

# St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

**December 27, 2020**

**First Sunday after Christmas**

**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 and Wednesday 9am-12pm

Order of Online Worship for December 27

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. The sanctuary is closed for in-person worship until January 26, 2021.

**Call to worship (Microphones on)**

One: Praise the Lord!

**All: Praise the Lord from the heavens!**

One: Praise God in the heights!

**All: Praise God, all you angels!**

One: Praise God, all you heavenly host!

**All: Let us all praise the Lord!**

**Prayers of approach and confession**

L: God of grace and glory, we praise you from the heights and from the depths; in the heavens, on earth and from the seas; in the courts of power and from the sidewalks of our lives. Your splendour shines from a manger, where the Light of the world was born to pierce the darkness. In fragile of flesh, you are revealed to us face to face. And so we gather with all people in every place who have glimpsed your salvation and grace to rejoice in your love born for us. Together we worship and praise you as Creator, Son and Spirit; Source of life, Glorious light, Wisdom of the ages.

P: **Source of all hope, you invite us to live in the light and discover the splendour of your glory. We confess we often choose to remain in the darkness instead. We allow our fears and hurts to hold us hostage. Our expectations of life prevent us from seeing new and real possibilities. You offer us unconditional love, but we expect others to earn our love.**

**Forgive us. May the new life born in the manger awaken new life in us and allow hope to dawn in the year ahead.**

L: Here is the good news of the Gospel: Jesus Christ is our light and our salvation. In him we are made new. Let us give thanks to God, and be at peace with ourselves and with one another.

**P: Amen!**

## **Responsive Reading Psalm 148 (Microphones on)**

L: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

**P: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

L: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

**P: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. He established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

L: Praise the LORD from the earth,

**P: you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

L: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

**P: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

L: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together!

**P: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.**

L: He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.

**P: Praise the LORD!**

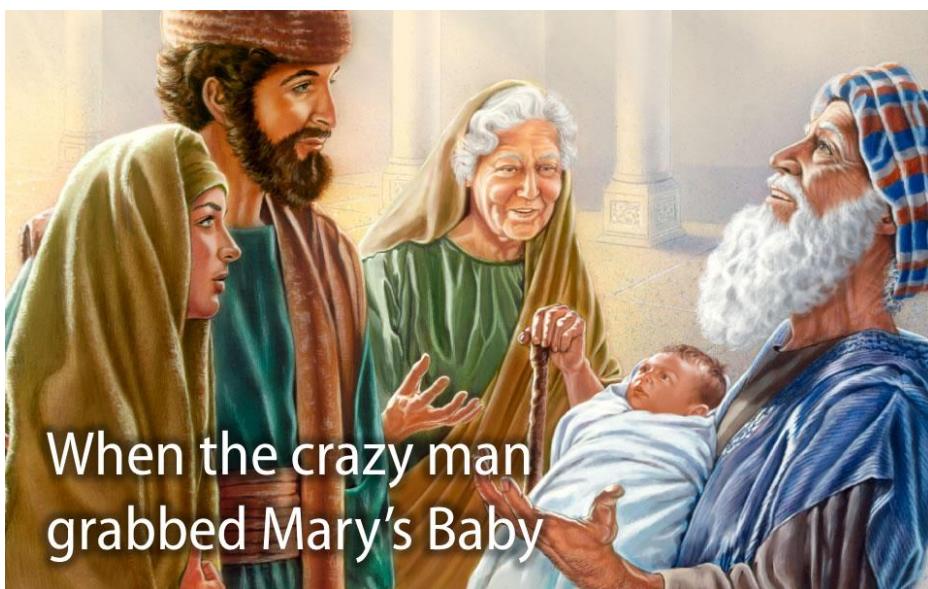
Ongoing life of the church

Scripture: Luke 2:22-40 (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:



**When the crazy man  
grabbed Mary's Baby**

Benediction

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** The Province of Ontario has ordered a lockdown of the Province starting on December 26 that will last for one month in Southern Ontario. One of the provisions of the lockdown is that no more than 10 people may be physically present for religious services, weddings, and funerals.

