

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

January 2nd, 2022 – Second Sunday after Christmas

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church
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Office Hours Mon—Friday 9am to noon.

Order of Worship for January 2. We will meet online and in person at 10 am. We do encourage you to attend online if possible. 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.

Call to worship

L: We have life because God created it.

P: Life had its beginning in God.

L: We need not fear the end of life.

P: In God, it will come to completion and its meaning will be fully revealed.

L: All creation, including us, will find fulfillment in God.

P: Now we see in part. Then we shall see face to face. Let us worship God, who is the Creator of Life and the Victor over death!

Prayer of Approach and Confession

L: God of power and might, God of grace and mercy, heaven and earth are full of your glory. You chose to become one of us in Jesus Christ, sharing our joys and sorrows, displaying your greatness in the child of the manger. We praise you for your amazing love, great enough to embrace the expanding universe, yet close enough to enter our humble hearts. During this time of worship, surprise us with your grace once again, that we, with the whole Church and your precious creation, may praise and honour your holy name, O God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

P: God of goodness and guidance, in Christ you sent us light to live by, yet we seek shadows in which to hide. In him, you promise new life, but we prefer with old habits, nursing grievances and clinging to familiar opinions. You are generous with your love, but we reject neighbours and fear strangers who differ from us. Remake us in the image of your Son with your mercy, and teach us how to follow him in the year ahead.

L: Here is the good news of the Gospel! Jesus Christ is God's elect, chosen for our salvation. In him we find God's acceptance. Let us give thanks to God for this gift, and be at peace with ourselves and with one another.

P: We will, Amen!

Carol #172 As with gladness, men of old

1. As with gladness, men of old
Did the guiding star behold
As with joy they hailed its light
Leading onward, beaming bright
So, most glorious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to Thee.

2. As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed
There to bend the knee before



The Beginning and the *Logos*



Next Week's
Sermon:

The Samaritan Problem

Him Whom Heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

3. As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

4. Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way,
and when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds of glory hide.

5. In that heavenly country bright
need they no created light:
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing
hallelujahs to our King.

Responsive Psalm 147:12-20

L: Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!

P: Praise your God, O Zion!

L: For he strengthens the bars of your gates;

P: he blesses your children within you.

L: He grants peace within your borders;

P: he fills you with the finest of wheat.

L: He sends out his command to the earth;

P: his word runs swiftly.

L: He gives snow like wool;

P: he scatters frost like ashes.

L: He hurls down hail like crumbs—

P: who can stand before his cold?

L: He sends out his word, and melts them;

P: he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

L: He declares his word to Jacob,

P: his statutes and ordinances to Israel.

L: He has not dealt thus with any other nation;

**P: they do not know his ordinances. Praise
the LORD!**

Life and Work of the church

Scripture:

Epiphany Reading Matthew 2:1-12 by Dean
Davidson

John 1:1-18 (other lectionary readings below)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived

among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Offertory: "Let us all with Gladsome Voice"
setting by Wilbur Held Martin Bohl

Celebration of our Generosity

Sermon: "The Beginning and the *Logos*"

Carol #173 We three kings

1. We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of light,
star of royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.

Refrain

3. Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh,
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshipping God on high.

Refrain

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom,
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Refrain

5. Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice:
hallelujah, hallelujah,
sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Benediction

Other Lectionary Readings

Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷ For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
'Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.'

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of
the north,

and gather them from the farthest parts of
the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labour,
together;

a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not
stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,

and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.'

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong
for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of
Zion,

and they shall be radiant over the goodness
of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the
dance,
and the young men and the old shall be
merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,

I will comfort them, and give them gladness
for sorrow.
¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my
bounty,
says the LORD.

Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.