

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

January 3, 2021

Epiphany Sunday

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church
73 Queen Street East,
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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 January 3

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. This will be a communion service, so please prepare communion elements ("bread" and "wine" in whatever forms work for you) before connecting.

Call to worship

L: Arise, shine: for your light has come!

P: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

L: Lift up your eyes and look around!

P: We shall see and be radiant; our hearts shall rejoice.

L: For the Lord will be our everlasting light and our glory!

P: And so we bring God our worship in humble expectation.

Prayers of approach and confession

L: God of light and of life, we praise you for your creation, and for the Word made flesh in the child born in Bethlehem. Open our hearts and minds in this time of worship. Just as you led the Magi by the star, lead us by your Spirit beyond the limits of this world's expectations, to the life where you make all things new through Christ, our Morning Star.

L: In recalling all that God is and does, we become aware of who we are and what we have done. Let us confess our sins together:

P: God of mercy and loving kindness, you sent Christ among us to be the light of the world and to reveal your love to all people. We confess that our sins hide the brightness of your light that should shine through us. We waste our gifts, we ignore cries for justice, we harm the earth and we do not strive for peace in the world or with each other. In your mercy, cleanse us and make us new. Amen.

L: Be assured of God's love and forgiveness that shine for us in Christ Jesus. As a new year unfolds, make a new beginning with God and with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

P: And with you also!

Responsive Reading Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

L: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

P: May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

L: May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

P: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

L: May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

P: May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

L: In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound,

P: until the moon is no more.

L: May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

P: May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

L: For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

P: He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

L: From oppression and violence he redeems their life;

P: and precious is their blood in his sight.

Ongoing life of the church

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12 (see below)

Celebration of our Generosity

Celebration of Communion

L: At the beginning of a new year and at a time when we cannot gather physically, we would, as an expression of our unity, gather together around one virtual table. We are here for the feast that our Lord Jesus provides us whenever we gather, even virtually, in his name. I declare therefore that the table we are gathered at is real and that God's power is able to transcend all distances in space and in time. And so, I invite you all to taste and see that the Lord is good.

L: I invite you now to set the table in front of you, putting forward the elements of bread and wine that the Lord has provided for you today. Let us take a few moments now to share either verbally, visually (by showing in your window), or by describing in the chat box what you have brought to eat and drink today.

L: The table is set, let us pray.

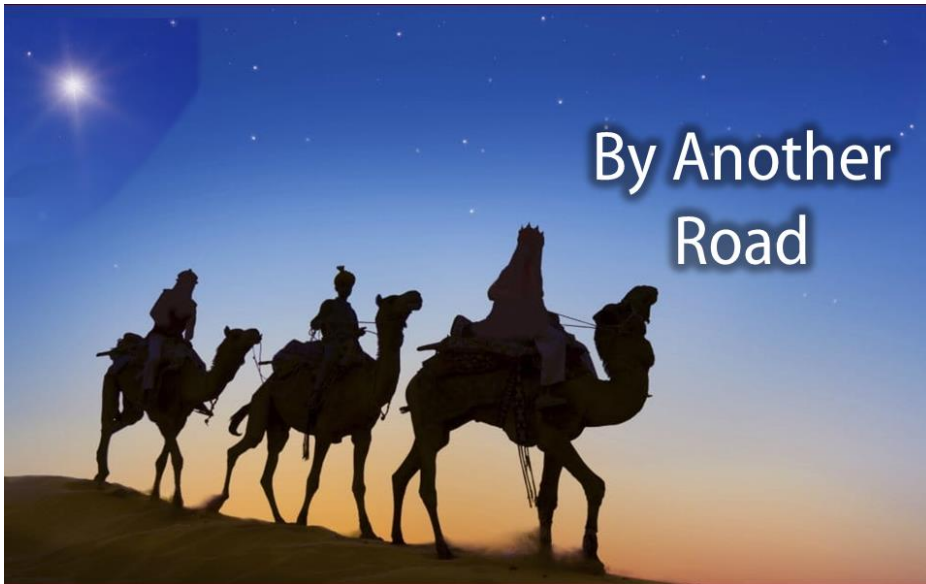
Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Institution of the Lord's Supper

