

**St. Andrew's Hespeler
Presbyterian Church
May 23rd, 2021
Pentecost / Healing &
Reconciliation Sunday**

**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 May 23. 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: Come, let us gather around and see how the Spirit will nurture our faith today.

All: Who is with us?

L: Christ, the light of the world.

(Place a candle on a table in your gathering place and light it.)

All: Who is with us?

L: The Love of God, who came to meet us in the world.

(Place a cross on a table in your gathering place.)

All: Who is with us?

L: The Wisdom of God, who speaks through the Scriptures.

(Place an open Bible on a table in your gathering place.)

All: Who is with us?

L: The Grace of God, who proclaims we are children of God.

(Place a symbol of baptism – a bowl of water, a seashell – on a table in your gathering space.)

All: Who is with us?

L: Our risen Lord, who meets us at the table.

(Place a symbol of communion – a plate and cup, a loaf of bread, grapes – on a table in your gathering space.)

All: We are here, Holy Spirit, ready for your leading.

Prayer of Approach and Confession

L: God of power and possibility, With the flame of your Spirit, you give us energy to move into the world in Jesus' name. With the breath of your Spirit, you refresh us to engage life in its complexity. Your Spirit embraces us in our diversity and invites us to find unity in your love. We honour you for the gift of creation in all its beauty and bounty. We praise you for your presence with us in every time and place. In this time of worship, send us the Holy Spirit once again, and renew us to serve you in the world, the world that aches for the healing and wholeness you offer through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

P: God of mystery and mercy, We confess that we have not always paid attention to the urging of your Spirit, calling us to follow your will and your way. Too often we claim to belong to Jesus, but choose instead to ignore his teaching. You created us to love you and one another, but we fail to offer your love to those who differ from us. Stir in our hearts and in our lives with your Holy Spirit. Transform who we are, and direct who we shall become through Christ's redeeming love.

L: This faithful saying is worthy of our trust and acceptance: "In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. Be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

P: Thanks be to God for God's steadfast love and mercy!"!

Responsive Psalm 104:24-35

L: O LORD, how manifold are your works!

P: In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

L: Yonder is the sea, great and wide,

P: creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.

L: There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

P: These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

L: When you hide your face, they are dismayed;

P: when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

L: May the glory of the LORD endure for ever;

P: may the LORD rejoice in his works—

L: who looks on the earth and it trembles,

P: who touches the mountains and they smoke.

L: I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

P: May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.

L: Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more.

P: Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!

Ongoing life of the church

Scripture: (from The Message) other lectionary readings below:

Acts 2:1-21 A Sound Like a Strong Wind

2 ¹⁻⁴ When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

⁵⁻¹¹ There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were blown away. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; Visitors from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene; Immigrants from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; Even Cretans and Arabs!

"They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!"

¹² Their heads were spinning; they couldn't make head or tail of any of it. They talked back and forth, confused: "What's going on here?"

¹³ Others joked, "They're drunk on cheap wine."

¹⁴⁻²¹ That's when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: "Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. These people aren't drunk as some of you suspect. They haven't had time to get drunk—it's only nine o'clock in the morning. This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen:

"In the Last Days," God says,

"I will pour out my Spirit

on every kind of people:

Your sons will prophesy,

also your daughters;

Your young men will see visions,

your old men dream dreams.

When the time comes,

I'll pour out my Spirit

On those who serve me, men and women both,

and they'll prophesy.

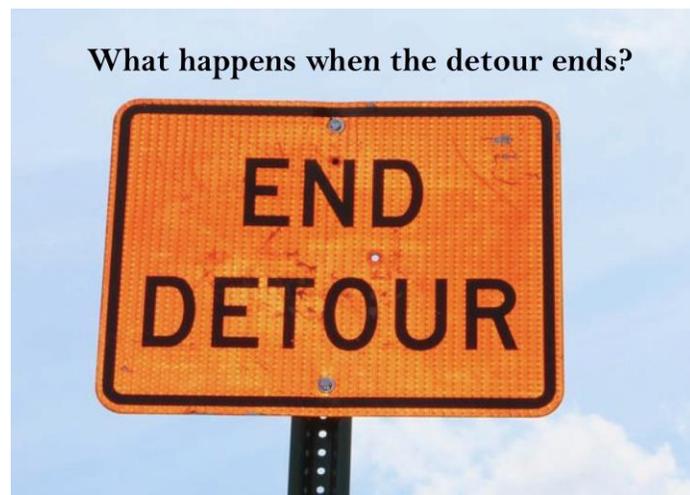
I'll set wonders in the sky above

and signs on the earth below,
Blood and fire and billowing smoke,
the sun turning black and the moon
blood-red,
Before the Day of the Lord arrives,
the Day tremendous and marvelous;
And whoever calls out for help
to me, God, will be saved.”

Offertory: The Malaysia Blessing

Celebration of our Generosity

Message: “What happens when the detour ends?”



Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Benediction



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 another team. And Scott will definitely need help to solve the problems. Or you can form your own team! 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).

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.

