

**St. Andrew's Hespeler
Presbyterian Church
December 12th, 2021
Second 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 December 12. 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: In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's joy.

P: Knowing that Christ is coming to bring healing and wholeness to the world is a source of delight!

L: When we gather for worship it is a celebration, an opportunity to rejoice in all that God is doing among us and beyond us.

P: We welcome our neighbours and celebrate God's goodness.

L: Even when we face difficulty and trouble, we sing a song of faith, confident that Jesus is able to redeem our suffering world.

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

The candle of joy is lit.

Unison Prayer: God of transformation, we rejoice that you lift up the lowly and bind up the broken hearted. We marvel at your power to change hearts and lives. Fill us with your Spirit this season so that our voices declare your goodness and our lives proclaim your mercy in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

P: All knowing God, We know perfect joy only comes through faith in you, yet we seek it out in lesser ways. In search of comfort, we indulge our desires. In search of love, we hide from our faults. In search of approval, we spend beyond our means. Forgive us, O God, for seeking satisfaction in the wrong places. Help us turn again to you, our true source of joy, and guide us to discover what is honourable, just, and pleasing in your sight. Amen.

L: The scriptures say, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." The forgiveness we seek is ours through the

grace of Jesus Christ. May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, be with you.

P: Thanks be to God!

Carol #162 On Christmas night all Christians sing

1. On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring,
on Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

2. Then why should we on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
then why should we on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free
all for to gain our liberty?

3. When sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place,
when sin departs before his grace,
then life and health come in its place.
Heaven and earth with joy may sing,
all for to see our new-born king.

4. All out of darkness we have light
which made the angels sing this night;
all out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night;
"Glory to God," we sing again
now and forevermore, amen.

Responsive Reading Isaiah 12:2-6

L: Surely God is my salvation;

P: I will trust, and will not be afraid,

L: for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might;

P: he has become my salvation.

L: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day:

P: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

L: Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;

P: let this be known in all the earth.

L: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,

P: for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Life and Work of the church

Scripture: (other lectionary readings below)

Luke 3:7-18

Read by Allison Cann

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?' ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' ¹¹ In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' ¹² Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' ¹³ He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

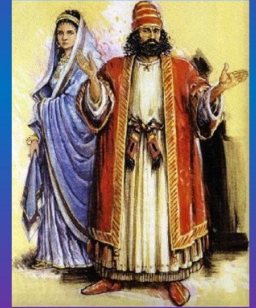
Offertory: Prelude on the Tune of "Dundee" by Healey
Willan Martin Bohl

Celebration of our Generosity

Sermon: "What then should we do?"

Carol #141 Good Christians, all rejoice

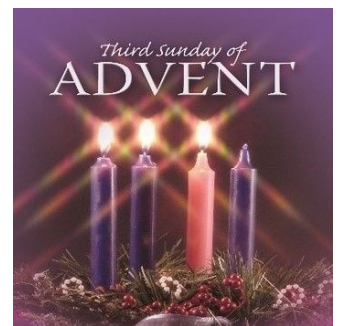
What then should we do?



1. Good Christians, all rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now give heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today, ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now Christ is born today; Christ is born today.

2. Good Christians, all rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now you hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this. He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this.

3. Good Christians, all rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now you need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save, calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save; Christ was born to save.



Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Benediction

Other Lectionary Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgements against you,

he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;

you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst,

a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸ as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,

so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors

at that time.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise

and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you home,

at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes, says the LORD.

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say,

Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The

Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in

everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving

let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace

of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your

hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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) Guest Musician Martin Bohl
- A family focused Christmas Eve service at 6:30 pm (in person and online)
- A communion service at 8 pm. (in person and online) Guest Musician Zoé McAndless
- 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 help 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).

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

Hope Clothing highlight:

We have no warm clothes.
Hope Clothing has helped us to
stretch our money
-anonymous client

Hope Clothing has continued to operate through out 2021 and the pandemic. We have reduced our hours and the adapted the method we use to serve people.

These changes were implemented in an effort to create a safe place for our volunteers and staff to work and to protect our clients.



Up until the first Thursday of December, clients were given a Personal Shopper. The Personal Shopper would compile a list of needs and would gather all items. We were not able to have clients come into the building. The first week of December saw us move inside. The fellowship hall is transformed into a lovely shopping experience for people, all the while staying distanced and maintaining covid protocols.

Everyone here is very helpful and always treats me with respect. Thank you.
-anonymous client

We have been able to help people who have lost their main source of income during covid; people who have experienced isolation and illness. We have been able to help newly immigrated people, especially once it got cold out!

Kids clothes are so expensive now. We need help to clothe our family and provide them food at the same time. Hope Clothing helps us keep our children warm.
-anonymous client

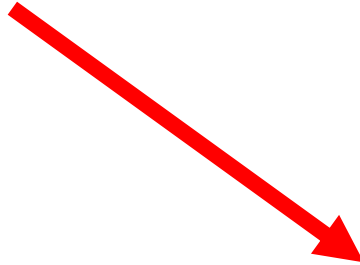


Throughout the month of November we served approximately 65 individuals. We also used approximately 136 volunteers hours in the month. We have volunteers from the community of Hespeler as well as our congregation. We continue to be flexible and think outside of the box so that we can reach out to as many people as possible.

There is a steady stream of people dropping off much needed clothing donations! We are thankful to everyone who takes the time to bring in clothing.

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.

Look at the wonderful donations that have already come in. I'm sure we're only getting started!



Did you find out who our guest reader is for this week's lessons? Our Google Classroom is posted on the website:

www.standrewshespeler.ca

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 December/January/February 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

Next
Week's
Sermon: **When Elizabeth heard
Mary's greeting**

Elizabeth?

Is that you,
Mary?

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.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada



From Hopeless to Hopeful

"I didn't have any hope of living a meaningful life. My left leg was deformed by poliomyelitis at a young age, and I grew up with this challenge," said Monica Akamb, a 45-year-old woman living in northern Ghana. "My biggest challenge, however, transcends the impairment. It has been the

negative attitudes and stereotypes of community members and even within my immediate family." Monica explained how her experience with the Garu Community Based Rehabilitation Program (CBR) made a tremendous difference in her life. "Thank God that CBR and PWS&D came to my rescue. They taught my family and the community to treat persons with disabilities with dignity. I learned gardening skills and now grow vegetables for a living. I am able to produce onion, cabbage and lettuce for food and income." The Presbyterian Church in Ghana, supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development, manages this project.



Prayer Partnership

Sunday, December 12 (Third Sunday of Advent) We pray for a sense of joy at the dawn of a new day that is initiated by the birth of the Christ child among us.

Monday, December 13 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Pictou in Nova Scotia.

Tuesday, December 14 We pray for the Indigenous community of Nazko in British Columbia. We pray that hope will abound, and lives will be healed through relationships with the Creator's son, Jesus.

Wednesday, December 15 We pray for members of the Canadian Armed Forces who are deployed and may face loneliness and hardship.

Thursday, December 16 We pray for support for local food banks as staff and volunteers strive to provide food, toiletries and other essential items this winter.

Friday, December 17 We pray that parents and caregivers of children and youth are blessed with wisdom and patience.

Saturday, December 18 (International Migrants Day) We pray for the safety and well-being of all migrant workers and their families and encourage governments to protect the rights of migrant workers.