As of December 26, 2020, the sanctuary will be closed for in-person worship. All worship services and any other meetings will be carried out online for the period of one month (unless the Province directs otherwise).

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:

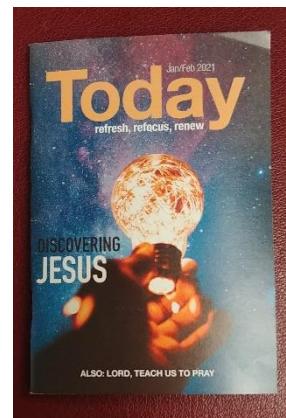
**The new Jan/Feb edition of Today is now here!**

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.



**2021 Offering Envelopes** are available.

Please pick them up on the back pew. You can also come into the office during office hours to pick them up. If you need other arrangements, please call the office and we will try to make accommodations.

## Mission Moment – December 27, 2020

### Sharing the Gift of Language

The PCC's partnership with the Protestant Theological Institute (PTI) in Cluj-Napoca, an ancient city in Romania, began with the overseas appointment of Brian Johnston in 1997. Supported by Presbyterians Sharing, Brian taught English at the Seminary of the Hungarian Reformed Church in Romania until 2016. After retirement, Brian continued to organize musical concerts with students and others at the Institute. The PCC's partnership with this Reformed seminary in Eastern Europe continues with an annual grant for the English teacher. Theological students must pass an English exam as a requirement for ordination. In thanking the PCC, Dr. Vilmos József Kolumbán, Rector of PTI, added, "Your financial contribution to the limited resources that we have is an extremely valuable input towards fulfilling our goals."



## Prayer Partnership

**Sunday, December 27** We give thanks for language teachers and translators who connect cultures and people around the world through education.

**Monday, December 28** We pray for all those who have been victims of violence and who experience the effects of trauma.

**Tuesday, December 29** We pray for those who struggle with illness, grief or depression. May they know God's peace and strength.

**Wednesday, December 30** We pray for a spirit of co-operation and understanding among leaders in our communities, nations and the world as they seek ways to recover in the face of the global pandemic.

**Thursday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)**

Though 2020 was a difficult year for every country in the world, we pray for the ability to see the blessings of the past year, mourn the sorrows we experienced, and look to 2021 with hope and open hearts.

**Friday, January 1 (New Year's Day)** We end the past year in gratitude to God for the moments and the milestones in which we experienced God's presence. We begin the new year in prayer for a more just and loving world where we depend on the abundance of God's grace, the generosity of God's mercy and the unwavering promise of God's compassion.

**Saturday, January 2** We give thanks for congregations celebrating special anniversaries this year and pray for their ongoing witness into the future.