Eating and drinking together as one

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

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:

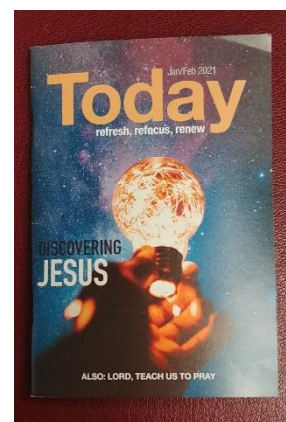
The new Jan/Feb edition of Today is now here!

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.

Next Week's Sermon:

Beginning in the
footnotes*

*because Genesis was written in Hebrew

Mission Moment – January 3, 2020

Frank and Joyce's Fields

In Gwebe village in Malawi, Frank and his wife, Joyce, proudly look over their lush fields. For the past three years, Frank has been using conservation agriculture techniques that were taught to him by Presbyterian World Service & Development partners to help him harvest more. Conservation agriculture teaches farmers to protect and improve soil fertility, conserve water and make locally available resources into fertilizers. Over the years, Frank became a lead farmer in his village. His thriving fields are a reminder of how efficient conservation agriculture can be, setting an example as he teaches and empowers other farmers to use the same methods to increase their harvest.



Prayer Partnership

Sunday, January 3 We celebrate in prayer that farmers in Malawi are growing and harvesting more produce using conservation agriculture techniques taught by Presbyterian World Service & Development partners.

Monday, January 4 We pray for God's blessing and guidance as students begin their studies in January at PCC theological colleges.

Tuesday, January 5 We pray that congregations plan with creativity and faith as they prepare for their annual meetings.

Wednesday, January 6 We pray for the wisdom to see clearly the reality of racism and bigotry in the institutions of our country so that we may work to challenge and uproot these institutionalized concepts in ourselves, our churches and our society.

Thursday, January 7 We pray for the many Women's Missionary Society groups as they begin a new year.

