

# St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church November 27, 2022 First Sunday in Advent

**St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church**  
**73 Queen Street East,**  
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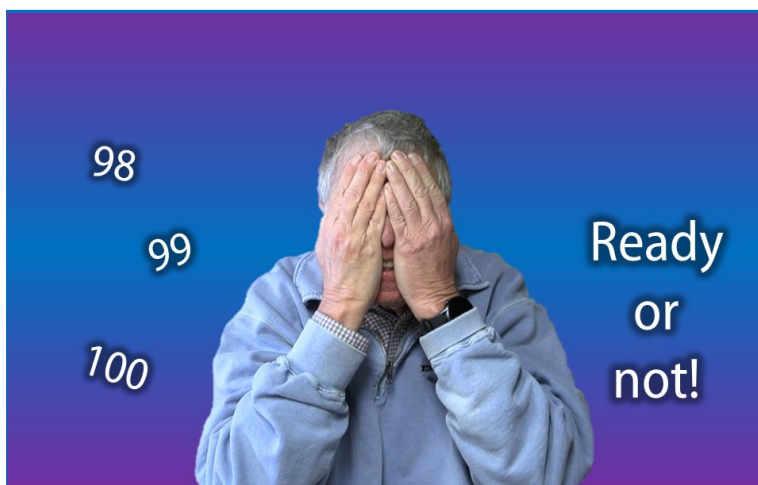
Prayer Requests: [prayerchain@standrewshespeler.ca](mailto:prayerchain@standrewshespeler.ca)

Website: [www.standrewshespeler.ca](http://www.standrewshespeler.ca)

Office Hours:

Monday—Friday 9am-12pm

**Order of Worship.** We will meet online and in person at 10 am. The link will be posted on the website. When you attend in person, masking and social distancing are encouraged.



## Welcome

### Lighting the Advent Candle

**L:** The season of Advent begins, and we celebrate the hope we find in the good news of the Gospel.

**P:** **Through the birth of a tiny and helpless child, God comes to save the world.**

**L:** While we watch and wait for Jesus, we join God's mission by bringing grace and mercy to those who need it most.

**P:** **We engage the poor and the poor in spirit, letting Christ's light shine through us.**

**L:** We speak words of comfort and love to a world in need of hope and healing as we share our stories of God's transforming Spirit.

**P:** **Together, we are a sign of God's hope for the world.**  
*(The candle is lit)*

**L:** Let us pray:

**P:** **God of surprising grace, when we least expect it you bring fresh new life; and where we feel that all is lost, you bring redemption. Give us courage as we share all you have done, all you are doing, and all you will accomplish through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Sung response: The Holy Fire Of Advent

The fire of hope awakes our hearts when in despair we're sleeping.

It speaks of light while through the night the shadows swiftly creep in.

Come, see the sparks of life that burn against the pow'r of strife;

Come, stand within its glow, the holy fire of Advent.

Lyrics by Rev. Elana Keppel Levy, 2022

## Prayer of Confession

**P:** **God of hope, we confess that we often prefer accepting half-truths and pleasing ideas, rather than your challenging word. We praise our own cleverness rather than your wisdom. We have exploited others for our benefit and used the earth without a thought for its wellbeing. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct who we shall be through the mercy of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**L:** Receive the Good News in hope. With great mercy, God forgives what we have confessed and offers us new life in Christ. Trust in the hope that you are forgiven and that, with God, new things are possible.

**P:** **We will, Amen!**

Hymn #124: People in darkness

1. People in darkness are looking for light.

Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.

People with blindness are longing for sight.

Come, Lord Jesus Christ.

These days of adventure when all people wait  
are days for the advent of love.

2. People with sickness are praying for health.

Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.

People in poverty want to have wealth.

Come, Lord Jesus Christ.

These days of adventure when all people wait  
are days for the advent of hope.

3. People in trouble would like to be free.  
Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.  
People with arguments want to agree.  
Come, Lord Jesus Christ.  
These days of adventure when all people wait  
are days for the advent of peace.

4. People in sadness are trying to sing.  
Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.  
Bells in the steeple are waiting to ring.  
Come, Lord Jesus Christ.  
These days of adventure when all people wait  
are days for the advent of joy.

