

# St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

## February 28, 2021

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

**St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church**  
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Website: [www.standrewshespeler.ca](http://www.standrewshespeler.ca)

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-12pm

#### Order of Online Worship for February 28

We will meet online for as long as people want to stay on at 10 am. **Please bring your cross 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 gather together, seeking life in all its fullness.

**P: We gather in God's name, longing for what is real and true.**

L: We gather, drawn by the words of our Creator and Redeemer.

**P: We gather to worship our Lord, who is worthy of all glory and praise.!**

#### Prayers of approach and confession

L: Loving and holy God, our Creator, Christ, and Guide, you speak the words of life to us. In you we find our hearts' desire; by your grace we are saved. When the way forward is unclear, you shed light. When we are troubled, you give peace. When times are difficult, you stir courage and hope. Our deepest longing is to know you, and to be known by you. In these difficult days, we praise you for your faithfulness to us. Draw near to us in our time of worship, O God, and open the way before us, so that we may follow Jesus without wavering, trusting him to lead us.

**P: Although following you brings joy, O God, we confess the way is sometimes hard for us. There are times we get tired and would eagerly settle for an easier road. Some days we find the task of loving others hard. Some-**

**times we choose anger over forgiveness, or ignore the needs of our neighbours. Forgive us when our commitment to you wavers. Forgive us when we take that easier path. Stir the embers of our devotion and kindle a brighter flame. Strengthen our determination to follow where you lead and renew our energy to serve in Jesus' name. Amen.**

L: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. We are justified by God's grace which has come to us through Jesus Christ. By grace, we are forgiven and set free to find new life in Christ.

**P: Thanks be to God!**

Responsive Psalm 22:23-31

L: You who fear the LORD, praise him!

**P: All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!**

L: For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;

**P: he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.**

L: From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

**P: The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live for ever!**

L: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

**P: and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.**

L: For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

**P: To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;**

L: before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

**P: Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.**

Ongoing life of the church

Scripture: Mark 8:31-38 (see below)

Celebration of our Generosity

Sermon: "Taking up your Cross"



Spiritual Exercise: Taking up your Cross2

Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Benediction

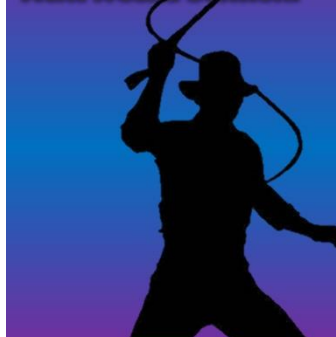
We are celebrating Lent a little bit differently this year (just like we are doing many things differently). Each Sunday service will include a small spiritual exercise based on an object in one of the Scripture readings of the day. We invite everyone to participate by making or drawing the object of 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 **whip** so please try to bring some kind of homemade whip for next Sunday's service.

Each Sunday a package will be delivered to our families with supplies & instructions to make that week's object.

**All children are invited to pop onto our zoom Worship at 10:00 am to share their creations with everyone.**

Next Week's Sermon:



Who let that man into the market with a whip?

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 next Sunday, 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 March/April edition of Today
- The March/April/May edition of Our Daily Bread
- 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



### World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 5, 2021

This year World Day of Prayer will be held online.

Through the worship service we hear the voices of the Vanuata women, whom invite us to focus on the bible story in Matthew 7:24-27. Jesus tells a story about the kingdom of heaven using the image of a house and the land on which the house is built. Choosing the land on which to build the house is an important decision for people in Vanuata. The combination of considering the terrain and the climate is crucial in a tropical archipelago located in the South Pacific Ocean prone to earthquakes cyclones, volcanic eruptions and rising sea levels. On April 6, 2020, Vanuata was hit by Cyclone Harold, which had made its way across the Pacific destroying many islands in its wake.

This year we can gather together on zoom to watch, together, the video of the World Day of Prayer service. **If this is of interest to you please RSVP to Joni ([jsmith@standreshpeler.ca](mailto:jsmith@standreshpeler.ca)) or Jean Godin by Wednesday.** Other options include: borrowing the DVD from Jean or watching, on your own, via YouTube.

## Mission Moment – February 28, 2021

### Hygiene Kits Protect Families in Nicaragua

“As a family, we try to take all the necessary measures, like covering our nose when sneezing, avoiding shaking hands or going places where there might be large crowds. For many of the families in our community, it’s not possible to acquire protection materials like face masks, gloves, hand sanitizer or cleaning materials due to rising prices in the market. We are so thankful for all of you and the help you bring to our community.” Like many in Nicaragua, María struggles to access proper protection materials and cleaning products due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Presbyterian World Service & Development, through local partners, is helping people like María and her whole community, receive hygiene and sanitation items, ensuring they are prepared to safely face the pandemic.



## Prayer Partnership

### Sunday, February 28 (Second Sunday in Lent)

God of Lent, we pray your grace moves us beyond our desires so that we may offer ourselves to you and put our faith into action.

**Monday, March 1** We pray for presbyteries of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, that they have a spirit of cooperation and collegiality as they oversee the work of ministers and congregations.

**Tuesday, March 2** We pray for stewardship and mission committees as they work to inspire their congregations and generate enthusiasm for the ministry God is doing through them.

**Wednesday, March 3** We pray for food banks as they find ways to meet the increased demand for their services.

**Thursday, March 4** We pray for Atlantic Mission Society groups and members as they find new to meet together for worship, fellowship and ways to support the mission work of the church.

**Friday, March 5 (World Day of Prayer)** We pray for wisdom and guidance to be better neighbours, to better care for the homeless, the elderly and those who are different from us, and to live in harmony with all of your creation.

**Saturday, March 6** We pray for members of the Benevolence Committee and those who receive support thanks to generous gifts that people have made over the years.

## Today's Lectionary Readings

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

<sup>1</sup> When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup> And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' <sup>3</sup> Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup> 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup> No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup> I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

<sup>15</sup> God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup> I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Romans 4:13-25

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup> Hoping against hope, he believed that he

would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' <sup>19</sup> He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup> No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup> Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' <sup>23</sup> Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup> but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup> who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Mark 8:31-38

<sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'