

**St. Andrew's Hespeler  
Presbyterian Church  
December 13, 2020  
Third Sunday of Advent**

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

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Website: [www.standrewshespeler.ca](http://www.standrewshespeler.ca)

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-12pm

Order of Online Worship for December 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: In this time of worship, we remember that God is with us.

**P: God is with us in joy and in sorrow.**

L: In Jesus Christ, God reshapes the past, the present and our future.

**P: We wait with God for something new to emerge.**

L: In this time of worship, we await the birth of Jesus.

**P: We wait with hope, preparing to rejoice in Jesus' name.**

**Lighting of the Third 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.

We light the candles of hope and peace. (*relight candles*)

**P: We now light the candle of joy in spite of ...**

We pause to name and write things that seem to conspire against joy like, e.g., depression, grief, loss and regret.

L: God's joy ignites embers under loss and sorrow and brightens the path to love.

**P: Emmanuel, God be with us, in the week to come, lighting hope, peace and joy on the wick of our lives so that we may shine on our world with a simple smile, an unexpected laughter. Amen.**

**Prayers of approach and confession**

L: Loving God, Compassionate Son, Healing Spirit, Holy One in Three and Three in One, you approach us with such kindness and tenderness. You look kindly on us, no matter what our state or condition, your care for this world is greater than we could ever ask or imagine:

You bring order from chaos.

You turn weeping into laughter.

You turn sorrow into joy, and death into new life.

You redeem all that appears lost, making all things new.

And so we come to you in joy, resting from our work and responsibilities, trusting you to bring peace amid our anxiety and hope into these uncertain times. Receive our worship this day as we anticipate the difference your gifts will make to us through Christ, your Son and our Saviour. Amen.

**P: Generous and gracious God, we confess the smallness of our love and the narrowness of our concern. These days we easily become preoccupied with statistics and case numbers. Opportunities to say thanks, to offer encouragement, to remember each other in friendship slip by. Anxiety turns us inward and anger can make us lash out. Forgive us for neglecting the joy at the heart of the Advent season. Turn our hearts back to you, and inspire us with your love made flesh in Jesus Christ.**

L: In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation. There is nothing we have done, nothing we could ever do, that can separate us from the love of God shown to us in Christ. Know that you are forgiven, and with this joyful truth, have the courage to forgive one another.

**P: Amen!**

### **Responsive Reading Luke 1:46-55 (Microphones on)**

L: And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord,

**P: and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,**

L: for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

**P: Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;**

L: for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

**P: and holy is his name.**

L: His mercy is for those who fear him

**P: from generation to generation.**

L: He has shown strength with his arm;

**P: he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

L: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

**P: and lifted up the lowly;**

L: he has filled the hungry with good things,

**P: and sent the rich away empty.**

L: He has helped his servant Israel,

**P: in remembrance of his mercy,**

L: according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

**P: to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'**

Ongoing life of the church

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (see below)

Hymn #153 Joy to the world

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
let earth receive its King;  
let every heart prepare him room  
and heaven and nature sing.  
And heaven and nature sing.  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:  
let us our songs employ,  
while fields and floods,  
rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy.  
Repeat the sounding joy.  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love.  
And wonders of his love.  
And wonders, and wonders of his love.

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.

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 winter issue of Presbyterian Connection!**

Printed copies of this bulletin each week

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

### **Christmas Worship Services**

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.

There will be a **Longest Night** worship service held on Monday December 21, 2020 at 7:30 pm. This is a service especially for people who may struggle with grief, loss or depression at this season of the year (which could be all of us this year). This will be an **online only** service this year and the link will be distributed in the usual ways. Zoe McAndless will be our special guest musician. It will also be a communion service so please prepare communion elements if you are participating.

The **Family-Oriented Christmas Eve** service will be posted online for streaming this year. It will not be at a specific time and family may watch and participate when it is convenient to them.

There will be a **Candlelight Christmas Eve Communion Service** on December 24 at 8 pm. This service will be broadcast from the sanctuary over Zoom like our other services and we do encourage most to participate from home. Assuming the Province continues to allow us to do so, we will welcome a limited number of people into the sanctuary with us. Please register with us ahead of time if you would like to attend. (Call the office at 519-658-2652 or email to Paula, Scott or Joni. Even if you are a “regular” on Sunday morning, please register separately for this one). As it is a communion service, please prepare communion elements if you are participating both in the sanctuary and at home.



## Mission Moment – December 13, 2020

### Halidu's Shop Equips Others

In Ghana, Halidu manages a prosperous and bustling training centre where he teaches kente weaving and dressmaking. When Halidu was young, he developed a sore that led to his leg being amputated. During his recovery, Halidu enrolled in a Presbyterian World Service & Development-supported program that equips people with disabilities with skills to obtain a livelihood. During workshops, he learned vocational skills that included weaving, tailoring and dressmaking. Today, Halidu is using what he learned during his recovery to lead a healthy, productive life and run a successful business.



## Prayer Partnership

**Sunday, December 13** We give thanks for the Garu Community-Based Rehabilitation program in Ghana, which provides training to people with disabilities, helping ensure they have the necessary resources to lead healthy and productive lives.

**Monday, December 14** We pray for the wisdom to understand and be thankful for what it means to have enough during the consumer-driven Christmas rush.