Words: v.1-3, © Dosia Carlson, 1983. v.4, © Ken and Jeanne Stright, 1996

Song: Lay your Burden Down (M. Laur & A. Tarpos)

Responsive Reading: Psalm 122

L: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the  
house of the LORD!"

**P: Our feet are standing within your gates, O  
Jerusalem.**

L: Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly  
together. To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,  
as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name  
of the LORD.

**P: For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the  
thrones of the house of David.**

L: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

**P: "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within  
your walls and security within your towers."**

L: For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say,  
"Peace be within you."

**P: For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will  
seek your good.**

Hymn #119: Hope is a Star

1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.

*Chorus:*

*When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.*

2. Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
*giving a promise of safety and worth. Chorus*

3. Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
*telling the world that the Saviour is born. Chorus*

4. Love is a flame that burns in our heart.  
Jesus has come and will never depart. *Chorus*

Words: copyright © 1989 by Hope Publishing Co.

Video Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Joni Smith

Matthew 24:36-44

<sup>36</sup> "But about that day and hour no one knows,  
neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the  
Father. <sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the  
coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days before  
the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and  
giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the  
ark, <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and  
swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the  
Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be  
taken, and one will be left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be  
grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will  
be left. <sup>42</sup> Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know  
on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But understand this:  
if the owner of the house had known in what part of the  
night the thief was coming, he would have stayed  
awake and would not have let his house be broken  
into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of  
Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Family Time

Life and work of the church

Offertory: "Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland" by A. N.  
Vetter  
Martin Bohl

Celebration of our Generosity

Sermon: **Ready or Not**

Hymn 110: Come, thou long-expected Jesus

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver;  
born a child and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever;  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Words: Public domain

Song: Look to the Rainbow (Burton Lane, E.Y. Harburg)

Prayers of the People

Benediction

Postlude: Postlude and Fughetta by G. F. Handel

## Other Lectionary Readings:

Romans 13:11-14

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

## Next Week's Sermon:



Building  
True  
Peace

## What's happening this week at St. Andrew's

**Monday: Breakfast on Queen, 6:30 -8:30 am**

**Tuesday: Our annual 'Giving Tuesday' campaign launches**

**Hope Clothing, 9:00am - 11:30 am**

**Wednesday: Parade & Candy Cane Prep, 10:00 am**

**Thursday: Hope Clothing, Noon - 2:00 pm**

We give thanks to those who helped with worship today:

Organist: Martin Bohl

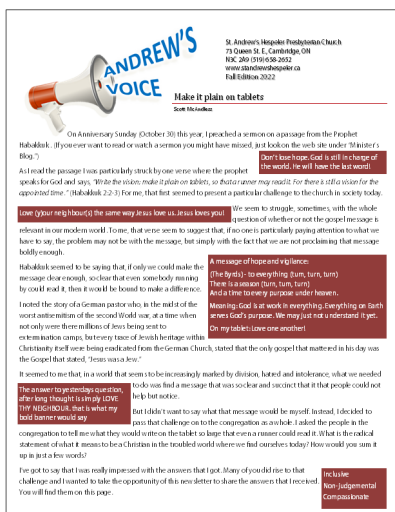
Tech Team: Dylan Smith & Laura Einwechter

Greeters: Joanne Waugh, Cash & Lailah

Beadle: Vern Platt

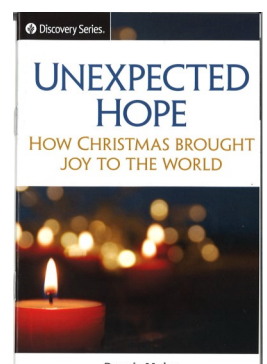
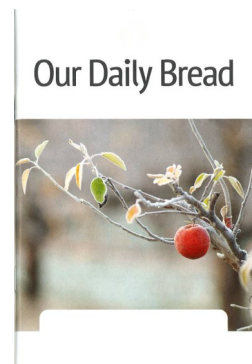
We welcome our special guest musicians :  
**Marsha Laur and Anastasios Tarpos**

New daily devotional from "Our Daily Bread" have landed in the mailbox and the communications centre. There is also a new booklet called "Unexpected Hope," for Christmas. These (together with "Today" booklets) are made available for your use.



