

**St. Andrew's Hespeler
Presbyterian Church
December 21th, 2021 7:30 pm
Longest Night**

**St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church
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Website: www.standrewshespeler.ca

Office Hours:

Monday—Friday 9am-12pm

Order of Worship for December 21. We will meet online and in person at 7:30 pm. 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. This will be a communion service, so please prepare communion elements if you are joining us from home.

**An Order of Worship for the Longest
Night**

Based in a service by Lisa Ann Moss Degrenia
Guest Musician: Martin Bohl

**Gathering Music - The Quiet, Holy Night, by
Dorothy Wells**

Welcome

Opening Prayer

L: Merciful God, In this season of rejoicing, we
come to you weary and grieving
In this season of feasting, we hunger for
healing and relief
In this season of light, our hearts are veiled
in sorrow and shadow
Will this season ever end?
"Yes." We hear your, "Yes."
Those who are weary will find rest
Those who mourn will be comforted
Those who hunger will be filled
The Light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness will not overcome it.

Lighting the Christ Candle

L: We welcome you O Christ, Light of the World.

In the midst of our suffering, help us to worship
you in spirit and in truth.

Special Music - Panis Angelicus by C. Franck

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-5, The Voice Translation

On this humbled ground,
a tiny shoot, hopeful and promising, will
sprout from Jesse's stump
a branch will emerge from his roots to bear
fruit.

And on this child from David's line, the Spirit
of the Eternal One will alight and rest.
By the Spirit of wisdom and discernment, He
will shine like the dew.
By the Spirit of counsel and strength, He will
judge fairly and act courageously.
By the Spirit of knowledge and reverence of
the Eternal One,
He will take pleasure in honouring the Eternal.
He will determine fairness and equity;
He will consider more than what meets the
eye,
And weigh in more than what he's told.
So that even those who can't afford a good
defense
will nevertheless get a fair and equitable
judgment.

With just a word, He will end wickedness and abolish oppression.
With nothing more than the breath of His mouth, He will destroy evil.
He will clothe himself with righteousness and truth
The impulse to right wrongs will be in his blood.

Reflection

Musical Reflection: "Amazing Grace" by Don Hustad

Candle Lighting

L: This candle represents our suffering and the suffering of the world. In the light of God's love, we claim God's gift of truth. There is no need to hide or deny. God welcomes us as we are.

P: Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. ~Psalm 86:1

Light one candle

L: This candle represents our suffering and the suffering of the world. In the light of God's love, we claim God's gift of lament. We recognize our wounds and cry out to God. We accept God's invitation to express every feeling and question.

P: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest. ~ Psalm 22:1-2

Light one candle

L: This candle represents our suffering and the suffering of the world.
In the light of God's love, we claim God's gift of courage.
Courage to be honest, to seek help, to comfort one another.
Courage to dare to love and dream again.

When Elizabeth Heard Mary's Greeting

Elizabeth?

Is that you, Mary?

P: The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. ~ Psalm 28:7

Light one candle

L: This candle represents our suffering and the suffering of the world.

In the light of God's love, we claim God's gift of hope.

God is good. God is strong. God is near, leading us to a day without tears and pain, without sin and death.

Healing and deliverance are coming; if not now, then on that day.

P: By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. ~Psalm 65:5

Light one candle

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.**

**7. Oh come, desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart, one mind;
bid envy, strife and discord cease
and be thyself our source of peace.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to
thee, O Israel.**

Prayers of the People

- Those present will be given slips of paper when they arrive to fill out
- Those online are encouraged to share in the Zoom chat

L: Jesus, you are full of compassion, you understand our pain. Our suffering changes our experience of you and the celebration of your birth. We are caught between remembering happier times and grieving what might have been. In our loss we feel cut off- disconnected, adrift, alone.

Root us in your steadfast love. Anchor us in your faithful promises. Hold us, and all who weep this holy season throughout the world-

those who mourn, those far from home,
those looking for work,

the lonely, the addicted, the abused,
the estranged, the oppressed, the
enslaved,

the poor, victims of war, the sick and
dying.

Shelter and sustain us all with your healing

and hope, your peace and light. We love you,
we need you, we trust you...

145 In the bleak mid-winter

1. In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.
2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall welcome him when he comes to reign:
in the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.
3. Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the beloved with a kiss
4. What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

Affirmation of Faith for Christmas

L: Christians, what do you believe?

**P: God did not wait till the world was ready,
till nations were at peace.**

**God came when the Heavens were unsteady
and prisoners cried out for release.**

God did not wait for the perfect time.

**God came when the need was deep and
great.**

**God dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.**

God did not wait till hearts were pure.

**In joy God came to a tarnished world of sin
and doubt.**

**To a world like ours, of anguished shame,
God came and God's Light would not go out.
God came to a world which did not mesh;**

to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
 In the mystery of the Word made Flesh,
 the Maker of the stars was born.
 We cannot wait till the world is sane
 to raise our songs with joyful voice,
 For to share our grief, to touch our pain,
 God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Celebration of Communion

Blessing

Postlude – "Es ist Ein Ros' Entsprungen" by J.
 Brahms



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)
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