

**St. Andrew's Hespeler
Presbyterian Church
April 18th, 2021
3rd Sunday of Easter**

**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 April 18. 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 presently closed for in-person worship.

Call to worship

L: We gather with joy, for Easter brings us new life.

P: The Risen Christ is with us wherever we go.

L: Love breaks all bonds and unites us in hope.

P: Christ has defeated death. Let us rejoice and be glad!

L: Come and worship with hearts full of praise.

P: O God, receive our grateful Hallelujahs!

Prayers of approach and confession

L: God our Maker, we come before you this day, giving thanks for all the wonder in your creation: For the detailed perfection revealed in a baby's tiny fingers, in pussy willows unzipping their jackets to greet the spring, in each rock face worn by wind and water, witnessing to your ancient design like wrinkles around an aging smile. These details lift our hearts to praise you. So let the details of the story of the Risen Christ lift our hearts this day, that we may greet a new week as an occasion to discover him in our midst, making all things new with the springtime of your Spirit.

P: God our Redeemer, in raising Jesus from the dead, you showed us your power to defeat all that brings fear and sorrow to our lives. In his resurrection, Jesus promised to be with us always. Yet we confess we are sometimes uncertain about your presence, unsure if we

can trust the promise of resurrection for ourselves. Forgive us when we struggle to trust your goodness for us. Forgive us when we miss the signs of your love in our midst.

L: Scripture tells us that there is a time for every matter under heaven. A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance. In confessing our sins to God, we have offered God our tears of regret. Now is the time to rejoice in God's mercy: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. In Jesus Christ, we have time to make a new start.

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Responsive Psalm 4

L: Answer me when I call, O God of my right!

P: You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

L: How long, you people, shall my honour suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?

P: But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.

L: When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent.

P: Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

L: There are many who say, 'O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!'

P: You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound. I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

Ongoing life of the church

Scripture: (other lectionary readings below)

Acts 3:12-19

¹²When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

Luke 24:36-48

³⁶While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he

said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.

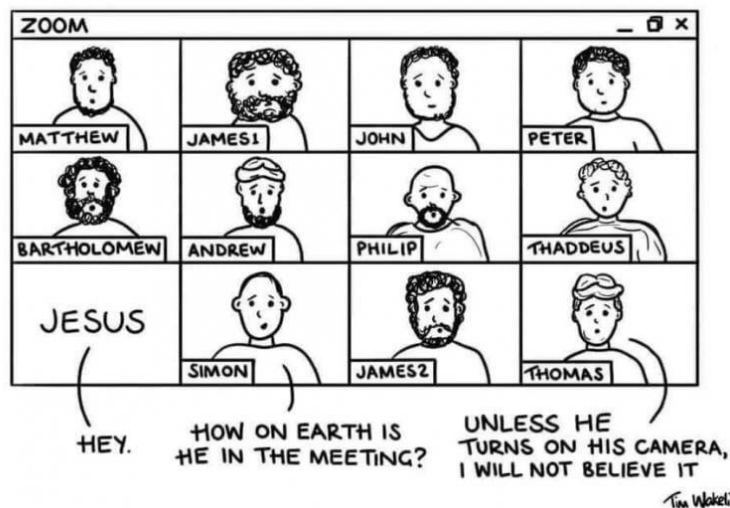
Celebration of our Generosity

Sermon: "Ghost?"



Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Benediction





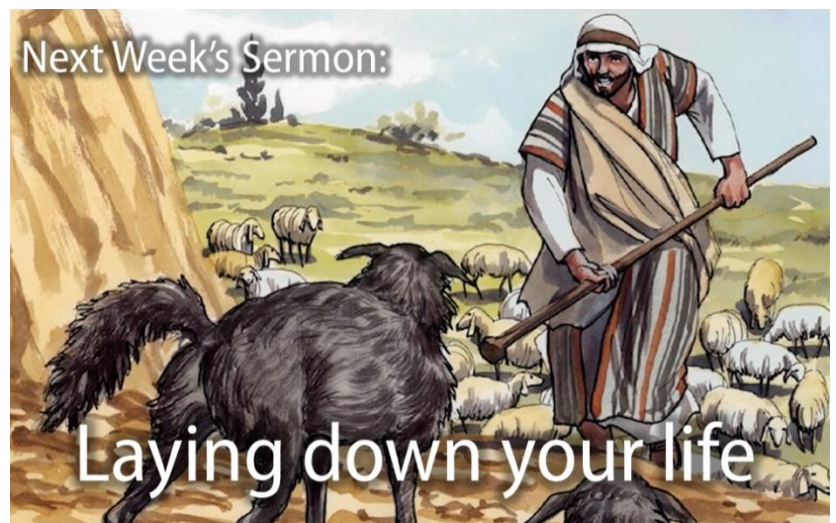
Check out our stories, read-alouds, Bible readings, and activities for our children, online. They are posted each Saturday morning on our website and on the church Facebook page.

