

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church February 14, 2021 Transfiguration Sunday

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church
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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 February 14

We will meet online for as long as people want to stay on at 10 am. The link will be posted on the website. The sanctuary is closed for in-person worship until the province revises its orders.

Call to worship

L: God said, "Let light shine in the darkness!"

P: Lord, shine your light into our lives.

L: We see the glory of God in the face of Christ.

P: The light of Christ is with us day by day.

L: Let us follow the light of Christ together.

P: Let us worship God with thanks and praise.

Prayers of approach and confession

L: God of grace and glory, to this worried world, you reveal your presence in radiant glory and in gentle whispers, on mountain tops and in shadowed valleys, in classrooms and hospital beds, in homes and churches, in the quiet of nature and on busy streets. Yours is the presence that pushes past our fear to calm us; yours is the love that transforms our doubt with reassurance. We come to dwell in your goodness and offer you the praise you deserve.

P: God of mercy and forgiveness, we confess that many things keep us from trusting fully in your love. We are often distracted by our own desires and disappointments. We cling to anger and resentment. We fear for the future rather than seek signs of hope. Forgive us. Shine your love upon us so that

your glory may be seen in us, and give us courage to follow Jesus wherever he leads, for we pray in his name. Amen.

L: St. John records that God is love and that God's perfect love casts out fear. Friends, we are promised that those who abide in love abide in God and God abides in them. Claim God's forgiveness in this Good News: God's perfect love abides in you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: We will! Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm 50:1-6

L: The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

P: Our God comes and does not keep silence, before him is a devouring fire, and a mighty tempest all around him.

L: He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people: 'Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!'

P: The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.

Ongoing life of the church

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

Celebration of our Generosity

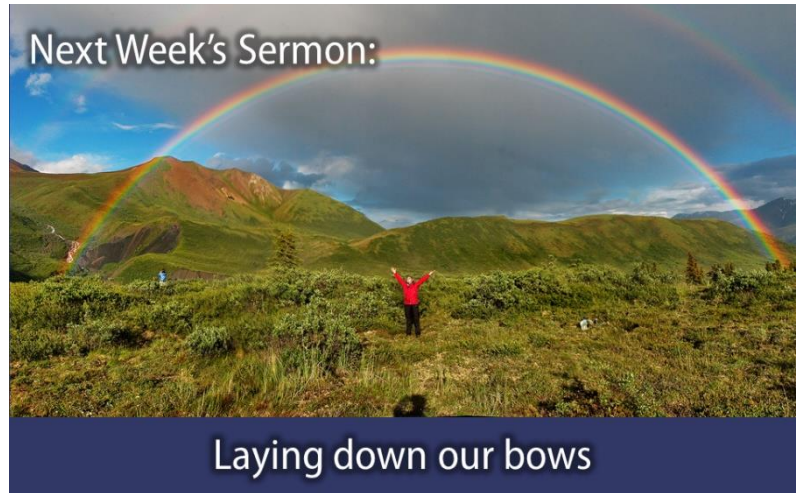
Sermon: "La, la, la, I'm not listening!"

Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Benediction



The season of Lent begins next Sunday. We will be celebrating Lent a little bit differently this year (just like we are doing many things differently). Each Sunday service will include a small spiritual exercise based on an object in one of the Scripture readings of the day. We invite everyone to participate by making or drawing the object of the day. Set up a little Lenten corner or bulletin board (or fridge door), in your house to collect these objects during the season. A Lenten booklet will be posted on the website to help everyone participate in this year's Lenten Exercises.



The object for next week is a **rainbow** so please try and bring some kind of home-made rainbow for next Sunday's service.



Each Sunday a package will be delivered to our families with supplies & instructions to make that week's object. We invite all of the children and youth to pop onto the very beginning of worship to share their creations with us each week. If anyone else would like these packages/supplies please let Joni (jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca) know. There are limited supplies available.

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 arrange to get yours.

♡ *My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God is love—so you can't know him if you don't love. This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God. - 1 John 4:7-10 MSG* ♡



Please plan to join us for a Friendship Soup Dinner, via Zoom, on next Sunday, February 21, 2021 at 6:00 pm. We will begin our Lenten Journey with a meal together. If you would let me know (Joni, jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca) I will arrange for a porch drop off or pick up for your "Friendship Soup in a jar." The idea is for us to all 'share' the same kind of dinner. This is an informal dinner meeting, a time to come together, share a meal and some conversation. Everyone is welcome to join us, even if you are not having soup! If you have any questions, please contact me.

~~Remember~~ that we are still able to order gift cards from **Fundscrip**. This is a really easy way to support St. Andrew's. For information, please contact Laura @ fundscrip@standrewshespeler.ca.

Because of the new Stay-At-Home protocols, Paula will be in the office on Monday mornings only. She will work from home on the other days. If you need to reach her, please send an email, or call the church and leave a message, and she will get back to you.

The ANNUAL MEETING is scheduled for Sunday, March 21st. Please mark your calendars! You can begin submitting your reports to Paula at office@standrewshespeler.ca at any time.

Mission Moment – February 14, 2021 **A Meaningful Message**

St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church in Creston, B.C., is a small, remote church tucked away in the Kootenay Valley. With a grant from Presbyterians Sharing to support ministry in remote communities, they called the Rev. Stephen Vangroonen to their congregation in the hope that he would help strengthen and grow their ministry. But shortly after he and his family arrived, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and the congregation found itself adapting quickly to move their services online. Then, when churches were permitted to reopen, they had to adapt to the new health and safety protocols. Throughout it all, the Rev. Vangroonen has blessed St. Stephen's with a positive outlook, continually encouraging the new community he serves to trust God and share the love of Christ with others—a meaningful message during this turbulent time.



Prayer Partnership

Sunday, February 14 (Transfiguration Sunday) We pray for the gift of love in our lives—love that is patient, kind, faithful and unconditional.

Monday, February 15 (Family Day) We pray for families of all shapes, sizes and configurations, that they may be filled with love and joy.

Tuesday, February 16 (Shrove Tuesday) We give thanks to God for seasons of feasting and fasting, and we pray for all who have chosen a discipline to follow in the season of Lent.

Wednesday, February 17 (Ash Wednesday) Loving God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive our sins. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until it rests in you. Help us to return to you and to your way, and create in us new hearts so that we might love you more dearly and follow you more nearly.

Thursday, February 18 We give thanks and pray for schools and teachers who are working to provide the best educational tools to engage and teach children both at home virtually and in the classroom.

Friday, February 19 We pray for those leading worship and study groups in this Lenten season.

Saturday, February 20 (World Day for Social Justice) We pray for the peacemakers and justice seekers who are working to reflect God's vision of justice in the world, where the dignity and well-being of all are protected.

Today's Lectionary Readings

2 Kings 2:1-12

¹ Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ² Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. ³ The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

⁴ Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. ⁵ The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

⁶ Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. ⁷ Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸ Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' ¹⁰ He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' ¹¹ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire

and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Mark 9:2-9

² Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' ⁶ He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷ Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' ⁸ Suddenly when they looked around,

they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

God's Valentine

For God so lo**V**ed the world
that He g**A**ve
His on**L**y
begott**E**n
So **N**
tha**T** whoever
believes **I**n Him
should **N**ot perish
but have **E**ternal life