

**St. Andrew's Hespeler
Presbyterian Church
December 6, 2020
Second Sunday of 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 December 6

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. This will be a communion service, so please prepare your communion elements (bread and fruit of the vine) prior to the service. You will need to bring them even if you are present in the sanctuary.

Call to worship (Microphones on)

L: Now is the time to get ready:

P: Let us prepare the way of the Lord!

L: Now is the time to be changed:

P: Let us repent and seek forgiveness.

L: Now is the time to welcome God into our midst:

P: Let us worship God in humble expectation.

Lighting of the Second 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 nothing can overcome it.

L: We light the candle of hope. (relight first candle)

P: We now light the candle of peace in spite of...

We pause to name and write things that seem to conspire against peace like, e.g., racism, anger, extreme partisanship, depression and addiction.

L: God's peace illuminates the possibility of reconciliation and healing and brightens the path to joy.

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

Prayers of approach and confession

L: God of all times and places, you are holy and loving. You create pathways where there is no path. You prepare us to receive wonders beyond imagining. In every time and every place, you have raised up leaders who point to your glory and honour your greatness. You have called us by name, baptized us with water and with the Holy Spirit. You bless us for abundant living, and set us in the world to serve you. We are your people, and so we worship you as our Creator, our Redeemer, and the Breath of our lives, one God, now and always.

L: John the Baptizer called people to repent and so we join together in confession, seeking God's grace.

P: God of mercy, we confess that we resist changing our hearts and minds, even when your Word compels us to reconsider cherished opinions. We are more comfortable remaining as we are than taking up your challenge. Forgive us for being set in our ways, and seeing others only in light of inherited ideas and past experience. Forgive us our reluctance to forgive each other as we have been forgiven. By the power of your Holy Spirit, transform us by your great love and mercy. Give us new eyes for seeing, new ears for hearing. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

L: Jesus said, Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Friends, trust that peace and forgiveness are God's gift to you this day. Be renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit that moves with you into each new day. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

P: And also with you.

Responsive Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (Microphones on)

L: LORD, you were favourable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

P: You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.

L: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

P: Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

L: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

P: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

L: The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

P: Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

Ongoing life of the church

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-5, Mark 1:1-8 (see below)

Celebration of Communion

L: In the midst of a world where people are divided by hatred, fear and spite, we come to this table today to celebrate peace. We affirm that this table is not just one physical table in the sanctuary at St. Andrews Hespeler, but that it is one mystical table that includes the kitchen tables in many homes, the laps or desks in front of computers or on pews in the sanctuary. We may seem divided by space, but we are one in Christ and that is what matters. That is

why I invite to this mystical table all those who are of good will and who are willing to place their trust in Jesus. Come, taste and see that the Lord is good.

L: Let us give thanks to God. We praise you, our Father, for in your image you created us. But we were willful and often went our own way and the result was division and separation, war and enmity. And now we come before you as a fractured people seeking that gift that we know you can give when we come in faith.

P: Lord, grant us your peace.

L: We praise you for Jesus who came to live among us full of grace and truth. He came to show us the way of peace and reconciliation. He showed it in his words, in the way he treated people and in the way in which he gave himself utterly for our sakes. As a result, he and he alone is able to unite us and make us one despite the differences we have – and indeed despite the fact that we are separated right now by space and time. And so, together with all believers in all times and places, we acknowledge Jesus Christ.

P: Christ lived for us. Christ died for us. Christ is raised for us. Christ is our peace.

L: And so now we would ask that you would pour out your Holy Spirit upon all of the elements that have been prepared today, both here and in other places, so that in eating of them together we might all share in the true presence of the risen Christ with us.

P: And we ask that you would pour out your Holy Spirit upon us as your gathered people so that, when we eat and drink, we may be united despite whatever may separate us.

L: Upon this table we would offer to you our very selves as a living sacrifice.

P: May it be holy and acceptable in your sight, O Lord our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn #161 What child is this

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.

Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high; the virgin sings her lullaby.

Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary

Celebration of our Generosity

Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

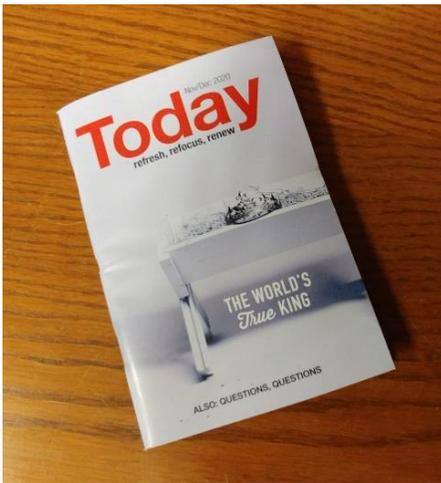
Sermon: Rev. Scott McAndless will preach a live sermon over Zoom. The sermon title is:



Benediction

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

Joanne and Bill Pettit would like to express their thanks for your prayers and concerns during the illness and passing of Joanne's sister. They are most appreciative.



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 – December 6, 2020

Youth Clubs Make a Difference

In Malawi, 20-year-old Layton had been engaging in unsafe sexual behaviours. Several of Layton's friends attended Presbyterian World Service & Development-supported youth clubs, where they would get together and discuss how to achieve a world without AIDS. His friends warned him about the consequences of his actions and shared information they learned at the youth club. Layton never thought to attend these meetings until one day when his friends persuaded him to get an HIV test. Anxious about the results—which eventually came back negative—Layton knew he needed to change his life. Deciding to join the youth club himself, he reflected, "I think my friends from youth club saved my life. I joined them so that we can save many from such behaviours."



Prayer Partnership

Sunday, December 6 We pray for Hamilton Banda and volunteers at the Ndirande Handicapped Centre in Malawi who provide support to people with physical and mental disabilities, especially to children and their families.

Monday, December 7 We pray for all in the church as we seek to be in communion with people holding differing theological views. We pray for compassion and understanding to keep us as one in Christ.

Tuesday, December 8 We pray for the health and safety of people serving and worshipping in ministries with Indigenous Peoples.

Wednesday, December 9 We pray for chaplains who serve in correctional facilities, and for the Rev. Glenn McCullough, our denominational representative to the Interfaith Committee on Chaplaincy for Corrections Canada.

Thursday, December 10 (Human Rights Day) We pray for individuals and organizations defending human rights in Canada and around the world. We pray for their safety and the safety of those they support and protect.

Friday, December 11 We pray for the people of Palestine-Israel who work for peace.

Saturday, December 12 We give thanks for all those who are restless for peace throughout the world, those who inspire others to resist injustice and defend inequality.

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” out 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!

Week Two

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 late summer we started making plans to safely re-open Hope Clothing.

Many changes have been implemented with the priority being safety for all of our staff, volunteers and clients. Now when clients come in, they are assigned a “Personal Shopper” who helps them out with finding just the right items. Our clients are asked to stay in one area while their personal shopper picks out their items. And of course, everyone is screened properly, and high touch surfaces are regularly disinfected.

Accepting donations has also been a challenge because we need to ensure that all clothing sits a certain amount of time before our volunteers can handle them. Many thanks are extended to our church family and friends and community members as we navigate all of these changes.

And of course, we couldn't offer this outreach without the wonderful leadership of Karen Kincaid and our amazing group of volunteers: Heather, Maggie, Rose, Sue, Nancy, Wendy, Jocelyn, Delene, Vern, Kelly & Joan. Many of our other regular volunteers are looking forward to the day when they can come back to help as well.

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!

**Today is the last
day to get your
order in if you
want to have the
gift cards by
Christmas!**

ORDER TODAY!

Next Week's Sermon:



**A Spirit-led
Recovery**

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹ Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of
the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway
for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made
low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the
field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows
upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand
forever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

¹ LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

² You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin. *Selah*

⁸ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to
him in their hearts.

⁹ Surely his salvation is at hand for those who
fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each
other.

¹¹ Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from
the sky.

¹² The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

2 Peter 3:8-15

⁸ But do not ignore this one fact, beloved,
that with the Lord one day is like a thousand
years, and a thousand years are like one
day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise,
as some think of slowness, but is patient with
you, not wanting any to perish, but all to
come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the
Lord will come like a thief, and then the
heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and
the elements will be dissolved with fire, and

the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹ Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³ But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,

Mark 1:1-8

¹ The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather

belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."