

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

March 14th, 2021

4th Sunday in Lent

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church
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Website: www.standrewshespeler.ca

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-12pm

Order of Online Worship for March 14

We will meet online for as long as people want to stay on at 10 am. **Please bring your serpent 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: Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good;

P: God's steadfast love endures forever.

L: God gathers God's people from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

P: Let us thank the LORD for such all-embracing love;

L: Let us praise God for God's wonderful works to humankind.

P: We will worship God with thanksgiving and tell of God's deeds with songs of joy.

Prayers of approach and confession

L: Gracious God, Great and wonderful are your works! Your steadfast love is everlasting. You have come among us in Christ Jesus to save us. Where there is darkness, you bring light. Where there is sadness, you speak words of hope. Where there is despair, you bring new possibilities. You bring healing for the sick, and forgiveness for the sinner. You bring justice for the oppressed, speaking truth instead of lies. Stir us with your Spirit, O God, in this time of worship. Awaken our joy and reverence as we offer you our songs and our silence, our prayers and praises, for you are our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

P: Merciful God, even as we praise you, we are aware of our failures as your disciples. We take your love and acceptance of us for granted. We are often careless with our relationships, more focused on ourselves than on you or those around us. We spend our days distracted by the news, rather than seeking your light and truth. Forgive us. Awaken our spirit of commitment and compassion. Give us a new vision of your purposes and our place within them, so we may serve you more faithfully, day by day. Amen.

L: Friends in Christ, by grace we have been saved through faith. This is not our doing but God's gift to us. Know that God forgives you, and forgive one another. So may the peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

Responsive Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

L: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

P: for his steadfast love endures for ever.

L: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,

P: those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

L: Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

P: Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; he

sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

L: Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

P: And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

Ongoing life of the church

Scripture: (other lectionary readings below)

Numbers 21:4-9

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' ⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

John 3:14-21

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

Celebration of our Generosity

Sermon: "Snakes in the Camp!"



Spiritual Exercise: Looking at your serpent

Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Benediction

The **ANNUAL MEETING** is scheduled for next Sunday, March 21st. It will be online only following the morning worship service. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Annual Reports are available for pickup at the church. The Report is also posted on the Web Page.

There will be a Zoom financial information meeting to be held this Wednesday, March 17 at 7pm. Our Treasurer, Ray Godin, will go over the financial details for anyone interested. The link for this Zoom meeting will be posted on the website at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, March 17, 2021.

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 is posted on the website to help everyone participate in this year's Lenten Exercises.



The object for next week is a **heart** so please try to bring some kind of homemade heart for next Sunday's service.

Each week a package is 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.**



Week 4 of our Interactive Lent Garden will be posted on our website on Saturday evening, 7:00 pm. This is a wonderful activity for anyone and everyone to do. You can find music, recipes, bible readings, stories and many other interesting things to do throughout the week.

Paula will be in the office on Monday and Friday mornings only. She will work from home on Wednesday. If you need to reach her, please send an email, or call the church to leave a message and she will get back to you.

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.

Mission Moment – March 14, 2021

Empowering Women and Girls

On March 8, we celebrate International Women's Day and reflect on the work the church is doing around the world to help achieve gender equality. Through Presbyterian World Service & Development, we support programs that help marginalized women and girls reach their full potential, access quality education and health care, achieve economic independence and advocate for their rights. Empowering and supporting vulnerable women and girls not only creates self-reliance but is crucial to ending poverty and hunger. When women are empowered, they help build a more sustainable and just world.



Prayer Partnership

Sunday, March 14 (Fourth Sunday in Lent)

We give thanks and pray for Fraternidad de Presbiteriales Mayas in Guatemala as they empower Mayan women through Bible study and workshops on self-esteem and human rights.

Monday, March 15 We give thanks for volunteers, who are the heart and hands of their church communities.

Tuesday, March 16 We pray for the Ministry & Personnel Committee of the Presbytery of Lindsay-Peterborough in Ont. May they feel a strong sense of God's presence to strengthen, focus and lead their discernment.

Wednesday, March 17 We pray for Presbyterian World Service & Development projects that teach families about cooking and nutrition in order to build healthier, more sustainable futures.

Thursday, March 18 We pray that the faculty of Knox College (Toronto, Ont.), Presbyterian College (Montreal, Que.) and Vancouver School of Theology (B.C.) find joy and wisdom in and for the work of theological education.

Friday, March 19 We pray for those who are feeling isolated or alone, and give thanks for church fellowship programs that extend Christ's friendship to those suffering from loneliness and isolation.

Saturday, March 20 (Spring Equinox) We give thanks for a new growing season and pray for ministries with gardening programs.

Other Lectionary Readings

Ephesians 2:1-10

¹ You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³ All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