**Tuesday, December 15** We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Essex-Kent in Ont.

**Wednesday, December 16** We pray that God fills us with the wisdom of the scriptures, the grace of Christ and the understanding of the Holy Spirit so that we may be a church of people with vision who are at work in the world.

**Thursday, December 17** We thank God for financial and prayer support received from congregations for Presbyterians Sharing in 2020 to support the ministry of the General Assembly and its committees.

**Friday, December 18 (International Migrants Day)** We pray for the safe and just treatment of foreign temporary workers in Canada, as well as for organizations and individuals working for the humane treatment of migrant workers and members of their families.

**Saturday, December 19** We pray for the cold and hungry, that they not only find local meal and shelter programs, but also compassion during this winter season.

## 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.

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](mailto:office@standrewshespeler.ca). We care about you! You are not alone!

## **GIVING TUESDAY** **Week Three**

Your giving supports the work of our Outreach Ministries.

In the spring we found ourselves in the position of having to close our outreach ministries to the community. We all struggled with what this meant to those in our community who need some extra help and a human connection. In the fall our Session and members of our congregation wrote letters to the Cambridge Self Help Food Bank asking if we could bring the off-site location back to St. Andrew's.

These letters really hit home with the Food Bank. Plans began, many conversations were had between the "two of us." We have now entered a very important partnership with the Food Bank. Previously we "hosted" the Food Bank Co-op, where clients paid a monthly fee to access the food bank every two weeks. The food bank would send their staff and some of their volunteers to run the co-op. We simply gave them space, with many of our volunteers helping out, too. And then we were asked if it would be possible to provide a nutritious lunch for them. That is when our "Lunch Ladies" team was started.

But now that form of food bank is not possible. We (the Food Bank and St. Andrew's) provide an emergency hamper service. Clients are able to access the Food Bank once per week. At St. Andrew's clients come each week, or as needed, they are checked in and registered, then they proceed to a hamper station where they pack their own groceries out of a hamper. After they have their food and a chit chat, they exit through another door, where Hope Clothing has a table set up. The clients are encouraged to take something warm to wear or choose from other assorted treasures. Currently the Food Bank sends us the food, the Food Bank room is now fully stocked. We pack the hampers, we register the clients, we provide all of the volunteers and do the scheduling. The Food Bank no longer sends any of their staff or volunteers to our site.

We have spent several weeks, along side the Food Bank working out an effective and safe method of providing food service for the Hespeler/Cambridge community. In fact, we are the model for the other off-site locations. We've had visitors from the other off-site locations and are now ALL working together to bring the Food Bank closer to where it is needed.

We absolutely could not do this without the dedication and commitment of a large group of volunteers. We are so thankful for the people who have volunteered to work at this outreach ministry. Thank you to our volunteers: Jennifer, Kelly, Joan, Delene, Jocelyn, Catherine, Vern, Carol, Duncan, Jean, Elaine, Brenda, Glen, Karen, Sharon, Brian & Joanne.

We were also the location for the Food Bank, Christmas Hamper pick up this year. The Food Bank truck came to St. Andrew's loaded with turkeys and hamper gift cards. These were handed out to people who had registered. A great group of volunteers helped ensure that everyone got their hampers and stayed safe. Thank you to our volunteers: Andy, Sharon,

and Tyler. At the same time, we coordinated with the Hespeler Optimists and they handed out toys to families with children. It was a wonderful community outreach.

Many people who have started coming back to Food Bank had not accessed the Food Bank since March. Several people had tears in their eyes at their first visit. They are all grateful to be able to come back. We are a safe place for many people and don't always realize that it is more than the service we provide. We provide a human connection that is very much needed, especially now.

GivingTuesday Campaign gifts can be either sent via mail to the church office or placed on the Sunday morning offering plate if you are attending church in person. Please do not send cash via external mail. GivingTuesday Campaign gifts can also be made online at [www.standrewshespeler.ca](http://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.



Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

<sup>1</sup> The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the  
oppressed,

to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;

<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup> to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of  
ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint  
spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his  
glory.

<sup>4</sup> They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former  
devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup> For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant  
with them.

<sup>9</sup> Their descendants shall be known among  
the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom  
the LORD has blessed.

<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of  
salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of  
righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a  
garland,

and as a bride adorns herself with her  
jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in  
it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness  
and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without  
ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for  
you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not  
despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup> but test  
everything; hold fast to what is  
good; <sup>22</sup> abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup> May the God of peace himself sanctify you  
entirely; and may your spirit and soul and  
body be kept sound and blameless at the  
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one  
who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

John 1:6-8, 19-28

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose  
name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to  
testify to the light, so that all might believe  
through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light,  
but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup> This is the testimony given by John  
when the Jews sent priests and Levites from  
Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' <sup>20</sup> He  
confessed and did not deny it, but confessed,  
'I am not the Messiah.' <sup>21</sup> And they asked him,  
'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am  
not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered,  
'No.' <sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, 'Who are you?

Let us have an answer for those who sent us.

What do you say about yourself?' <sup>23</sup> He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

"Make straight the way of the Lord",

as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup> Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' <sup>26</sup> John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup> the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' <sup>28</sup> This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.