

**St. Andrew's Hespeler  
Presbyterian Church  
December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Fourth 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](mailto:smcandless@standrewshespeler.ca)

Email: [office@standrewshespeler.ca](mailto:office@standrewshespeler.ca)

Prayer Requests: [prayerchain@standrewshespeler.ca](mailto:prayerchain@standrewshespeler.ca)

Website: [www.standrewshespeler.ca](http://www.standrewshespeler.ca)

Office Hours:

Monday—Friday 9am-12pm

**Order of Worship for December 19.** 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 love.

**P: Soon we will welcome the beautiful and radical love of God as Jesus Christ comes to live among us.**

L: We embrace our identity as God's beloved children and let this truth guide our decisions and relationships.

**P: In our homes and in our church, we offer hospitality, welcoming those we don't know, those who are in need, and those who are different from us.**

L: We demonstrate our care for creation in real and tangible ways through the products we buy, the food we eat, and the way we live every day.

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

*The candle of love is lit.*

**Unison Prayer: God of extravagant generosity, in Jesus we discover the depth of your care and the lengths you will go to save us. Forgive us when we ignore those in need, trample your creation and refuse to share all that we receive from you. Teach us to love our neighbours, caring for each other in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

**P: God of Life and Love, the stories of Advent remind us that you are a God of surprises. You surprised Elizabeth with news she would bear a child late in life. You surprised Mary with news she would bear our Saviour. Your surprises overturned their lives. We confess we do not always meet life's surprises with the same courage. Forgive us when we hesitate to greet you in the unexpected. Forgive us when we prefer routine over new possibilities.**

L: Christina Rossetti declared the truth of God's love for us in a poem: "Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, love divine... Love shall be our token... Love for

plea and gift and sign." We have made our plea for mercy, trusting in God's gift of love made flesh in Jesus. Now receive God's forgiveness as a lasting token of God's love.

**P: We will. Thanks be to God!**

Carol #146 Angels from the realms of glory

1. Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth,  
ye who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth

*Refrain:* Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the new-born King

2. Shepherds in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night  
God with us is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant Light.

*Refrain*

3. Sages, leave your contemplations;  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations;  
ye have seen his natal star.

*Refrain*

4. Saints, before the altar bending,  
watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly the Lord, descending,  
in his temple shall appear.

*Refrain*

5. Though an infant now we view him,  
he shall fill his Father's throne,  
gather all the nations to him;  
every knee shall then bow down.

*Refrain*

Responsive Reading Psalm 80:1-7

L: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

**P: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!**

L: Restore us, O God;

**P: let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

L: O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

**P: You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among themselves.**

L: Restore us, O God of hosts;

**P: let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Life and Work of the church

Scripture: (other lectionary readings below)

Luke 1:39-55 Read by Lori Marsh

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,  
'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,

## When Elizabeth Heard Mary's Greeting

Elizabeth?

Is that you,  
Mary?

in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Offertory: "O Come, O Come, Immanuel" by Roger C.  
Wilson      Martin Bohl

Celebration of our Generosity

Sermon: "When Elizabeth Heard Mary's Greeting"

Carol #148 It came upon the midnight clear

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:

"To all the earth good-will and peace, from heaven's all-gracious King";  
the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

3. But with the woes of sin and strife, the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong,  
but we, through din of war, hear not the love-song which they bring.  
Oh hush the noise, oh still the strife and hear the angels sing.

Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Benediction

## Other Lectionary Readings

Micah 5:2-5

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of  
the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.  
If the Assyrians come into our land  
and tread upon our soil,

we will raise against them seven shepherds  
and eight installed as rulers.

Hebrews 10:5-10

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup> in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O  
God"

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

<sup>8</sup> When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor  
taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-  
offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to  
the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, 'See, I have come to do your  
will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the  
second. <sup>10</sup> And it is by God's will that we have been  
sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ  
once for all.



**There will be Christmas Services!** We would like to say that we will definitely be celebrating Christmas this year at St. Andrew's Hespeler. All services and times are confirmed. See the table below for how you can attend. Join us for worship in the coming week. Zoom links will be published on the web page

When	What	How (In person is dependant on changing situation and/or government guidance)
Tuesday, December 21 at 7:30 pm	Longest Night Service. This is a service more geared to people who struggle with harder emotions or who are dealing with grief or loss at Christmastime. This is a communion service, so please prepare bread and wine (or alternates) if you are joining us from home. Guest Musician: Martin Bohl (organ).	Zoom, Facebook Live, In person
Friday, December 24 at 6:30 pm	Family oriented worship for Christmas Eve with stories, songs and some chances to share our excitement of the season	Zoom only
Friday, December 24 at 8 pm	Christmas Candlelight worship service. This is a communion service, so please prepare bread and wine (or alternates) if you are joining us from home. Guest Musician: Zoé McAndless (violin).	Zoom, Facebook Live, In person
Sunday, December 26 at 10 am	Boxing Day regular worship service	Zoom, Facebook Live, In person

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](http://www.standrewshespeler.ca), and choose the "Donate Online" button near the bottom of the home page.

