

**St. Andrew's Hespeler
Presbyterian Church
November 28th, 2021
First Sunday of Advent**

**St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church
73 Queen Street East,
Cambridge, ON N3C 2A9
519-658-2652**

Rev. Scott McAndless: smcandless@standrewshespeler.ca

Email: office@standrewshespeler.ca

Prayer Requests: prayerchain@standrewshespeler.ca

Website: www.standrewshespeler.ca

Office Hours:

Monday—Friday 9am-12pm

Order of Worship for November 28. We will meet online and in person at 10 am. The link will be posted on the website. If you wish to attend in person, screening, masking and social distancing are still required. The session requests that people who attend in person be fully vaccinated for Covid-19 if they are eligible and it is medically possible.

Candle Lighting

L: The season of Advent begins, and we celebrate the hope we find in the good news of the Gospel.

P: **Through the birth of a tiny and helpless child, God comes to save the world.**

L: While we watch and wait for Jesus, we join God's mission by bringing grace and mercy to those who need it most.

P: **We engage the poor and the poor in spirit, letting Christ's light shine through us.**

L: We speak words of comfort and love to a world in need of hope and healing, as we share our stories of God's transforming Spirit.

P: **Together, we are a sign of God's hope for the world.**

The candle of hope is lit

L: Let us pray:

P: **God of surprising grace, when we least expect it you bring fresh new life; and where we feel that all is lost, you bring redemption. Give us courage as we share all you have done, all you are doing, and all you will accomplish through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

P: **Surprising God, Forgive our sleepiness in the presence of your splendour. Forgive us if we yawn when you present us with life-changing possibilities. Forgive us for abandoning hope so quickly, and expecting the same old thing in the same old way. Forgive us for underestimating your power to do a new thing. Awaken us to your holy, hopeful presence. Awaken us so we may watch and wait for you, Lord Jesus Christ. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.**

L: The One who comes with justice also comes with mercy. The God of Judgment is truly the Christ of compassion. God offers you forgiveness today, in the

hope you will receive it gladly. Do not be afraid but rejoice in the God who comes to us.

P: Thanks be to God!

Hymn #110 Come, thou long-expected Jesus

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Psalm 25:1-10

L: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

P: **O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.**

L: Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

P: **let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

L: Make me to know your ways, O LORD;

P: **teach me your paths.**

L: Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

P: **for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.**

L: Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.



P: Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

L: Good and upright is the LORD;

P: therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

L: He leads the humble in what is right,

P: and teaches the humble his way.

L: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,

P: for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

Scripture: (other lectionary readings below)

Jeremiah 33:14-16 Read by Steve Marsh

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

Luke 21:25-36

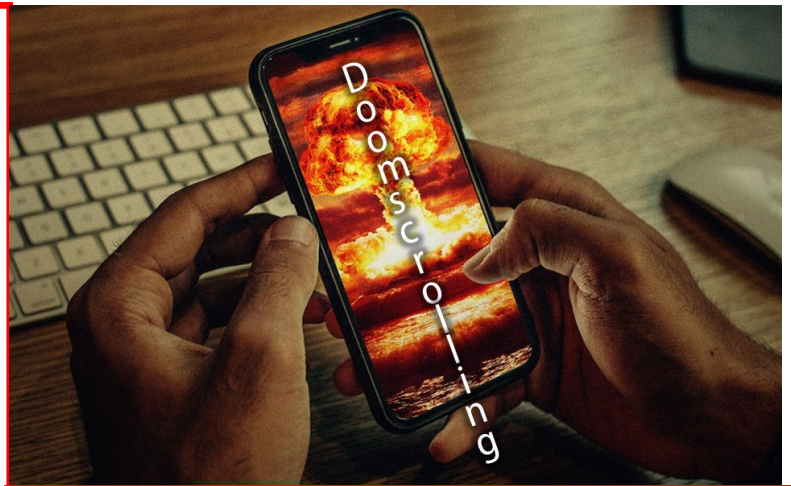
²⁵'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

²⁹Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'"

Offertory: Chorale Prelude On the Melody "Quem Pastores" by Healey Willian Martin Bohl

Celebration of our Generosity



Sermon: "Doomscrolling"

Hymn #122 Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel

1. Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

4. Oh come, thou Branch of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

6. Oh come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Benediction

Other Lectionary Readings

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

On **Tuesday November 30th**, St. Andrew's is launching its 4th Annual *GivingTuesday* campaign. *GivingTuesday* is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following the U.S. Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, *#GivingTuesday* kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving.

