

**St. Andrew's Hespeler  
Presbyterian Church  
December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Second Sunday of Advent**

**St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church  
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Website: [www.standrewshespeler.ca](http://www.standrewshespeler.ca)

Office Hours:

Monday—Friday 9am-12pm

**Order of Worship for December 5.** 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. This is a communion service. If you are joining us from home, please prepare some wine and bread (or substitutes) so that you may participate with us.

Candle Lighting

L: In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's peace.

**P: Jesus Christ, born the Prince of Peace, calls our community to justice and leads us in the way of peace.**

L: We call one another to honesty and humility and respond to each other with abundant grace and forgiveness.

**P: Our community values relationships. We live in harmony with one another even when we disagree, and strive to glorify God in everything we do.**

L: Our community longs for unity. We work together with other churches and organizations, and live out God's reconciling love for all the world to see.

**P: Together, we are a sign of God's peace in the world.**  
*The candle of peace is lit.*

Prayer of Approach

**P: God of all people and all nations, you break through the cynicism of our world and lead us like a gentle shepherd. Open our eyes to see the signs of your coming kingdom and inspire us to participate in all you are doing in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

**P: Merciful God, our baptism proclaims the washing away of our sin and the start of our new life in Christ. But we confess that we still live in sin. We sin against you and one another, in what we do and in what we fail to do. We excuse ourselves, and take comfort in familiar habits and traditions. Forgive us when we mistake such comfort for the peace you offer us in Christ Jesus. Prepare our hearts to embrace new ways of following him.**

L: Zechariah, father of John the Baptist, proclaimed this hope: "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from

on high will break upon us, giving light to those in darkness, guiding our feet in the way of peace." Receive God's tender mercy today. Trust that God's peace will prevail for all those who seek forgiveness in Jesus' name.

**P: Amen!**

Hymn #126 On Jordan's bank

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.

2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin;  
make straight the way for God within;  
prepare we in our hearts a home  
where such a mighty guest may come.

3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without thy grace, we waste away,  
like flowers that wither and decay.

4. To heal the sick, stretch out thine hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth and let thy light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.

5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee,  
whose advent sets thy people free,  
whom, with the Father, we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

Responsive Reading Luke 1:68-79

L: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

**P: for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.**

L: He has raised up a mighty saviour for us in the house of his servant David,

**P: as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.**

L: Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

**P: and has remembered his holy covenant,**

L: the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

**P: to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.**

L: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

**P: for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,**

L: to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

**P: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,**

L: to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

**P: to guide our feet into the way of peace.'**

Life and Work of the church

Scripture: (other lectionary readings below)

Luke 1:68-79

Read by Alexis Smith

Offertory: "Wachet Auf" by Johann Gottfried Walther  
Martin Bohl

Celebration of our Generosity

Sermon: "To those who sit in darkness"

Hymn #161 What child is this

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.

Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

# To Those Who Sit in Darkness

Raise, raise the song on high; the virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Benediction

Other Lectionary Readings

Malachi 3:1-4

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Philippians 1:3-11

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Luke 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance

for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”’



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Helen Chester and her family on the recent death of Helen's daughter, Gale DeGroot. Please keep Helen and her family in your prayers at this difficult time.

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](mailto: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](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

## Food Bank highlight:

The foodbank makes me feel better about my situation. Everyone is always friendly. Coming here gives me hope.  
-anonymous client

In the spring of 2020 our offsite location of the Cambridge Food Bank (CFB) was put on hold. This was a decision by the CFB. By the end of the summer (2020), it became obvious that people in our community really needed help with food security. In the fall of 2020 members of the congregation and our Session wrote letters to the CFB asking to bring it back to St. Andrew's. A long story short ... the CFB would love to come back to Hespeler, but they were short staffed and short of volunteers. The staff, Session and volunteers of St. Andrew's stepped up and have been running this offsite location since last fall.

In March 2021 we were approached by the CFB to be a pilot location for the new Waterloo Region Food Bank Mobile Food Truck. The Mobile Food Truck came packed with dry goods hampers, fresh food hampers and frozen food for our community members. We had the use of this Mobile Food Truck until the end of June 2021.

I depend on this location for food bank. I wouldn't have enough food to get me through the week without this.

-anonymous client

Once July came around, we pivoted again. The CFB now delivers dry goods, fresh foods (including eggs and milk) and frozen foods to St. Andrew's every week. We pack the dry hampers and distribute the food.

We record visits into the provincial database. Every week we order, from the CFB, what is needed for the following week. We have been serving outside, on the first Thursday of December we brought the CFB back inside. Flexibility is the key right now as we endeavour to keep everyone safe; staff, volunteers and community members.

The food bank for me is very important, gives my family meals, that we can count on. Helps me a lot, especially now that all is so expensive. Eggs, milks fruits and vegetables. Everything that we get we are very grateful. We always pray at Byron thank God for all we get.  
-anonymous client



Every Thursday there are people lined up to get help with their food. In November we served 45 families, or approximately 110 people. Approximately 85 volunteers hours were used in November to serve the Hespeler Community. While in line there are lots of conversations between other community members and our volunteers. We are creating a safe place for our community. We have had the pleasure of meeting new immigrants (who have only moved to Canada in the last 2 or 3 months). The first cold snap was a surprise! We have had the privilege of hearing some life stories, where people immigrated from and why. We are learning about traditions (particularly Christmas traditions right now) from different parts of the world. We are even learning how to cook some traditional foods. We might even learn a new language.





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](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

Many thanks to Pennings Mechanical for lending us their truck & trailer and driver for the Hespeler Santa Claus Parade yesterday. Also, thank you to Glen McKittrick for lending us the straw bales for the float. A BIG thanks to all who rode on our float or walked beside it or cheered us on!





**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.

## MISSION MOMENT



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.



### Supporting Vulnerable Children

Antony Misoya, a 15-year-old orphan from Mitumbira village in Malawi, is HIV positive. He attends a program managed by the Mulanje Mission Hospital where he receives care and support with his antiretroviral medication regimen. Staff began to notice Antony's visits to the program had become less frequent. When asked, Antony told them, "I go around looking for work to support my two brothers and sister; sometimes I miss my treatment because I am working." Program staff visited Antony and his guardian and discovered that it had become difficult for her to provide for all four children, so the team provided them with support that made it possible for Antony to attend the clinic regularly and focus on his studies. This project that provides care and support to orphans and vulnerable children in Malawi is supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development.



### Prayer Partnership

**Sunday, December 5** (Second Sunday of Advent) We pray for peace in the world: in our churches, in our families and circle of friends, and in our spirits as we prepare to welcome the Christ child among us again.

**Monday, December 6** We pray for ministries that are exploring new ways to welcome, include and support LGBTQI+ people and families.

**Tuesday, December 7** We thank God for those who are engaging in God's mission in the world and finding effective ways to share the Gospel of Christ with neighbours.

**Wednesday, December 8** We pray that the light of Christ will shine brightly and provide comfort to all who are ill, struggling or mourning this Advent season.

**Thursday, December 9** We pray for the Rev. Chen Hsin-Liang, the new General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan.

**Friday, December 10** (Human Rights Day) We pray for families living in situations of conflict or in exile, and we give thanks for the church's support of Presbyterian World Service & Development programs that protect the rights of refugees.

**Saturday, December 11** We give thanks for the education the Garu Community-Based Rehabilitation Program provides to raise awareness and support people with disabilities in Ghana so that they can lead fulfilling lives free from stigma.