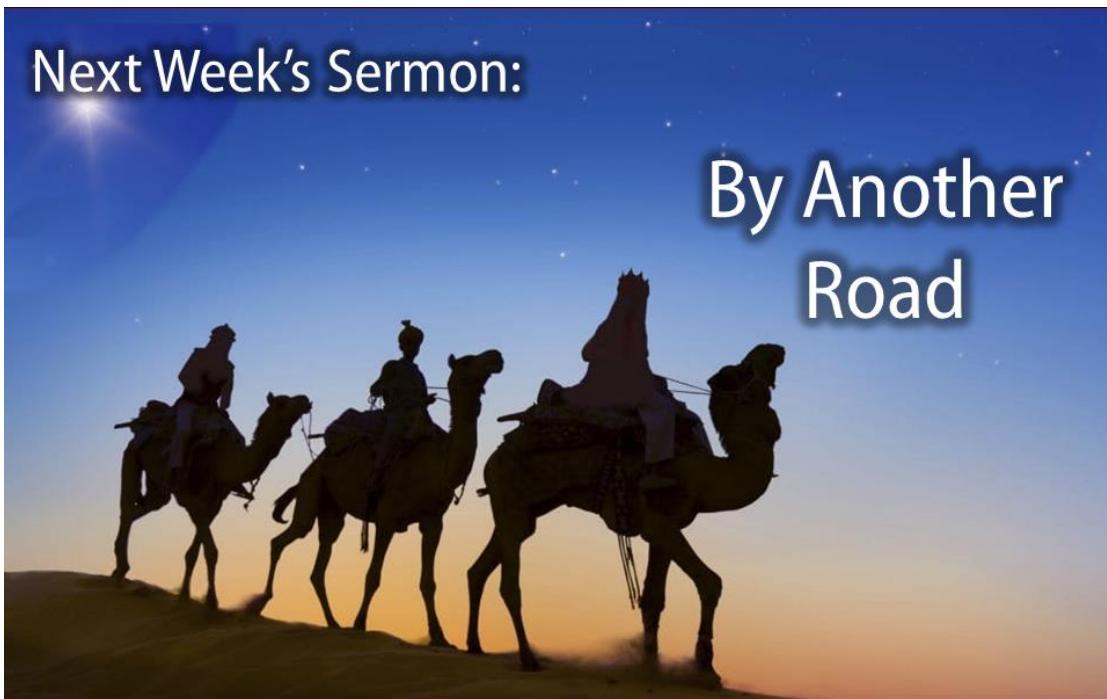
## Announcements

### Sunday School News!

1. Sunday School is taking a break for two weeks. Lessons and videos will be posted again in the new year.
2. All of our read alouds will need to be removed on December 31, 2020, so if you have been listening to LarryBoy and the Emperor of Envy you will need to listen by then. Alternatively, you could sign the book out from the Children's Library.

#### 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!





Today we acknowledge the gifts of time & talent from all of our Session, Deacons and committees & their members.

This year has been an exceptional year. We have faced many challenges, both personally and as a community of faith. Connecting with our community has been a challenge as has pastoral care. And while taking care of the church building & the finances has been necessary this, too, has been challenging. Keeping our families and children engaged, keeping in contact with our seniors and others who are not “online” has changed how we view our ministries.

We have seen many people learn new things! We have watched as you have taken care of each other. We are grateful for the leadership our Session has continued to provide. We are grateful for the efforts our Deacons have made to keep connected. We are grateful to our committees for their continued work and efforts; to our Operations Committee who have kept our church building in good repair; to our Stewardship Committee for keeping us on track financially; for our Christian Education Committee for keeping our children and families engaged weekly; for our Mission & Outreach Committee for not forgetting those in our community who need our help. We really have found new ways of “being the church.”

Stay tuned for an update on the success of this year’s *GivingTuesday* campaign. Donations to this campaign can be made up until December 31, 2020.

*GivingTuesday* Campaign gifts can be either sent via mail to the church office or placed in 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 donation.

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

<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.  
<sup>1</sup> For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.  
<sup>2</sup> The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.  
<sup>3</sup> You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand  
of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your  
God.

Galatians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come,  
God sent his Son, born of a woman, born  
under the law, <sup>5</sup> in order to redeem those  
who were under the law, so that we might  
receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup> And because  
you are children, God has sent the Spirit of  
his Son into our hearts, crying,  
'Abba! Father!' <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave  
but a child, and if a child then also an heir,  
through God.

Luke 2:22-40

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their  
purification according to the law of Moses,  
they brought him up to Jerusalem to present  
him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law  
of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be  
designated as holy to the Lord'), <sup>24</sup> and they  
offered a sacrifice according to what is stated  
in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves  
or two young pigeons.'

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem  
whose name was Simeon; this man was  
righteous and devout, looking forward to the  
consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit  
rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him  
by the Holy Spirit that he would not see  
death before he had seen the Lord's  
Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit,  
Simeon came into the temple; and when the  
parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for  
him what was customary under the  
law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and  
praised God, saying,  
<sup>29</sup> 'Master, now you are dismissing your  
servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the  
presence of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.'  
<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were  
amazed at what was being said about  
him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to  
his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for  
the falling and the rising of many in Israel,  
and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so

that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.