You can donate by cheque: made out to St. Andrew's with *GivingTuesday* in the memo line (you can choose *GivingTuesday* for Christian Education or Community Outreach or Worship). You can also donate online, www.standrewshespeler.ca, and choose the "Donate Online" button near the bottom of the home page.

GIVING TUESDAY

The World's Largest Generosity Movement

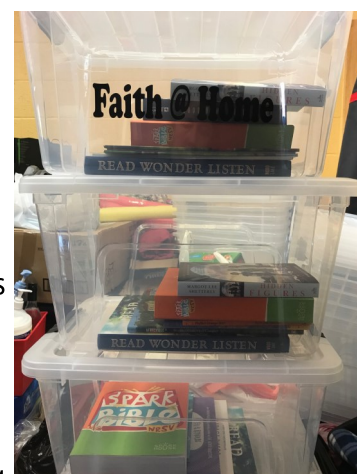
Christian Education Highlight: St. Andrew's Family Ministries, coordinated by Joni Smith and supported by your Christian Education Committee (Lori Marsh, Carol Johnston, Laura Einwechter and Nancy English) and our minister, Rev. Scott McAndless, have had to be very creative in 2021.

Weekly deliveries were made to each of our families throughout Lent and Easter. The deliveries were packages with activities for each week in Lent. These activities were also part of our Zoom worship services. Everyone was encouraged to participate in these activities. Children joined us at the beginning of our Zoom worship services to talk with us and show us their creations.



Two weeks of online Summer Day Camps were created and posted to our website, Facebook and Twitter by our Christian Education Committee. One week was posted in July and the other was posted in August. Anyone was able to access these camps, free of charge.

Faith @ Home boxes were created. Many new books were purchased for the Faith @ Home boxes. The books cover a broad range of subjects including inclusivity, Canada's history with Residential Schools and Truth and Reconciliation, standing up for justice, being worthy; and Bibles that are used in our online Google Classroom. The resources are meant to help families teach and learn and nurture faith at home. The books are included to help families start important conversations. The Faith @ Home Boxes were delivered on Monday, November 22 and included the special activity for the First Sunday of Advent.



Weekly deliveries throughout Advent and Christmas will be made. Again we are encouraging children to "hop" onto our Zoom worship at the beginning of the services to share with us.

Plans are being made for a Family Christmas Eve Service, with Covid safety protocols in place. Watch your inboxes for more details. Lots of help (no prep, no studying lines, no practicing needed kind of help) will be needed.

Stay tuned next week for some special highlights on the Food Bank.



Advent is here! Throughout Advent we will be collecting cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items for our Food Bank & Hope Clothing clients. Much needed and appreciated supplies are: laundry detergent and fabric softener, Lysol, cleaning supplies, shampoo, deodorant, men's shaving supplies, tooth paste, warm socks (for all sizes). These items will be distributed early in 2022.



Did you find out who our guest reader is for this week's lessons? Hint: look in the pews! Our Google Classroom is posted on the website: www.standrewshespeler.ca

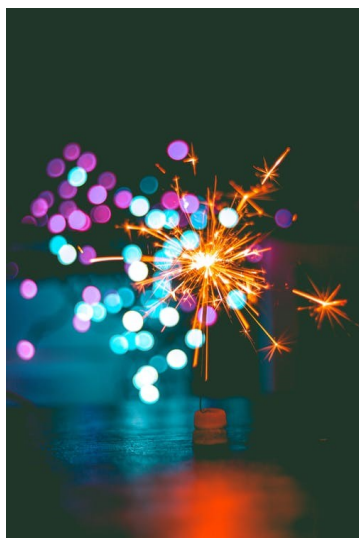
Celebration Moment

Congratulations to Gabrielle McAndless!! Gabrielle has received an opportunity for her first full time position as an Event Manager at Q4, a company specializing in investor relations for C-suite executives. Best wishes to you, Gabrielle, as you start this new journey.