These “sidewalk chalk” family portraits are done by some of St. Andrew’s families. Thank you, Adria, Jacob, Sebastian, and Lincoln!



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 Hespeler 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.

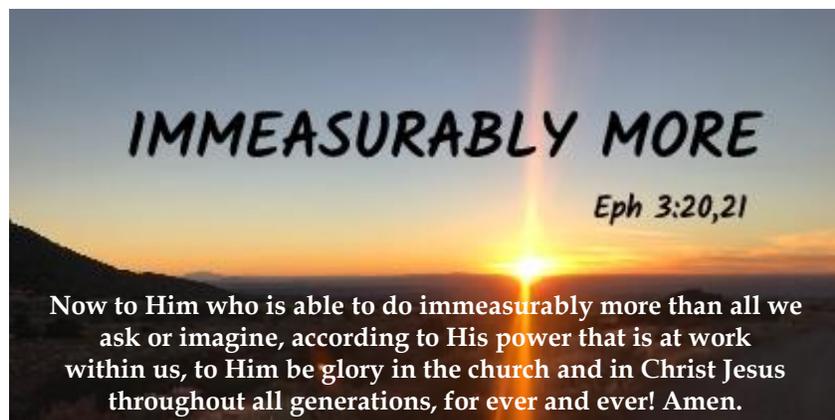
For more than a week, over 300,000 cases have been diagnosed daily. So far over 220,000 people have died in India and the crisis is only worsening.

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.



Other Lectionary Readings

Romans 8:22-28 (The Message)

²²⁻²⁵ All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's *within* us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.

²⁶⁻²⁸ Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.

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.

John 15:26-27 (The Message)

²⁶⁻²⁷ "When the Friend I plan to send you from the Father comes—the Spirit of Truth issuing from the Father—he will confirm everything about me. You, too, from your side must give your confirming evidence, since you are in this with me from the start."

John 16:4-15 (The Message)

¹⁶ ¹⁻⁴ "I've told you these things to prepare you for rough times ahead. They are going to throw you out of the meeting places. There will even come a time when anyone who kills you will think he's doing God a favor. They will do these things because they never really understood the Father. I've told you these things so that when the time comes and they start in on you, you'll be well-warned and ready for them.

The Friend Will Come

⁴⁻⁷ "I didn't tell you this earlier because I was with you every day. But now I am on my way to the One who sent me. Not one of you has asked, 'Where are you going?' Instead, the longer I've talked, the sadder you've become. So let me say

it again, this truth: It's better for you that I leave. If I don't leave, the Friend won't come. But if I go, I'll send him to you.

⁸⁻¹¹ "When he comes, he'll expose the error of the godless world's view of sin, righteousness, and judgment: He'll show them that their refusal to believe in me is their basic sin; that righteousness comes from above, where I am with the Father, out of their sight and control; that judgment takes place as the ruler of this godless world is brought to trial and convicted.

¹²⁻¹⁵ "I still have many things to tell you, but you can't handle them now. But when the Friend comes, the Spirit of the Truth, he will take you by the hand and guide you into all the truth there is. He won't draw attention to himself, but will make sense out of what is about to happen and, indeed, out of all that I have done and said. He will honour me; he will take from me and deliver it to you. Everything the Father has is also mine. That is why I've said, 'He takes from me and delivers to you.'

Mission Moment - May 23, 2021

(Pentecost | Healing & Reconciliation Sunday)

Worship Resources to Do God's Work

This year, **Pentecost** and **Healing and Reconciliation Sunday** fall on the same day, making it a day not only for celebration, but also for solemn reflection and prayer for the Indigenous children who attended residential schools and the people who are living with its legacy. Resources to help worship leaders develop services to mark the church's birthday and honour its commitment to reconciliation are available on the PCC website at presbyterian.ca/worship. Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing have helped build this comprehensive library of worship resources, providing congregations with free materials (seasonal, intergenerational, ecumenical, etc.) to do God's work throughout the year.



Prayer Partnership

Sunday, May 23 (Healing & Reconciliation Sunday)

We pray that hearts and minds will continue to be opened to the truth about the harm of colonisation and the Indian Residential School system. We pray that all Canadians will work for the healing and well-being of Indigenous people and their communities.

Monday, May 24 During National AccessAbility Week, we pray for accessible church communities that are free of barriers.

Tuesday, May 25 We pray for God, who called prophets and apostles, to raise up a new generation of pastors and teachers for the church of our day.

Wednesday, May 26 We pray for the Rev. Joan Masterton of St. James Presbyterian Church in Stouffville, Ont., who serves as the convener of the Cutting Edge of Mission (Dr. E.H. Johnson) Committee.

Thursday, May 27 We pray that students at the MIBE Graduate School for Nurses in Indore, India, feel supported and guided by a strong sense of God's direction as they pursue their studies to become compassionate healthcare leaders.

Friday, May 28 We pray for seniors and their caregivers who are persevering in nursing homes and retirement residences as the pandemic continues.

Saturday, May 29 We pray for Presbyterian camps and conference centres as they prepare programs for the summer. May God provide them with creativity, energy and resources to share faith and fun with children and youth this season.