

**St. Andrew's Hespeler
Presbyterian Church
May 16th, 2021
7th Sunday of Easter**

**St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian
Church**
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Prayer Requests:
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Order of Online Worship for May 16. 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: Clap your hands, all you peoples;

P: We will shout to God with loud songs of joy.

L: For God, the Most High, is awesome, reigning over all the earth.

P: We will sing praises to God this day and every day.

L: Let us worship God with all we have to offer!

P: We will offer God our love – heart, body, mind and soul!

Prayers of approach and confession

L: God of promise and purpose, we greet you this day with thankful hearts. As flowers open and buds unfurl around us, the beauty of your world lifts our hearts in praise. As children grow and students prepare to graduate, their energy and enthusiasm encourages us toward your future. You lifted up Jesus to be by your side, and so we know he is always by our side as the future opens before us. Draw close to us in this hour of worship and show us the promise and purpose in our own lives—how we can unfurl with new life and move into the future with the energy of your Holy Spirit and the abiding love of Christ our Lord.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, you have called all your followers to carry the Good News of God's love and forgiveness to the ends of the earth. Yet we confess we cannot always find the words to tell others of our faith. We are

often silent when others criticize the church that bears your name. We try to act out your love but it's hard to tell others why we do what we do for you. Forgive our hesitation to share the gift you have given us, and renew our courage to speak of our commitment to you. Amen.

L: Friends, remember the promise St. Paul declares: What will separate us from the love of Christ? Hardship? Distress? Peril or sword? Neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Let us rejoice that, no matter what is happening around us, no matter what we have done, God's deep love will never let us go.

P: Thanks be to God!

Responsive Psalm 1

L: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

P: but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.

L: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.

P: In all that they do, they prosper.

L: The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement,

P: for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Ongoing life of the church

Scripture: (other lectionary readings below)

1 John 5:9-13

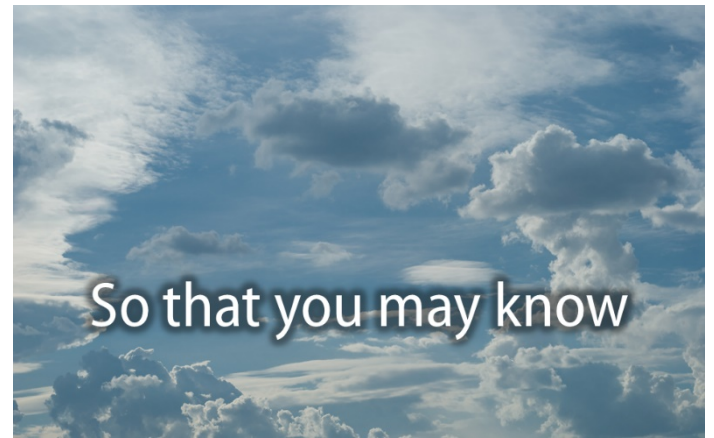
⁹ If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰ Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Offertory: "How Great Thou Art" Jean McMurtrie

Celebration of our Generosity

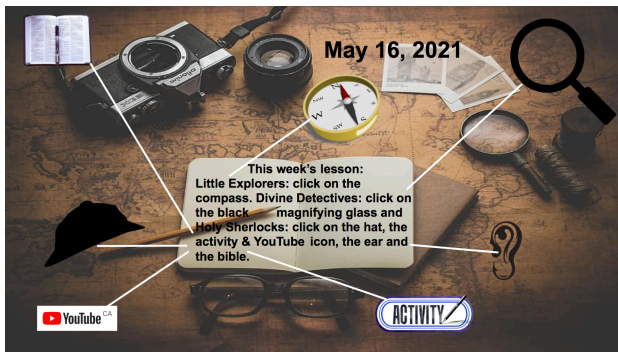
Sermon: "So that you may know"



Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Benediction

Special Note: For worship next week, please come with the following items: a candle, a cross, a bible, something to symbolize baptism (a bowl of water or a seashell), a symbol of communion (some grapes, a loaf of bread or a cup & plate). If you don't have all of these items, you could draw them or find a photo of them.



