

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

January 9th, 2022 – First Sunday after Epiphany

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church
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Website: www.standrewshespeler.ca
Office Hours Mon—Friday 9am to noon.

Order of Worship for January 9. We will meet online and in person at 10 am. We strongly 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 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: Beloved, God chooses us and calls us by name.

P: We belong to God. Alleluia!

L: Our lives have purpose because we belong to God.

P: We are called to be like Christ and follow him.

L: We will find joy, peace, and restoration through God's amazing grace.

P: Let us worship God who claims us and loves us! Praise be to God!

Prayer of Approach and Confession

L: Creator of the sun and moon and stars, you stir in our midst to reveal your light. By the work of your Spirit, you lead us in new directions. Your beloved Son has called us to new life and by his grace, reconciles the divisions among us. Holy One, we praise you for the blessings you give us in our baptism into Christ, and through your love that surrounds us day by day. To you we give all praise, glory and honour, through Jesus Christ, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and always. Amen.

P: Merciful God, in baptism you promise

forgiveness and new life, but we confess that we prefer our old, familiar ways. We cling to destructive habits, we harbour grudges, and we are reluctant to welcome a stranger or forgive one another. Nostalgia for the past prevents us from exploring new possibilities. In your loving kindness, forgive us. Have mercy upon us and move among us so that we might pursue new life in Christ together.

L: Do not be afraid, for Christ has redeemed you. Baptized in the deep waters of death, he has washed away your sins. Risen from death, he invites you to be washed in the cleansing tide of God's mercy. Your sins are forgiven; be at peace with God, with yourself, and with each other.

P: We will, Amen!

Hymn #479 The church's one foundation

1. The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;

we are his new creation by water and the word;

from heaven he came and sought us that we might ever be

his living servant people, by his own death
set free.

2. Called forth from every nation, yet one
o'er all the earth,
our charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith,
one birth,
one holy name professing and at one table
fed,
to one hope we are pressing, by Christ's own
Spirit led.

5. We now on earth have union with God the
Three-in-One,
and share, through faith, communion with
those whose rest is won
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace
that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may
dwell with thee.

Responsive Psalm 29

L: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,

P: ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

L: Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;

P: worship the LORD in holy splendour.

L: The voice of the LORD is over the waters;

**P: the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over
mighty waters.**

L: The voice of the LORD is powerful;

P: the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

L: The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;

P: the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

L: He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,

P: and Sirion like a young wild ox.

L: The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of
fire. The voice of the LORD shakes the
wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness
of Kadesh.

**P: The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to
whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his
temple all say, 'Glory!'**

L: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;

P: the LORD sits enthroned as king for ever.

L: May the LORD give strength to his people!

P: May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Life and Work of the church

Scripture:

Acts 8:14-17

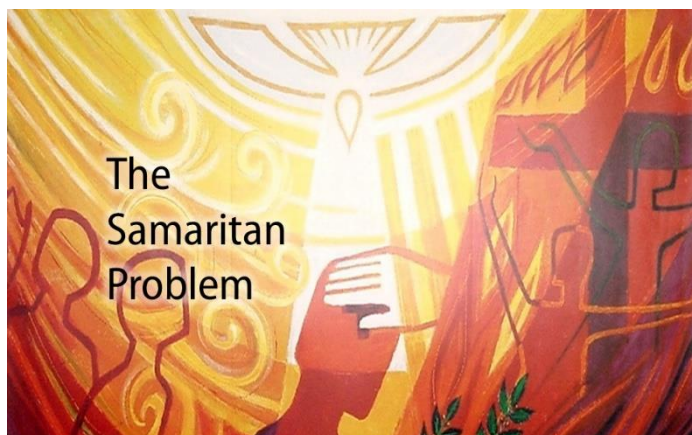
¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem
heard that Samaria had accepted the word of
God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The
two went down and prayed for them that they
might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the
Spirit had not come upon any of them; they
had only been baptized in the name of the Lord
Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands
on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Offertory: "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" by J. S.

Bach

Martin Bohl

Celebration of our Generosity



Sermon: "The Samaritan Problem"

Hymn #485 Saviour, like a shepherd lead us

1. Saviour, like a shepherd lead us:

much we need your tender care;
in your pleasant pastures feed us;
for our use your folds prepare:
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!

You have bought us; yours we are.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!

You have bought us; yours we are.

2. We are yours; in love befriend us;

be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock from sin, defend us;
seek us when we go astray:

blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Hear your children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
Hear your children when we pray.

3. Let us always seek your favour;
let us always do your will.
Jesus Christ our only Saviour,
with yourself our spirits fill:

blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
You have loved us; love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!
You have loved us; love us still.

Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Benediction

Other Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 43:1-7

¹ But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my sight,
and honoured, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

⁶ I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
and to the south, 'Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.'

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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.'

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Annual Meeting

The Annual General Meeting for the congregation of St. Andrew's Hespeler is being planned for **Sunday, March 6, 2022**. We will have more detail on how we will carry out this meeting as it gets closer. An Annual Report is being prepared for this meeting. Any submissions to the Annual Report should be sent to the office (office@standrewshespeler.ca) by the end of the month please.

Thanks for Undecorating too

Back in November, we thanked a very talented and dedicated crew (Karen Nixon, Brenda Holm, Carol Gemmell, Maureen Peart & Deb Knight) for coming in and decorating our sanctuary for Christmas so beautifully. Taking down and packing away the decorations can be just as much work, but doesn't always get the same glory. So thank you to the same crew (plus Glen Nixon) for coming in this week to do all of that!

Can you Help?

Your help is needed! Is anyone able to sew some small zippered pouches? We need approximately 20. All materials will be supplied. If you could make just one, that would be helpful. Please contact Joni for more information or if you could help out.
jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca



2022 Envelopes have been prepared by the Treasurer. You may pick them up in the sanctuary, come by the office or let us know if we can help you get them in some other way.

Next Week's Sermon topic has been chosen by Andy Cann as a result of the auction last fall. Andy has challenged the minister to preach a sermon inspired by a "Help Wanted" sign.

