

# St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

## February 21, 2021

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

**St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church**  
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Prayer Requests: [prayerchain@standrewshespeler.ca](mailto:prayerchain@standrewshespeler.ca)

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

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-12pm

#### Order of Online Worship for February 21

We will meet online for as long as people want to stay on at 10 am. **Please bring your rainbow if you have made one!** The link will be posted on the website. The sanctuary is closed for in-person worship for now.

#### Call to worship

L: We begin our journey through Lent.

**P: We will seek awareness of God's presence with us on the way.**

L: We come to find light in the shadows and strength in our weakness.

**P: We will join in praise as we remember God's faithfulness.**

L: We seek God's mercy and truth step by step, day by day.

**P: We will trust in God's steadfast love. So let us worship God with grateful hearts!**

#### Prayers of approach and confession

L: Good and gracious God, Creator of storms and sunshine, of the sun and moon and stars, Maker of rainbows and raindrops, of all that is in the heavens and the earth, we praise you for the beauty of the created world, and for the hope of life with you now and always. We praise you for your faithfulness and loving kindness throughout all generations, for your promise of grace, for your compassion and redemption revealed to us in Christ Jesus. Receive our prayer and praise this day and teach us how to live by your love.

**P: Source of mercy and wisdom, We are thankful for your steady presence and steadfast love, so we make our confession to**

**you, with truth and humility. O God, you made a covenant with us in faithfulness, but we confess we are not always so faithful to you. We grow tired and restless when things don't go our way. We lose patience with others. We lack compassion for our neighbours in need, and even forget to express our love for those closest to us. Forgive us, gracious God. Lead us in the way we should go. Make us prisms of your love, making rainbows of your light, creating beauty and deepening hope wherever we go, for the sake of Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

L: Believe the good news. Jesus proclaimed that the kingdom of God has come near. Trust in his forgiving love for you, and forgive one another in his name.

**P: In his name, we will do it. Amen!**

Responsive Psalm 25:1-10

L: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**P: O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.**

L: Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

**P: let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

L: Make me to know your ways, O LORD;

**P: teach me your paths.**

L: Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

**P: for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.**

L: Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

**P: Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!**

L: Good and upright is the LORD;

**P: therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.**

L: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,

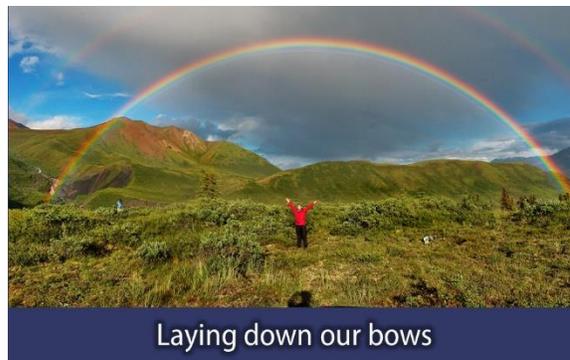
**P: for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

Ongoing life of the church

Scripture: Genesis 8:20-22, 9:8-17 (see below)

Celebration of our Generosity

Sermon: "Laying Down our Bows"



Laying down our bows

Spiritual Exercise: Laying Down our Bows

Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Benediction

We are 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 **cross** so please try to bring some kind of homemade cross 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](mailto:jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca)) know. There are limited supplies available.



The **ANNUAL MEETING** is scheduled for Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. Please mark your calendars! Please submit your reports to Paula at [office@standrewshespeler.ca](mailto:office@standrewshespeler.ca) by **MARCH 7<sup>th</sup>**.

Paula will continue being 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.



Each week during Lent there will be an interactive “classroom” posted on our website. This program is meant for anyone to participate in. By clicking on items in the “classroom photo” you will be taken to several interesting places; ie: click on the book and you will be shown the scripture readings for the week or click on the flowers, the guitar leaning against the tree sings out a brand new or much loved hymn or song. Each week there will be something new added to the classroom.

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/Jan 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.



Please plan to join us for a Friendship Soup Dinner, via Zoom, this evening at 6:00 pm. We will begin our Lenten Journey with a meal together. The link will be posted on the website at 5:00 pm. 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](mailto:fundscrip@standrewshespeler.ca).

## Mission Moment – February 21, 2021

### Certainty in the Midst of Change

We live in a world that is constantly changing. The past year brought unprecedented change, and we had to learn to adapt in our lives, jobs and congregations. In the midst of so much change, Presbyterians Sharing has continued to support the mission and ministry we do together—often in new and adaptive ways. What hasn't changed is our commitment to one another, discerning together, moving forward together, being in community together, sharing God's message together, confronting injustice together and caring for vulnerable people together. That's what Presbyterians Sharing is all about. As we put our gifts into God's hands, God is doing remarkable things.



## Prayer Partnership

**Sunday, February 21 (Heritage Sunday)** We give thanks to God for our ancestors and pray that we might remember and appreciate the gifts they have passed down to us.

**Monday, February 22** We pray for new ministers who may feel overwhelmed and alone in their first pastoral charge.

**Tuesday, February 23** We pray for the people, ministries, and mission of the Presbytery of Essex-Kent in Ont.

**Wednesday, February 24 (Black History Month)** We celebrate and give thanks for the contributions and prophetic witness of Black people in Canada.

**Thursday, February 25** We pray for the Presbytery of Western Han-Ca's Ministry Committee. May they feel a strong sense of God's presence to strengthen, focus and lead their discernment.

**Friday, February 26** Eternal God, in the worry and anxiety of life, we pray for assurance that comes by faith alone: "Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you" (Psalm 116:7).

**Saturday, February 27** We remember in prayer the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024) and give thanks for those working to promote and protect the rights of people of African descent.

## Today's Lectionary Readings

Genesis 8:20-22, 9:8-17

<sup>20</sup>Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt-offerings on the altar. <sup>21</sup>And when the LORD smelt the pleasing odour, the LORD said in his heart, 'I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done.

<sup>22</sup>As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.'

<sup>8</sup>Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' <sup>12</sup>God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

1 Peter 3:18-22

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Mark 1:9-15

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'