

**St. Andrew's Hespeler
Presbyterian Church
November 29th, 2020
First Sunday in Advent**

**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 November 29

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 heavens are trembling with anticipation,

P: And we wait for Jesus.

L: The nights are long and the days are short,

P: And we wait for Jesus.

L: Our redemption is drawing near,

P: And we wait for Jesus.

L: Let us hope in God and worship as people ready to see the salvation of our God!

Lighting of the First Candle of Advent

L: In our church and homes we gather around wreaths to pray our lost hopes, broken peace, limited joys, and love so hard to find and share, in this season of coronavirus. We affirm that our candles mean we claim the power to call this season Advent when God's light comes into the world and nothing can overcome it.

P: We light the candle of hope in the face of ...

We pause to name and write things that seem to conspire against hope like, e.g., Covid-19, wildfires, hurricanes, closed businesses, missing singing etc.

L: God's hope shines on hopelessness, and brightens the path toward peace. Let us pray:

P: Emmanuel, God be with us, in the week to come, lighting hope on the wick of our lives so that we may shine on our world. Amen.

Prayers of approach and confession

L: Creator God, you made the heavens and the earth. You set the planets in their courses, lit the sun with fire, caused the stars to shine and the world to turn. Life springs up wherever your breath moves. In Jesus Christ, you brought hope into a world full of fear and despair.

You sent your Spirit to enliven our hope and guide us on the way. We are waiting now in anxious times for the world to be made new. We wait for new life, and we wait with deep hope.

P: Redeeming God, we confess that waiting is difficult for us. We want to be comfortable in this festive season, but the pandemic keeps us anxious and unhappy. We complain about our own troubles and close our eyes to the suffering of others, forgive us for ignoring truths do not want to see. Forgive us for seeking our own comfort at the cost of others. Give us eyes to perceive the great need within our community. Give us eyes to see the deep need within our own lives. Turn our hearts to you again and again. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

L: Friends, the good news of Jesus Christ is for all people. There is nothing we have done, nothing we will ever do, that will separate us from the love of God made known in Jesus Christ. This love is yours! So live in love as forgiven and forgiving people.

P: We will do so! Thanks be to God!

Responsive Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (Microphones on)

L: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

P: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

L: Restore us, O God;

P: let your face shine, that we may be saved.

L: O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

P: You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among themselves.

L: Restore us, O God of hosts;

P: let your face shine, that we may be saved.

L: But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

P: Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

L: Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;

P: let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Ongoing life of the church

Scripture: Mark 13:14-37 (see below)

Hymn 122 Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel

1. Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

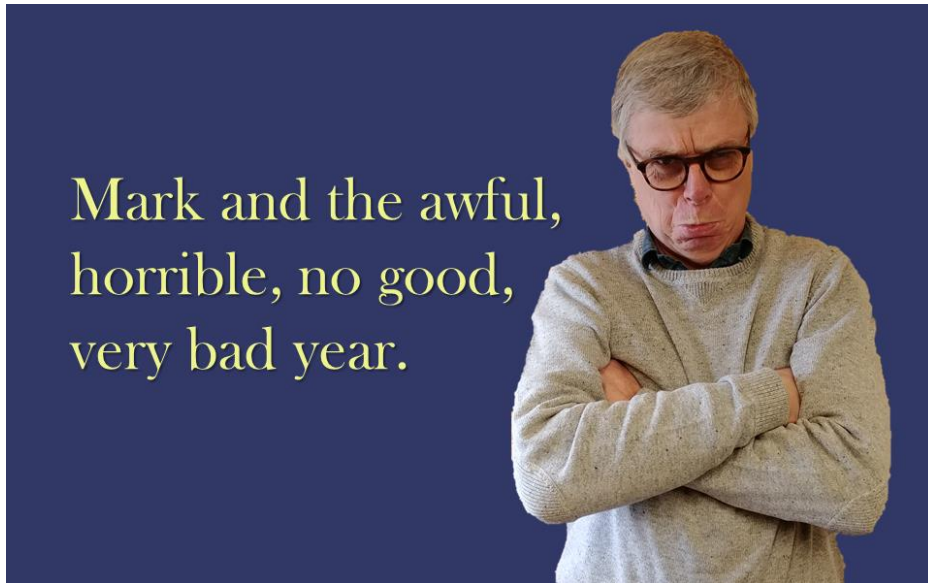
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

6. Oh come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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:



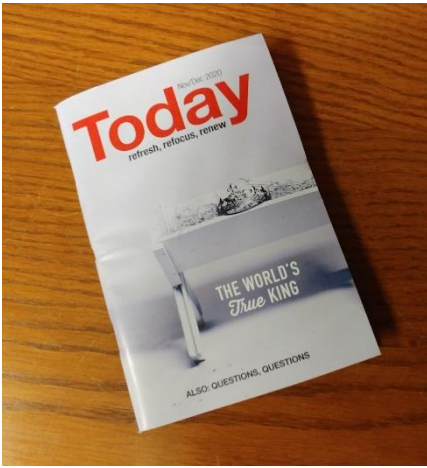
Benediction

Our special musical guest this morning is Zoé McAndless. Zoé is a first-year violin student at Laurier University.

