

**St. Andrew's Hespeler
Presbyterian Church
April 3rd 2022
5th Sunday in Lent**

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

Office Hours:

Monday—Friday 9am-12pm

Order of Worship for April 3. We will meet online and in person at 10 am. The Zoom link will be posted on the website. If you wish to attend in person, masking and social distancing are not required by law but we would continue to highly recommend that we do so as a sign of respect to others who may be vulnerable. This will be a communion service and so we invite those who join us at home to prepare communion elements of bread and wine or suitable substitutes.

Lenten Candle Liturgy and Prayer

P: Loving God, we open our hearts to you. We invite you into our inmost being, only to find you already there. Strengthen us in our quiet places and then lead us into the work of justice and peace. Amen.

Call to Worship

L: God says to us: I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers flow in the desert.

P: The LORD does great things for us, and we rejoice.

L: God says to us: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

P: The LORD does great things for us, and we rejoice.

L: God says to us: I am about to do a new thing.

P: The LORD does great things for us, and so we worship God with songs of joy and prayers of thanksgiving.

Prayer of Approach and Confession

L: O God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all life, we come to you today with grateful hearts, cheered by the return of spring, days lengthening, the sun's warmth growing stronger. We praise you for your creation and its reliable rhythms. We praise you, too, for Christ and his ministry that we seek to continue; we seek the light of the hope he offers. Break into these days of turmoil and uncertainty with the mercy and grace we meet in Jesus. By the power of your Spirit, lighten our hearts in this time of worship, and help us brighten the lives we touch this week in Jesus' name. And so we praise you, O God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all life, and offer you all glory and honour, this day and every day, now and evermore.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, we gather in your name today,

aware that you keep moving closer and closer to the cross. We confess it is not easy to follow your story. Your willingness to give yourself inspired some to give of themselves, while others hesitated or criticized. We confess we often struggle to decide what to give, whom to help. We can be critical of those in need and those who help them. Forgive us when we look for reasons not to share, and excuse ourselves from acting generously, as you did.

L: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ – and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace.

P: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn #202 We lay our broken world

1. We lay our broken world
in sorrow at your feet,
haunted by hunger, war and fear,
oppressed by power and hate.

2. Here human life seems less
than profit, might and pride,
though to unite us all in you,
you lived and loved and died.

3. We bring our broken towns,
our neighbours hurt and bruised;
you show us how old pain and wounds
for new life can be used.

4. We bring our broken loves,
friends parted, families torn;
then in your life and death we see
that love must be reborn.

5. We bring our broken selves,
confused and closed and tired;
then through your gift of healing grace
new purpose is inspired.

6. O Spirit, on us breathe,
with life and strength anew;
find in us love, and hope, and trust,
and lift us up to you.

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Psalm 126

L: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were
like those who dream.

**P: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our
tongue with shouts of joy;**

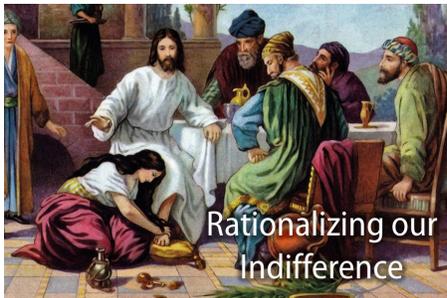
L: then it was said among the nations, 'The LORD has done
great things for them.'

**P: The LORD has done great things for us, and we
rejoiced.**

L: Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in
the Negeb.

**P: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for
sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying
their sheaves.**

Life and Work of the Church



Scripture: John 12:1-8

Read by Carol Johnston

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany,
the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the
dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served,
and Lazarus was one of those at the table with
him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure
nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair.
The house was filled with the fragrance of the
perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one
who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ 'Why was this
perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the
money given to the poor?' ⁶ (He said this not because he
cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept
the common purse and used to steal what was put into
it.) ⁷ Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she
might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have
the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

Offertory: "Romantic Flight by John Powell"

Zoé McAndless

Celebration of our Generosity

Sermon: "Rationalizing our Failure to Give"

Hymn #534 All who hunger, gather gladly

1. All who hunger, gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.

Come from wilderness and wandering.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.

You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.

Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

2. All who hunger, never strangers,
seeker, be a welcome guest.

Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here, in joy, we keep the feast.

We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.

Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

3. All who hunger, sing together;
Jesus Christ is living bread.

Come from loneliness and longing.
Here, in peace, we have been led.

Blest are those who from this table
live their days in gratitude.

Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

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Celebration of Communion

Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Benediction

Other Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 43:16-21

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD,

who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,

¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;

they lie down, they cannot rise,

they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.

¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;

now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

²⁰ The wild animals will honour me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

Philippians 3:4b-14

^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the
flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a
member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin,
a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as
to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness
under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to
regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard

everything as loss because of the surpassing value of
knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered
the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in
order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not
having a righteousness of my own that comes from the
law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the
righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know
Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing
of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if
somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have
already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my
own, because Christ Jesus has made me his
own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my
own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind
and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on
towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God
in Christ Jesus.

This morning we are introducing our Prayer Cards. These prayer cards can be used by those in the sanctuary to request prayers for our Prayers of the People. Cards will be available at the back of the sanctuary and can be placed on the offering plate, also at the back of the sanctuary. The Prayer Cards will be delivered to Scott during the pause before Prayers for the People. Please remember that we need permission to pray, publicly, for others.

This week's Lenten Activity:

The activity for this coming week is a complicated one. Complete instructions and materials needed will be provided in the Faith @ Home packages which will be delivered early this week. For those who don't have children at home, but would like to join us as we prepare for Holy Week, please pick up instructions at the back of the sanctuary .

Mission Moment – Sunday, April 3

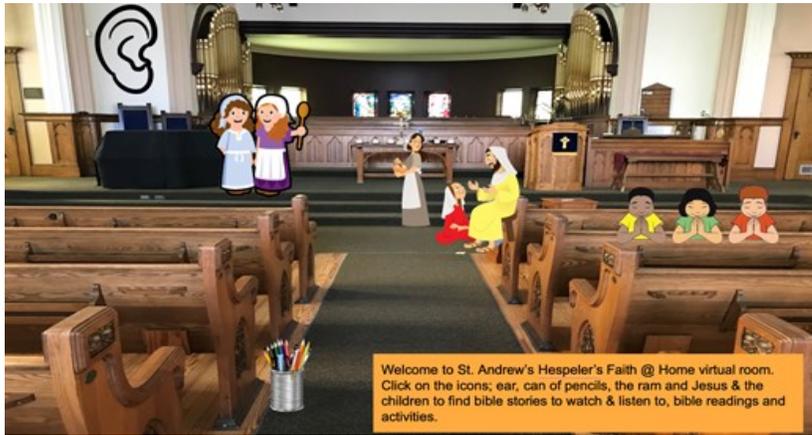
Amerika Tharu is a 52-year-old carpenter from Nepal. In early 2020, he developed a fever, and his face began swelling. Amerika sought help at two different hospitals, where he was misdiagnosed and underwent expensive treatment that didn't address the problem. His poor health affected every area of his life, including his career. Eventually, his son brought him to see a doctor who suspected that Amerika might have leprosy and sent him to the Presbyterian World Service & Development-supported Shining Hospital. The hospital's medical staff confirmed the diagnosis, and **Amerika received the treatment he needed,**

allowing him to return home and resume his livelihood.



News for Families:

- Faith @ Home packages will be delivered weekly during Lent and Easter. Please check your porches, usually Monday mornings.
- Don't forget to check out our Faith @ Home online room. It is posted on our website, Facebook page and twitter each Saturday morning. You are free to check in whenever you have time throughout the week. There are Bible readings, stories to listen to and activities to find, all new each week.



Next Sunday we are thrilled to be able to celebrate the baptism of Charlotte Cochrane, daughter of Charles and Nichole. There is a beautiful story behind this event, so make sure you join us to hear it!



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Let us Join in Prayer



Prayer Partnership

Engaging in God's Mission Through Word and Action

Sunday, April 3 (Fifth Sunday in Lent) We pray for the medical staff at the Shining Hospital in Nepal as they treat illnesses with support from the church through Presbyterian World Service & Development.

Monday, April 4 We pray for the ministry of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Fredericton, New Brunswick, as they seek new ways of reaching out to their neighbours.

Tuesday, April 5 We pray for congregations that have or are seeking Interim/Transitional Ministry and give thanks for those working as interim ministers.

Wednesday, April 6 We give thanks for those who work and volunteer with food banks.

Thursday, April 7 We give thanks

and pray for community health workers who help to ensure the people they work with stay healthy and have access to medical attention when needed.

Friday, April 8 We pray for the people who gather and serve at the house churches in the Cariboo region of British Columbia, and we give thanks for their mission and ministry.

Saturday, April 9 We pray for the members and work of the Life and Mission Agency Committee.

Food Bank needs this week: milk, cheese, and eggs.

Hope Clothing needs this week: we have many people asking for rubber boots, in all sizes. Children and adults! We are also now accepting donations of spring and summer clothing.