The new November issue of our congregational newsletter "Andrew's Voice" is out today. Please pick up a physical copy in the sanctuary or in the "bulletins" mailbox. You can also download a copy on the church web site. However you get it, please read it as it contains some very important and exciting information!

Help us to get it out to everyone who would be interested by passing it on too!







Thank you to our incredible decorators, Karen Nixon and Brenda Holm, who have so beautifully prepared our sanctuary and building for Advent and Christmas this year. It just makes everything more wonderful!

It's Advent and it's that time of year again! This year we would like to invite you to help us fill up the space under our Christmas tree with personal hygiene items, toilet paper, kleenex and house hold cleaning products. These items are very expensive and always appreciated by the people who access our programs. The items will be distributed, free of charge, in the new year. Items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant (men & women), shaving supplies (for both men and women), laundry detergent and softener, Lysol, etc. are all needed.

Please join us on Tuesday, November 29th as St. Andrew's begins our annual, month long, Giving Tuesday campaign. If you have received a letter in the mail recently please watch your mail boxes. This letter will highlight our campaign goals and ways to make donations. During December we will be having some fun highlighting out outreach programs, our volunteers and YOU!

Giving Tuesday is the world's largest generosity movement. It was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good: make someone smile, help a neighbour or stranger, show up for an issue you care about, or give some of what you have to those in need. Over the past nine years it has since grown into a global movement, unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world.

Giving Tuesday is a time when Canadians, charities, and businesses come together to celebrate giving and participate in activities that support charities and non-profits; to thank, help, give, show kindness, and share what they have with those in need.

Every act of generosity counts. Everybody has something to give.



# TODAY IS GIVING TUESDAY

*Join us today to celebrate  
the world's largest  
generosity movement!*

#GIVINGTUESDAYCA

Last Sunday we asked people to do “Christ the King” Acrostics. Here are three that were done by our young folk:

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S  
T  
Christ  
Heart  
Rest  
Intelligent  
Sorrow  
Thinking

C  
H  
R  
I  
S  
T  
Church and Christ  
Helps us do what is  
Right.  
I Love Jesus  
So I will always  
Trust and follow him.

C  
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CHRIST  
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## DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, November 27 (First Sunday of Advent)** Nourish our hope during this season of waiting, O God, as we prepare to receive Christ among us again.

**Monday, November 28** We pray for the safety of all those whose lives have been uprooted by the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, and we give thanks for the emergency support that Presbyterians in Canada are helping to provide through Presbyterian World Service & Development.

**Tuesday, November 29** We pray for congregations participating in the PCC's New Beginnings Renewal Program as they work to discern God's call for their future and plan a way forward.

**Wednesday, November 30** We pray for theological students who are graduating this winter and beginning to seek a call to a congregation.

**Thursday, December 1 (World AIDS Day)** We pray for the millions of people affected by HIV and AIDS. We give thanks for Presbyterian World Service & Development partners who provide vital support to those living with HIV/AIDS and also pray for improved access to health care and life-saving treatments.

**Friday, December 2** We pray for the people who gather and serve at the Anamiewigummig Fellowship Centre in Kenora, Ontario, and we give thanks for their ministry.

**Saturday, December 3** On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we pray for the empowerment of differences in gifts and abilities, along with the removal of barriers that keep people from participating fully in community and church life.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada



**Prayer  
Partnership**

Engaging in God's Mission  
Through Word and Action

## Mission Moment – Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>

Raamia fled to Pakistan with her daughter after divorcing her abusive husband in Afghanistan. As a single mother, Raamia made and sold handicrafts to support herself and her daughter, Zainab.

On their way to the city of Lahore, she and her daughter got into accident. Her daughter was unharmed, but Raaima was severely injured, resulting in her arm having to be amputated. After the accident, she could not continue working on her handicrafts. Raamia and her daughter were selected to receive cash support from a project by Community World Service Asia, a Presbyterian World Service & Development partner. “I was able to buy some food supplies with the money I received,” she said.



an



**Presbyterian  
World Service  
& Development**

This project is helping refugee families who have fled Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover.