

**St. Andrew's Hespeler
Presbyterian Church
September 13, 2020
15th Sunday after Pentecost**

**St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church
73 Queen Street East,
Cambridge, ON N3C 2A9
519-658-2652**

Rev. Scott McAndless: smcandless@standrewshespeler.ca

Email: office@standrewshespeler.ca

Prayer Requests: prayerchain@standrewshespeler.ca

Website: www.standrewshespeler.ca

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-12pm

Order of Online Worship for September 13

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. In addition, those who wish to may come and join us in the sanctuary. If you are coming, please let us know. You will be screened and registered when you arrive and you must wear a mask.

Call to worship (Microphones on)

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Praise the Lord.

P: Let us praise the name of the Lord together.

L: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love;

P: as far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our transgressions from us.

L: So let us rejoice in God's presence!

P: Let us praise the name of the Lord together.

Prayers of approach and confession

L: Holy and loving One, God of might and mercy, The heavens and the earth are full of your glory. Your love transforms our lives. You take darkness and give light. You take grief and give healing. You take fatigue and give strength. You take fear and give courage. You take death and give new life. So we come before you in worship, handing over to you all that weighs us down, waiting for your refreshing gifts. Renew us in this time of worship, we pray, so that we may serve you in Jesus' name.

P: O God, we confess that our lives do not always reflect your transforming power. You are gracious, but we cling to judgment. You are kind, but we can be cruel. You are forgiving, but we nurse grudges and old wounds. You are filled with joy, but too often we are filled with dissatisfaction and complaints. Forgive us, O God, and fill us with your Holy Spirit this day, and make us new through Christ, your Son and our Saviour. Amen.

Responsive Reading Exodus 15:1-11 (Microphones on)

L: I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;

P: horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

L: The LORD is my strength and my might,

P: and he has become my salvation;

L: this is my God, and I will praise him,

P: my father's God, and I will exalt him.

L: The LORD is a warrior;

P: the LORD is his name.

L: Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea;

P: his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

L: The floods covered them;

P: they went down into the depths like a stone.

L: Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power—

P: your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.

L: In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries;

P: you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble.

L: At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up,

P: the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.

L: The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.'

P: You blew with your wind, the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

L: Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?

P: Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendour, doing wonders?

Ongoing life of the church

Scripture: Exodus 14:10-31 (see below)

Celebration of our Generosity

Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Sermon: Rev. Scott McAndless will preach a live sermon over Zoom. The sermon title is,



All the Chariots of Egypt

Next Week's Sermon:

The Parable
of the
Generous
Landowners



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Catherine Hertel in the recent death of her brother, Paul. Paul grew up in Hespeler, and his family was very active at St. Andrew's.

Mission Moment – Sunday, September 13 - New Beginnings and Evangelism Coaches

The Apostle Paul, in his pursuit of sharing the gospel message, says that in doing so he is “forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead” (Philippians 3:13). Looking ahead is not always an easy thing to do, especially in the rapidly changing environment that we live in today. For congregations, it can be a struggle to know how to continue to reach out to their communities and share the gospel in meaningful ways. The PCC has developed a network of coaches to help congregations and ministries to discover where God is calling them. Through programs like New Beginnings and the Evangelism Network, congregations can be connected with a coach to guide them into an exciting new era of ministry. Contact Canadian Ministries canadianministries@presbyterian.ca to learn more about the New Beginnings program and the Evangelism Network.

Presbyterians Sharing shares the gospel message.



Prayer Partnership

Monday, September 14 We pray for the faculties and staffs of our theological colleges as they work to provide academic programs to support the leadership needs of congregations across Canada.

Tuesday, September 15 We pray for the Continuing Education Grants Committee which meets this month.

Wednesday, September 16 We give thanks for those whose call has included the call to teach, research and write for the benefit of others.

Thursday, September 17 We thank God for the gift of communion. May the Lord's Supper be celebrated as a sign of our unity in Christ and a means to grow together in love.

Friday, September 18 We thank God for music, and the choir members and musicians who share their gifts at church on Sunday mornings.

Saturday, September 19 (WCC Week of Prayer for Peace in Palestine and Israel) We pray for a just peace in Palestine and Israel so that all children may grow up in a safe place with equal opportunities to thrive.