There are some **goodies** in the mailbox at the church (the one marked "bulletins") that are free for anyone to pick up. You will find:

- The November /December edition of Today
- The September/October/November edition of Our Daily Bread
- Printed copies of this bulletin each week.
- Printed copies of Scott's most recent sermon each week.
- The November Newsletter!
- The Advent Booklet



Ten years ago, on the First Sunday of Advent, Rev. Scott McAndless preached his first message here at St. Andrew's as our minister. Today we celebrate with Scott, Dominique, Gabrielle & Zoe! Thank you for your continued dedication to St. Andrew's. You have been a blessing to the life and community here.



Thank you to our decorating team! The church looks wonderful for Advent & Christmas! Thanks to: Karen Nixon, Brenda Holm, Carol Gemmell, Maureen Peart & Deb Knight.

Next
Week's
Sermon:

To Those Who Sit in Darkness

Advent Booklets are now available. These are designed to guide us through the Advent season and think differently about what this season is preparing us for. Please pick one up at the church or download and print one at home. Please also create an Advent wreath at home if you will be joining us to worship from there.



We have some really fun hand knit mittens for sale. All



proceeds will go to Hope Clothing.

The mittens are \$15 per pair. Thank you to Carol Johnston for sharing your talent with us! Please speak with Joni if you'd

like a pair.



Embracing Education in Afghanistan

Khadija is five years old and attends a community-based school in Laghman, Afghanistan. Khadija's older sister did not have the opportunity to attend school, so the Grade One student has wholeheartedly embraced her studies. "I love going to school every day and meeting my friends there. My favourite subject is mathematics." Through the support of Community World Service Asia, a partner of Presbyterian World Service & Development, Khadija and her friends also received school supplies. "One day, after completing my studies, I will become a traffic police officer and guide people in the right direction," said Khadija, smiling.

MISSION MOMENT



Prayer Partnership

Sunday, November 28 (First Sunday of Advent) We pray that our hope is nourished during Advent as we prepare to receive Christ among us again.

Monday, November 29 We pray for congregations seeking God's direction in changing times, that they are steadfast in hope and learn to be patient and prayerful when times are challenging.

Tuesday, November 30 (Feast Day of Andrew the Apostle) Just as Andrew brought his brother Peter to Jesus, we pray for help and guidance to be like Andrew and introduce others to Jesus.

Wednesday, December 1 (World AIDS Day) We pray for all people affected by HIV and AIDS.

Thursday, December 2 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Newfoundland.

Friday, December 3 (International Day for Persons with Disabilities) We pray for the Respite Ministry of St. Columba, a parish of the Presbyterian Church of Mauritius, that offers support to families caring for persons with learning disabilities.

Saturday, December 4 We give thanks for the vital support the church is helping to provide to those with HIV through Presbyterian World Service & Development.

We are making some tentative plans for Christmas.

Among other things, we are hoping to hold:

- A Longest Night Service on December 21 at 7:30 (in person and online)
- A family focused Christmas Eve service at 6:30 pm (in person and online)
- A communion service at 8 pm. (in person and online)
- Sunday falls on Boxing Day this year (December 26) and we will plan to hold a hybrid (in person and online) service on that day as usual.



Your help is needed!



For our Family Christmas Eve service we are planning something special, for in person worship. The plans include staying well distanced and adhering to all covid protocols. But we need your help to make it happen. We need 4 groups of people/individuals to tell the Christmas story. No speaking, no lines to memorize, to practicing needed.

The service will be a short one this year and will begin at 6:30 pm. Our goals are to provide our children and families with an opportunity to worship, safely, in church together.

Also needed, we need to borrow 4 candles something like the attached photo.

If you can help, on Christmas Eve or with the candles please contact Joni Smith (jsmith@standrewshepeler.ca).

We will celebrate The Sacrament of Holy Communion next week, Sunday, December 5th. If you are worshipping with us on Zoom or Facebook Live, please come prepared with your own elements. Crackers and juice, or whatever suits you. There will be elements available in the sanctuary.

