy and wisdom in and for the work of theological education.

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.



A big THANK YOU to everyone who brought in school supplies. We were able to help out the families who reached out to us for assistance. 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.

Exodus 3:1-15

¹ Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴ When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹ The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" ¹² He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

The Divine Name Revealed

¹³ But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM."^[a] He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD,^[b] the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.

Matthew 16:21-28

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

The Cross and Self-Denial

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but

forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”