Session News

The session of St. Andrew's Hespeler met this week and we would like to update you on a few important decisions:

- The Cambridge Self Help Food Bank has removed all food items from St. Andrew's Hespeler so that no food is wasted. The Food Bank has indicated that, as of now, they will not be returning to St. Andrew's this fall. The Food Bank has a new director. We have been told that people from Hespeler can still go to Galt to receive their hampers + meat + vegetables. We are allowed, as are others, to make pick-ups for other families. In Hespeler, many of the people who access the food bank do not drive. Imagine taking a bus, your little children with you, to Galt, walking to the food bank, and then trying to carry two big boxes and your children back to the bus. And then imagine the extra cost of bus tickets. We have had some food bank clients let us know that they cannot access food. In response to this news, the session has written a letter to the Cambridge Self Help Food Bank to encourage them to make arrangements for hamper pick-ups at St. Andrew's Hespeler. The process used at the very last pick up could be repeated, without lunch being offered. A straight pick up would eliminate any use of the church building. Others may wish to as their voice to this request by writing to: Director, Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank, 54 Ainslie Street South, Cambridge, ON N1R 3K3
- **The session has decided to call a congregational meeting on October 4, 2020 after worship.** The meeting will be held virtually and those who are in the sanctuary that morning may also participate. This meeting has been called because the Annual Meeting could not be held this year and we have not met at all during 2020. We will do a few essential things (like adopt the 2019 reports), but also just take some time to check in with each other. Please plan to participate if you can. 2019 reports are printed and available at the church (the office is open Monday to Friday mornings) and Elders and Deacons are asked to pick up copies for others if they can. If anyone would like an PDF copy of the report to be sent to them, please let us know. A PDF version is available online. If you would like to access the report from our website (www.standrewshespeler.ca) you will need to ask Scott or Joni for the password.

Announcements

Worship

For the foreseeable future, we will continue to worship as we have been, with many present online and some present in the sanctuary. If you would like to attend in person, please let us know so that we can plan to make your visit safe.

Hope Clothing News!

Session has agreed to call Karen Kincaid, our Hope Clothing Coordinator, back to work so that we can begin to open Hope Clothing to the public! Karen will return on September 23rd. There are going to be many changes to the way we operate, and we expect that changes will be continual as time goes on. To begin, Hope Clothing will only be open to the public on Wednesdays (expected first open Wednesday would be September 30th). Donations would only be accepted from Sunday - Wednesday. We will be endeavouring to re-route all excess donations as quickly as possible. Our main goal remains the safety of our staff, volunteers, and clients. As such, there are many considerations to be made regarding clothing; when clothing can be put in the Hope Clothing room, who may go into the room, no more trying on of clothes, etc. We would like to thank everyone for their patience and support as we move forward. If you have any questions, please reach out to Karen or Joni (jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca)

Sunday School News!

Sunday School will begin next week, Sunday, September 20. Families, please check your email for more information because Sunday School will definitely be different for the next while!



LIGHT of
the WORLD
A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO ADVENT



Advent is approaching (I know, it isn't even officially fall yet!) and it's time to think about joining an Advent reading club. We are going to read "Light of the World, a Beginner's Guide to Advent" by Amy-Jill Levine. There are several options to participate in this reading. You can read solo. I will be sending out study notes weekly to those who wish to have them. We can start our own online book study (for just St. Andrew's readers) and we can join Presbyterians Read on Facebook. Copies of the book are available on kindle. I will be ordering hard copies soon. Please let me know if you intend to join so I can order your copy for you. (The cost will be \$20 per book, but if you need help with this expense, please also let me know). Please let me know as soon as you can so that we can get our books on time. You can call the church and leave a message or email me, Joni, at jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca.

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 or artisan and are interested in participating please ask Joni for an application form.

CELEBRATING 30+ YEARS TOGETHER AT KNOX WATERLOO!

Ashfield Retirement Celebration
Sunday, September 27, 10:00 – 11:55 am

You're invited to the special Sunday worship service and following celebration of the retirement of Rev. Brooke Ashfield & Rev. Linda Ashfield, after 30+ years of leadership at Knox Waterloo, and more than 40 years with The Presbyterian Church in Canada.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

Join the live-streamed celebrations*

10:00 – 11:00 am

Special Sunday worship service

11:00 – 11:55 am

Retirement celebration event with special guests, music & fun

* If you wish to attend in person, please submit your request via Knox's seat reservation system at KnoxWaterloo.ca. Limited seating is available.

Expressions of congratulations and gratitude can be shared via the church office at 50 Erb Street W. or by contacting knox@knoxwaterloo.ca or (519) 886-4150.



Knox Waterloo Presbyterian Church, 50 Erb Street West, Waterloo, ON N2L 1T1
(519) 886-4150, knox@knoxwaterloo.ca, KnoxWaterloo.ca

Exodus 14:5-31

⁵ When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the minds of Pharaoh and his officials were changed toward the people, and they said, "What have we done, letting Israel leave our service?" ⁶ So he had his chariot made ready, and took his army with him; ⁷ he took six hundred picked chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. ⁸ The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt and he pursued the Israelites, who were going out boldly. ⁹ The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, his chariot drivers and his army; they overtook them camped by the sea, by Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.

¹⁰ As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." ¹³ But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. ¹⁶ But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷ Then I will harden the hearts of

the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. ¹⁸ And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

¹⁹ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵ He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the

chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; ^[d] and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and

said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."