# GIVING TUESDAY

The World's Largest Generosity Movement

It is nice to be able to help -  
Marg

## Volunteer Highlight:

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." **1 Peter 4:10**

We have an amazing group of people who serve our community every week. We are blessed to have many people from St. Andrew's and also, many people from the Hespeler community help with our Hope Clothing and off-site Food Bank programs. Thursdays are very special days at St. Andrew's. It is a busy day that begins with unloading the food truck, organizing the food bank room, transforming the Fellowship Hall into Hope Clothing (we are currently using the hall on Thursdays because of covid protocols), set up, serving and take down. As you have read in previous weeks in December we have served an incredible number of people who are struggling to feed and clothe themselves and their families. We are providing a much needed service.

This is my family. I come to be with my friends and family (of volunteers). And it feels good to be able to do something "good" and to help others.

I like to be able to help others.

Our volunteers are a true blessing to the programs we have and the people we serve. Each one cares, in their own unique way, for our clients. They show kindness and understanding. They serve without expectations. They serve with no strings attached. They serve with love in their hearts. Thank you, each and everyone one of our volunteers. Our outreach programs would not be so wonderful without you.

There are a couple of "quotes" from the Bible that strike home to me. ...Feed the hungry and clothe the naked....., when you do for the least of these you do to me.....

By volunteering with the food bank and doing what I can for Hope clothing, I can do my part to fulfill these quotes. It's what speaks to me.

Carol

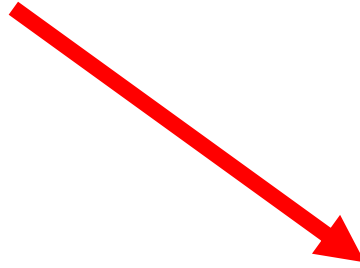
Because of Covid we have had to schedule groups or pairs of volunteers at certain times to maintain distancing and to help protect and keep safe all involved. We have volunteers come into Hope Clothing on Tuesdays and Thursdays just to sort the many donations that come in. We also have volunteers come in on Thursdays to serve anyone who needs help with clothing security.

I don't have anyone, anymore, especially with covid, and because I live alone, outside of my friends here at St. Andrew's. This is the day of the week that I look forward to. I have good friends here and I enjoy helping others.



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](http://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

*The church office will be  
closed the week after  
Boxing Day  
Merry Christmas  
everyone!*



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

## Sharing Hope



We are a vibrant denomination, working together to put our faith into action. Through Presbyterians Sharing, we participate in God's mission together: building strong congregations, serving vulnerable people, seeking justice, walking with Indigenous

people, and sharing God's love and hope around the world. We share hope when a new faith community meets for the first time. We share hope when a child in Romania escapes poverty through education. We share hope when an Indigenous woman in Taiwan reads the Bible in her own language for the first time. We share hope when a boarding home resident confides in a trusted visitor. All of this is possible because of generous gifts to Presbyterians Sharing. When we put our gifts in God's hands, God does remarkable things!



Presbyterians  
Sharing

## Prayer Partnership

**Sunday, December 19** (Fourth Sunday of Advent) We pray that the love we find in the Christ child will nourish and nurture our love.

**Monday, December 20** We pray for socially marginalized and vulnerable people who find this time of the year difficult.

**Tuesday, December 21** We pray for the Presbytery of West Toronto's Ministry Committee. May they feel a strong sense of God's presence to strengthen, focus and lead their discernment.

**Wednesday, December 22** We give thanks for the efforts that have been made to confront systemic racism in our society, and we pray for those who continue to work toward ending racial discrimination.

**Thursday, December 23** We give thanks and pray for those who dedicate themselves to ensuring the care, protection and rights of all children.

**Friday, December 24** (Christmas Eve) Christ was born as one of us and, in him, God shows us how much the world is loved. We pray that the light of God's love blesses and fills the world.

**Saturday, December 25** (Christmas Day) Holy Child, born of Earth woman and the Spirit of heaven. Warrior of heaven and earth who conquered death, we thank you. For the life, love and hope you give us through children, kakike ka' nanaskom'tinaan (Cree for "we will always be grateful").