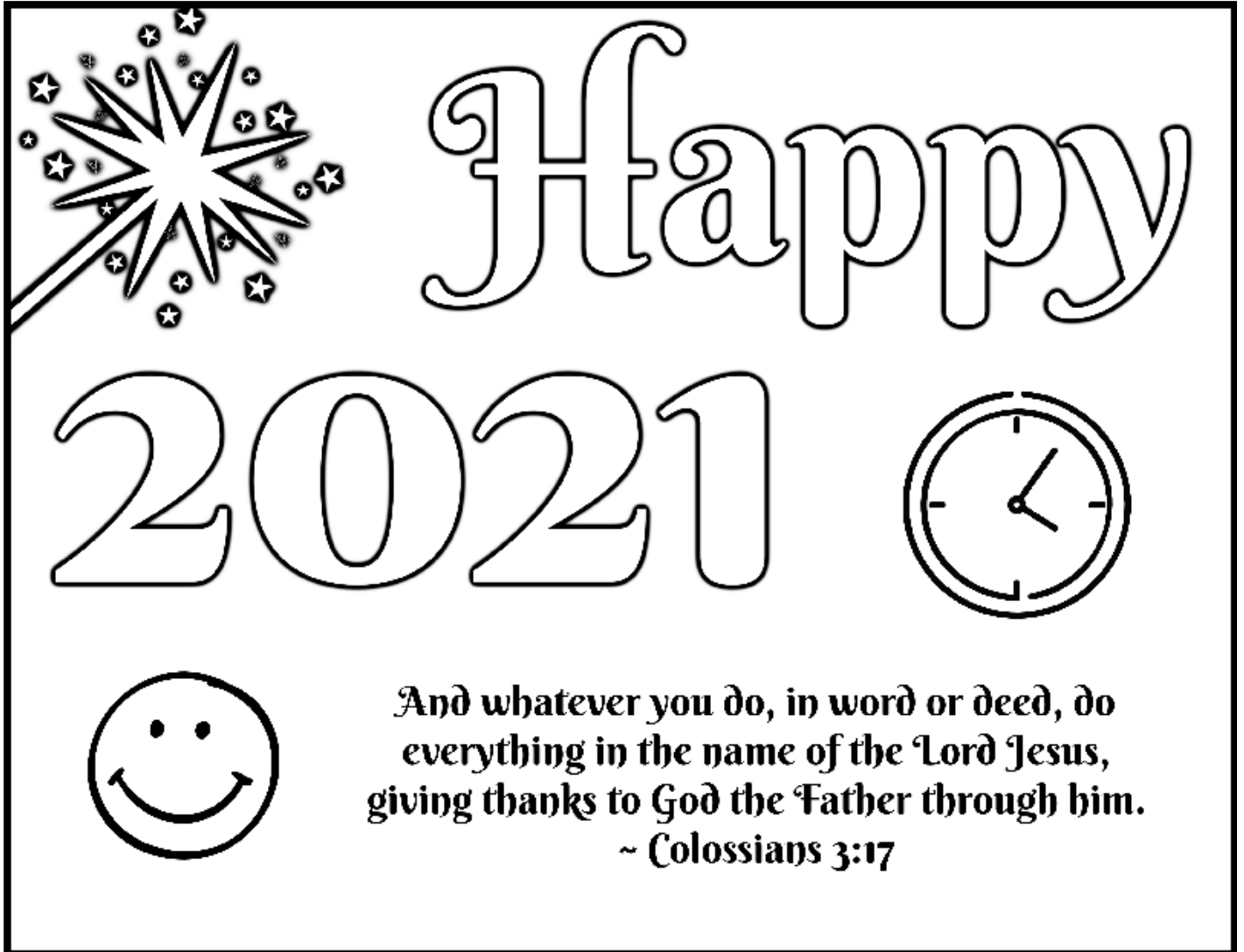
Friday, January 8 We pray for people discerning how they may use their gifts to engage in God's mission in Canada or globally in uncertain times.

Saturday, January 9 Spirit of life and liberty, we pray that you save us from all that inhibits the abundant life you give us.

Announcements

Sunday School News!

Sunday School is taking a break and will be back next week. Here is a colouring picture to do today. If you would like to share your creation with me, please get your mom or dad to send me a photo of your completed picture. We would love to see some of your beautiful pictures. (email to Joni, jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca)



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!

Isaiah 60:1-6

¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen
upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your
dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to
you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on
their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be
brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to
you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and
Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of
the LORD.

Ephesians 3:1-12

¹ This is the reason that I Paul am a
prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you
Gentiles— ² for surely you have already heard
of the commission of God's grace that was
given to me for you, ³ and how the mystery
was made known to me by revelation, as I
wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of
which will enable you to perceive my
understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In

former generations this mystery was not
made known to humankind, as it has now
been revealed to his holy apostles and
prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles
have become fellow-heirs, members of the
same body, and sharers in the promise in
Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant
according to the gift of God's grace that was
given to me by the working of his
power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all
the saints, this grace was given to me to bring
to the Gentiles the news of the boundless
riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make everyone
see what is the plan of the mystery hidden
for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so
that through the church the wisdom of God
in its rich variety might now be made known
to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly
places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the
eternal purpose that he has carried out in
Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have
access to God in boldness and confidence
through faith in him.

Matthew 2:1-12

² In the time of King Herod, after Jesus
was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise
men from the East came to
Jerusalem, ² asking, 'Where is the child who
has been born king of the Jews? For we
observed his star at its rising, and have come
to pay him homage.' ³ When King Herod
heard this, he was frightened, and all
Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all
the chief priests and scribes of the people, he
inquired of them where the Messiah was to

be born. ⁵ They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.