Attention Youth! Check your emails. I've sent out a doodle poll to choose the date of our next get together. We will have a chance to connect again, play some games, and make some more plans. Send me a list of your favourites: colours, sports, subjects, hobbies, TV shows, etc. **Please respond to the Doodle Poll by April 20th!** Send me an email or message me with your favourites as soon as you can, thank you! Joni (jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca)

A Food Bank and Hope Clothing Update: We continue to host the Waterloo Region Food Bank's Mobile Pantry, every Thursday, noon – 2:00 pm, in the upper parking lot. We have a fantastic team of volunteers who work hard every week to ensure that our Hespeler Food Bank people get the food they need while staying safe. The number of families who access the Mobile Pantry grows every week. Now more than ever, this is such an important outreach that St. Andrew's provides for our community. At the same time Food Bank is operating Hope Clothing is also open to clients, on a modified basis. Unfortunately, we are not able to take donations at this time. As the weather and Covid restrictions change we may need to ask you, our church community only, for some help with weather appropriate clothing donations.

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
- The spring edition of Presbyterian Connection
- Printed copies of this bulletin each week.
- Printed copies of Scott's most recent sermon each week.



2021 Offering Envelopes are still available. Please arrange to get yours.

Other Lectionary Readings

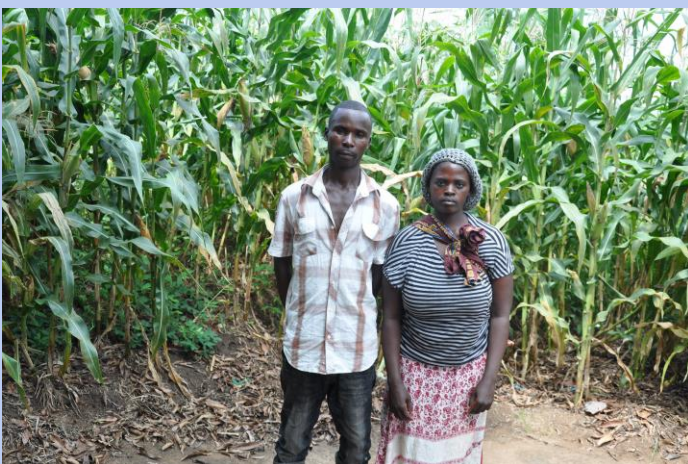
1 John 3:1-7

¹ See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³ And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴ Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Mission Moment - Equipping Farmers to Thrive

Andrew and Flora successfully grow rice, cassava, maize and groundnuts on their two acres of farmland in Malawi as a result of adopting conservation agriculture practices to help their farm flourish and better cope with droughts. Last year, Andrew and Flora attended Presbyterian World Service & Development-supported training to learn how to rotate crops and protect the soil. In addition to conservation agriculture workshops, they also attended gender training where they learned the importance of working together. With these tools, Andrew and Flora now enjoy the rewards of conservation agriculture.



Prayer Partnership

Sunday, April 18 We give thanks for the farmers of our country who work so hard to grow and provide us with the bountiful fresh produce we are able to enjoy at this time of the year.

Monday, April 19 We give thanks for camp committees, staff and leaders who have nurtured our faith and enlivened the church, and pray that camping ministries continue to flourish in the PCC.

Tuesday, April 20 We give thanks for music and the choir members, directors and musicians who share their gifts with their congregations.

Wednesday, April 21 We pray for the members of the Committee on Education and Reception as they meet this week with the candidates and ministers who have applied to be received into The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Thursday, April 22 (Earth Day) We give thanks for the earth and all creation, and pray for the courage to make hard changes that will protect and preserve the earth's ecological systems so that all creation may thrive.

Friday, April 23 We pray for the staff at Action Réfugiés Montréal as they provide hope and assistance to asylum-seekers and refugee people in Canada.

Saturday, April 24 We pray for PCC mission partners who are facing so many new challenges and striving to find safe and economical ways to respond to so many enduring needs.