

**St. Andrew's Hespeler
Presbyterian Church
May 2nd, 2021
5th Sunday of Easter**

**St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church
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Email: office@standrewshespeler.ca

Prayer Requests: prayerchain@standrewshespeler.ca

Website: www.standrewshespeler.ca

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-12pm



Order of Online Worship for May 2. We will meet online for as long as people want to stay on at 10 am. The link will be posted on the website. This will be a communion service, so please prepare some bread and wine (or similar elements) for each participant. The sanctuary is presently closed for in-person worship.

Call to worship

L: We gather with joy, for Easter continues.

P: Like spring crocuses breaking through the earth, the power of resurrection breaks through in surprising ways.

L: Like the vine that supports blossoms and fruit, God's Word upholds the church in strength.

P: Like an attentive gardener, God tends the needs of all creation.

L: Let us worship God who makes all things new.

P: We will praise our God who brings growth to each and every life.

Prayers of approach and confession

L: Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord, you are the vine, and we are the branches. Your love is our strength. Your energy is our joy. Your attentiveness is our hope. Your power can transform even the most difficult situations. You nourish our faith and imaginations so that we can bear fruit in many ways. You promise we can dwell in you because you are dwelling in us. We gather today to offer our praise to you, and bring glory to God the Father, through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Fill us with the love you know as God, ever Three and ever One, so that our love will honour you each and every day.

P: God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, we confess there are so many ways we fail to

love you fully. Forgive us for our lack of reverence for the earth and for using up more than our share of its resources. Forgive us for ignoring the cries of others who know pain or discrimination which we dismiss as mere complaint. Forgive us for seeking praise from others yet failing to encourage them in their endeavours. Forgive us, O God, and root our lives more deeply in your love.

L: St. John records that God is love, and that God's perfect love casts out fear. Friends, we are promised that those who abide in love abide in God and God abides in them. Claim your hope in this good news: God's perfect love abides in you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm 22:25-31

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: (other lectionary readings below)

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹ He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture,

he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

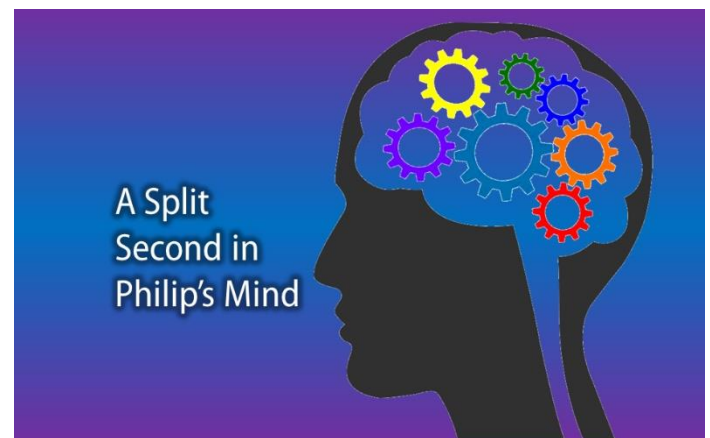
Offertory: "The way that he loves me" W Hunter

Celebration of our Generosity

Celebration of Communion

- Invitation
- Presentation of the elements
- Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
- Double Epiclesis
- Sharing the Bread and Wine

Sermon: "A Split Second in Philip's mind"



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. **Families look for a porch drop off sometime this week!**

Our young people have started to get together again, on Zoom. Watch your bulletin and emails for updates. Who knows there may even be a challenge to our congregation soon. More to come on that ...

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).



Zoom 101. Do you have Zoom loaded onto your device? Would you like to learn more about how to use some of the options so that you can participate in worship and other meetings more comfortably? Please contact Joni (jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca) to set up a time to learn. This will be online, on Zoom. If you don't have Zoom loaded onto your device, after the stay-at-home order has been lifted, arrangements can be made to come into church for either Scott or Joni to help out.

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 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 4:7-21

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

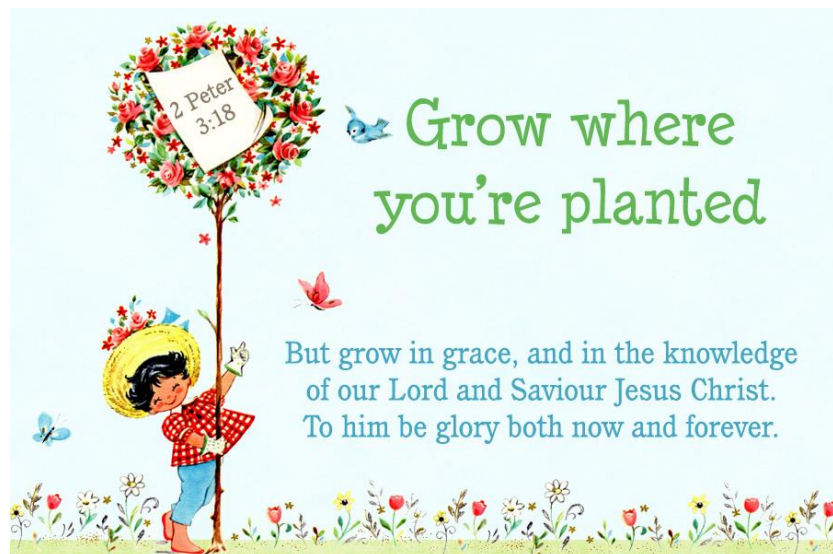
¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in

love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

John 15:1-8

¹ 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.



Mission Moment - May 2, 2021

Empowering Youth in Malawi

The people in Malawi's Mzimba District face many challenges. School dropout rates are high and teen pregnancy is on the rise. More women are experiencing gender-based violence, and there is a lack of knowledge about HIV transmission and prevention. To help address and educate the community about these issues, Presbyterian World Service & Development's local partner, Livingstonia Synod AIDS Programme, has trained 20 community facilitators to teach parents how to nurture adolescents. The facilitators help parents engage youth on issues such as sexual and reproductive health, teen pregnancy, early marriage and the transmission of HIV. The project has been successful in encouraging adolescents to return to school after dropping out.



Prayer Partnership

Sunday, May 2 We pray for Eastern Orthodox Christians as they celebrate Easter and the Resurrection of our Lord.

Monday, May 3 We pray for the candidates for ministry and the guidance counsellors who will gather to engage in dialogue and reflection about vocation and discernment during the Guidance Conference this week.

Tuesday, May 4 (Asian Heritage Month) We give thanks for Asian cultures and people in Canada and pray that their rich contributions to our history and our nation be honoured and remembered.

Wednesday, May 5 We pray for graduating theological students who are beginning the process of seeking a call to a congregation.

Thursday, May 6 We give thanks and pray for clerks of Session as they, with ministers and fellow elders, provide leadership and pastoral care in congregations.

Friday, May 7 We pray for the ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Western Han-Ca.

Saturday, May 8 We pray for the safety of LGBTQI2+ refugees seeking sanctuary in Canada and give thanks for the congregations and sponsors supporting them.