Next Sunday we will be celebrating communion. Please make sure to prepare communion elements (bread and the fruit of the vine) for everyone who will participate. We are asking both those who attend in person and those who worship at home to prepare their own elements.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Bill & Joanne Pettit and to Sam & Arlene Inglis. Joanne's sister, Muriel and Arlene's sister, Yvonne, both passed away last Sunday. Please keep both of these families in your prayers during this difficult time.

Congratulations to Michaela & Brandon Finley and big brother, David on the recent birth of their daughter & sister, Maya. Also, congratulations to grandparents Paul & Betty Clarke!



There are some goodies in the mailbox at the church (the one marked “bulletins”) that is free for anyone to pick up.

You will find:

The New Nov/Dec edition of Today is now there!

The Dec-January edition of Our Daily Bread

The fall issue of Presbyterian Connection

Printed copies of this bulletin each week

Printed copies of Scott’s most recent sermon each week.

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.

Thank you to everyone who has helped supply our outreach ministries with hand sanitizer, face masks and face shields. This is a huge help and very much appreciated by our volunteers and clients.

If anyone would like to participate in the Advent book study we have a couple extra books. Just ask Joni if you are interested.



Mission Moment – November 29, 2020: Responding to COVID-19 Globally

As COVID-19 continues to affect people and communities around the world, Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) is responding to some of those most impacted. After initially supporting lifesaving and urgent care projects, PWS&D is now helping provide long-term COVID-19 relief through Canadian Foodgrains Bank and ACT Alliance. Given the enormous risk of food insecurity, food aid is being provided. PWS&D is also helping ensure families have access to clean water and sanitation, and that COVID-19 prevention messages are being shared. Additionally, psychosocial support is being offered to help cope with the effects of the pandemic.



Prayer Partnership

Sunday, November 29 We pray for the COVID-19 projects that Presbyterian World Service and Development supports through the ACT Alliance. We pray that these projects offer relief and hope.

Monday, November 30 We pray for congregational treasurers as they work diligently in the responsibilities entrusted to them.

Tuesday, December 1 (World AIDS Day) We pray for individuals and families around the world affected by HIV and AIDS, and we give thanks for community programs supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development in Malawi working to achieve a world without HIV and AIDS.

Wednesday, December 2 We pray for congregations that face financial constraints due to the pandemic, that they may have the resources needed to continue their ministries.

Thursday, December 3 (International Day for Persons with Disabilities) We pray for a better world that is equitable, sustainable and inclusive, where people with disabilities are respected and their rights are fully realized.

Friday, December 4 We pray for the members of Leading with Care committees in congregations and presbyteries that help to foster climates of safety for all people in the church.

Saturday, December 5 We pray for the ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Western Han-Ca.

Announcements

Sunday School News!

Families, check you mailboxes or porches for a special package being delivered this week or next! Thank you, Catherine, for organizing this.

On Sunday mornings 3 links will be posted on our website: (and Facebook and Twitter)

1. for our younger Sunday School children, **Little Explorers**, I will be posting a “read aloud”. This is for anyone who would like to listen to a story.
2. for **The Divine Detectives**, I will record and post every Sunday our story, bible reading and prayer.
3. for **The Holy Sherlocks**, a lesson will be posted every week as well. This lesson includes an audio link to the short story, prayers, Bible readings and an activity to do at home with your family.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! The Family Christmas Eve service that we were planning for outdoors has been postponed until Christmas Eve 2021! However, we would still like to make a movie of the Christmas story, starring our own Sunday School students and families/individuals. We need 5 people/families to help us “act” our some scenes. Here’s what we need: (There are no speaking parts. Scott will be the tour guide/narrator)

1. A family who can make ‘big’ stars, planets, moons, etc. and hold them up.
2. Mary, pantomiming making bread. She could have a bread maker as a prop and some flour.
3. Joseph lying on a sleeping bag or blankets.
4. Mary & Joseph holding baby Jesus (a doll)
5. Shepherds and Sheep (we could actually have 2 families – well distanced – for this one)

We are asking each person/family to video record (landscape orientation) a small part and send to Scott or myself.

Help with ideas, props, supplies will be available. If you can help please contact Joni at jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca

Please note: if you are worshipping with us, in the sanctuary, the only door open to enter is Door #1, adjacent to the parking lot on Queen St. E. This means that if you park around back you will have to walk around the church (which might not be nice if it’s raining).

Please Note

Regular church activities have been suspended until further notice. If you have questions or concerns, or if we can support you in any way, please contact us by calling the church (messages are checked regularly) or email us at office@standrewshespeler.ca. We care about you! You are not alone!

GIVINGTUESDAY™ Week One

Your giving supports the work of our staff and volunteers

The year 2020 has presented enormous challenges to all of us and that has certainly been true of the work of St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church. Because of pandemic restrictions and safety concerns, we have not been able to carry out what would normally have been many of our regular activities. We have also not been able to connect with people in many of the ways that we are used to doing. In 2 Timothy 2:9, the Apostle Paul laments that he has been restricted from regular activities (because he is in prison) but then goes on to remark, "But the word of God is not chained."

We also have experienced that. Though we struggle under restrictions and limitations, we have seen the power of the word of God at work. Though our staff have not been able to do some parts of their job, we have seen them step up and provide ministry to our people and to the community in extraordinary ways. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Glen Einwechter, Karen Kincaid, Scott McAndless, Paula Rumbolt, Joni Smith and also some wonderful volunteers like Laura Einwechter we have learned many things during this time and have been able to provide:

- An enhanced internet presence
- Daily online video devotions
- Weekly Sunday school lessons and stories for the kids
- An interactive Sunday morning zoom worship service with a number of people also present in the sanctuary
- YouTube broadcasts of the Sunday morning sermon
- An interactive Advent candle liturgy
- And we are also engaging in some new initiatives to introduce more music to our Sunday morning worship
- Safely reopening Hope Clothing
- The establishment of weekly food hamper distribution

Many of these things have meant people putting in extra time and effort and some of it has required extra resources. We are very thankful for the financial and other support of the people of St. Andrew's that makes all of this possible. Your gifts mean that the word of God will continue to be unchained among us!

GivingTuesday Campaign gifts can be either sent via mail to the church office or placed on the Sunday morning offering plate if you're attending church in person. Please do not send cash via external mail. GivingTuesday Campaign gifts can also be made online at www.standrewshespeler.ca and use the "Donate Now" button. From there you can choose where your GivingTuesday gift should go.

If making a GivingTuesday Campaign gift using your Offering Envelope, please clearly mark the amount to be designated to this campaign on the envelope so that it can be distinguished from your regular givings.

If not using your Offering Envelope nor the envelope provided, please ensure the outside of the envelope you use clearly indicates (a) your name and (b) that the amount inside is to be designated to the GivingTuesday Campaign

All one time GivingTuesday Campaign gifts of \$20 or more will be receipted for tax purposes if a proper name and address is supplied.

Double your giving! The first \$6,500 in gifts to this campaign will be matched by a generous donor.



Fünd
Scrip^{TM/MC}



Christmas is coming!

Did you know that money raised from gift cards goes back into helping the church?

Restaurants, Clothing Stores, Gas, Grocery shopping:

** McDonald's * Tim Horton's * Starbucks * Staples*

** Ultimate dining cards * Lehrs * Food Basics * Metro*

** Shell * Esso * Indigo * Cineplex * Gap/Old Navy * Giant Tiger*

Get your orders in by November 22 and December 6 to get your orders in time for Christmas! Talk to Laura or Patrice if you have any questions!

Isaiah 64:1-9

¹ O that you would tear open the heavens
and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at
your presence—

² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your
adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at
your presence!

³ When you did awesome deeds that we did
not expect,
you came down, the mountains
quaked at your presence.

⁴ From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

⁵ You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your
ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we
transgressed.

⁶ We have all become like one who is
unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a
filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take
us away.

⁷ There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of
our iniquity.

⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our
potter;

we are all the work of your hand.

⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,

and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³ Grace to you and peace from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you
because of the grace of God that has been
given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way
you have been enriched in him, in speech
and knowledge of every kind— ⁶ just as the
testimony of Christ has been strengthened
among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in
any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing
of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also
strengthen you to the end, so that you may
be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus
Christ. ⁹ God is faithful; by him you were
called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord.

Mark 13:14-37

¹⁴ “But when you see the desolating
sacrilege set up where it ought not to be (let
the reader understand), then those in Judea
must flee to the mountains; ¹⁵ the one on the
housetop must not go down or enter the
house to take anything away; ¹⁶ the one in
the field must not turn back to get a
coat. ¹⁷ Woe to those who are pregnant and
to those who are nursing infants in those
days! ¹⁸ Pray that it may not be in
winter. ¹⁹ For in those days there will be
suffering, such as has not been from the
beginning of the creation that God created
until now, no, and never will be. ²⁰ And if the
Lord had not cut short those days, no one

would be saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he has cut short those days. ²¹ And if anyone says to you at that time, 'Look! Here is the Messiah!' or 'Look! There he is!'—do not believe it. ²² False messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. ²³ But be alert; I have already told you everything.

²⁴ 'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³² 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do

not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'