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.

Our young people challenge YOU to an evening of fun in an online Escape Room. Please let Joni know if you would like to attend. The Youth will be one team and Scott will lead the other team. And Scott will definitely need help to solve the problems. We will meet on **Saturday, June 5, 7:00 – 8:00 pm**. We encourage everyone to join us!

If any of our high school students (or grade 8 students entering high school) need some community service hours, please reach out to Joni (jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca).



Hope Clothing needs some help. With the warm weather on the way we need to switch over our inventory to summer weather clothing. But because of the current restrictions, we are unable to open up to the broader Hesperia community, receiving of donations. So we are asking our church family if you have any extra summer clothing items if you could drop them off. We need summer clothing for all sizes; boys and girls, men and women. Thank you!



India is currently in the midst of a dramatic surge in COVID-19 cases, threatening its healthcare system and leaving already vulnerable families in crisis.

For more than a week, over 300,000 cases have been diagnosed daily. So far over 220,000 people have died in India and the crisis is only worsening.

Immediate needs are access to health care, medical supplies, and medicines, particularly oxygen. There is an urgent need to educate people on risk prevention and address vaccine hesitancy. Vaccine supply is insufficient and inaccessible to many, leaving herd immunity out of reach.

Donations can be made on the PWS&D website or through church giving (mark your envelope accordingly).

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 May/June edition of Today
- The June/July 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.



This coming week (May 17-22) Rev. Scott will be taking some time for Continuing Education. He will be attending (remotely) the Festival of Homiletics. The Festival of Homiletics is a week-long conference designed to inspire discourse about preaching, worship, and society.

(*Homiletics* is a fancy word for the art of preaching.) While he is off, Rev. Bill Bynum will be available should you need emergency pastoral assistance. You can call him at 519-616-9252 or contact the church office for help.



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

Other Lectionary Readings

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, ¹⁶ 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— ¹⁷ for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.'

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' ²³ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

John 17:6-19

⁶ 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for

the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵ I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Mission Moment - May 16, 2021 (Ascension Sunday)

Transform Online Course

Last fall, ministry leaders from across Canada came together for The Presbyterian Church in Canada's Transform online course. Over four weeks, Rick Morse—co-creator of the New Beginnings church renewal program and author of *Making a Congregational Plan that Makes Sense*—challenged leaders to imagine what it means to faithfully respond to God's mission and engage others to be missional. The course, which was made possible through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, equipped leaders with the transformative tools, principles, and insights necessary to discern God's call for their ministries' futures and create plans for moving forward.



Prayer Partnership

Sunday, May 16 (Ascension Sunday) We give thanks for creative faith formation programs that congregations have developed to nurture people's faith.

Monday, May 17 We pray for the Cariboo House Churches in B.C. and their pastor, the Rev. Mark Carter, as they reach out to those who live in remote areas of the Cariboo-Chilcotin.

Tuesday, May 18 We thank God for opening eyes to racism against Indigenous people in Canada, and for moving hearts to turn knowledge into action.

Wednesday, May 19 We pray for the Canadian Council of Churches and the unity of the whole church as its governing board meets over the next few days, and we give thanks for presbyteries who serve the Council in a variety of ways.

Thursday, May 20 We pray for Winnipeg Inner City Missions (WICM) in Manitoba and pray that healing hands provide health and well-being for the residents of WICM who struggle to make ends meet.

Friday, May 21 We pray for people who have been hurt in the church. May they all find a spiritual home within the broad unity of the body of Christ.

Saturday, May 22 We unite in prayer with KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, seeking change in Canada and around the world through advocacy, education and research programs in Indigenous rights, ecological justice, women of courage, and migrant justice.