

**St. Andrew's Hespeler
Presbyterian Church
December 11th, 2022
Third Sunday in Advent**

**St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church
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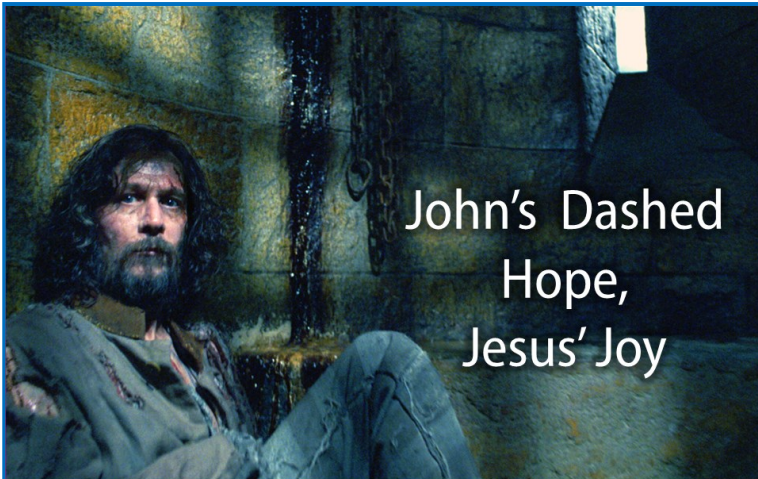
Prayer Requests: prayerchain@standrewshespeler.ca

Website: www.standrewshespeler.ca

Office Hours:

Monday—Friday 9am-12pm

Order of Worship. We will meet in person at 10 am. You may also join us online. The link will be posted on the website. If you wish to attend in person, masking and social distancing are encouraged.



**John's Dashed
Hope,
Jesus' Joy**

Welcome

Lighting of the Candle

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

P: Knowing that Christ is coming to bring healing and wholeness to the world is a source of delight!

L: When we gather for worship it is a celebration, an opportunity to rejoice in all that God is doing among us and beyond us.

P: We welcome our neighbours and celebrate God's goodness.

L: Even when we face difficulty and trouble we sing a song of faith, confident that Jesus is able to redeem our suffering world.

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

L: Let us pray:

P: God of transformation, we rejoice that you lift up the lowly and bind up the broken hearted. We marvel at your power to change hearts and lives. Fill us with your Spirit this season so that our voices declare your goodness and our lives proclaim your mercy in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sung Response:

The pulse of joy flies through our veins – the grace of God flows in us.

Its steady thrum helps us become disciples following Jesus.

Hold fast the Spirit's way, though evil holds such a strong sway.

Embrace new life in Christ, the holy fire of Advent.

Prayer of Confession

P: Gracious Judge, we look around us and we are not proud of what we see. People criticize each other and listen only to those who agree with them. We grumble and think the past holds the solutions, forgetting its inequities and iniquities. We are impatient for things to improve but we do not want to change our ways. Forgive us for sharing in the unhappy mood of our times, and renew in us the joy and gratitude we once knew for your gifts to us in Christ Jesus.

L: Receive the Good News in joy. With great mercy, God forgives what we have confessed and offers us new life in Christ. Rejoice that you can make a new beginning and share the joy in mercy and forgiveness with others.

P: We will. Amen!

Carol #141 Good Christians, all rejoice

1. Good Christians, all rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now give heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today,
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now
Christ is born today; Christ is born today.

2. Good Christians, all rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now you hear of endless bliss:

Jesus Christ was born for this.
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this.

3. Good Christians, all rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now you need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save,
calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save; Christ was born to save.

Words: public domain

Video Reading: Luke 1:47-55

Matthew 11:2-11

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Carol #143 Infant holy, Infant lowly

1. Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, nowells ringing, tidings bringing:

Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.

2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new,
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:

Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.

Words: public domain

Family Time

Life and work of the church

Offertory: Voluntary by John Stanley Martin Bohl

Celebration of our Generosity

Sermon: John's Dashed Hope, Jesus' Joy

Carol #144 'Twas in the moon of wintertime

1. 'Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds
had fled,
That mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim, and wandering
hunters heard the hymn
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis Gloria.

2. Within a lodge of broken bark the tender Babe was
found;
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty
round,
But, as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song
rang loud and high:
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis Gloria.

3. The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and
fair
As was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and
beaver pelt.
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis Gloria.

4. O children of the forest free, the kin of Manitou,
The holy child of earth and heaven is born today for
you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy, who brings you
beauty, peace and joy.
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis Gloria.

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Prayers of the People

Benediction

Postlude: Wachet Auf by Max Reger Martin Bohl

Other lectionary readings this week:

Isaiah 35

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

James 5:7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.



Casting Call! I need your help with our Christmas Eve movie. This Sunday following our worship service I invite **ALL**, all of our young and young of heart to help out. There will be costumes available to dress up as shepherds, angels, magi, Joseph, Mary for you to wear briefly as I take photos. The photos will then be incorporated into an intergenerational video.

This week at St. Andrew's:

Monday: **Breakfast on Queen,** 6:30 — 8:30 AM

Tuesday: **Hope Clothing** 9:00 — 11:30 AM

Thursday: **Hope Clothing and Food Bank** Noon — 2:00 PM

We give thanks to those who were involved in worship this morning:

Greeters: Bill and Marg Hunter

Beadle: Bill Hunter

Tech Team: Laura Einwechter & Dylan Smith

Organist: Martin Bohl

Candle Lighters: Joanne, Lailah and Cash

As always there will be special services for Christmas this year. All of these services will be in person and you may also join by Zoom or Facebook Live.

- **Wed. December 21 at 7:30 pm** — Longest night service. A reflective time for those who may deal with difficult emotions at this time of the year. Includes Communion.
- **Saturday December 24 at 6:00 pm** — Family Christmas Eve Service
- **Saturday December 24 at 8:00 pm** — Carols and Communion Candlelight Service
- **Sunday, December 25 at 10 am** — Christmas morning service. A short and simple service for those who can come.

GIVING TUESDAY

Living in Christ, Sharing His Love

Celebrating our service to our community!

This week we highlight the many programs that the people of St. Andrew's offer to our community. After a two year, pandemic pause, some of our programs are returning and even new ones are emerging.

- For most of the pandemic we did serve as the Hespeler Off site location for emergency hampers for the Cambridge Food Bank. We have completely taken over the operation of this for the Food Bank. We put in the orders for food and they deliver the food here for us, but the rest is run by a wonderful group of volunteers. Roughly half of this 20 member team is from church, and half community members. We also serve take out soup once per month for food bank and Hope Clothing clients.
- Thursday Night Supper & Social (TNSS) has just started up again this fall. A delicious home cooked meal is served on the second Thursday of the month. The leadership team of TNSS has changed in the past two years so a once a month model was adopted to make sure that it is sustainable. There is a wonderful group of church and community member volunteers who work to make this happen every month.
- Breakfast on Queen is a brand new initiative. Delicious, home cooked breakfasts are served every Monday morning. As with starting any new program it will take a while to build up, but so far this is an appreciated meal by church and community members. Again there is a group of volunteers from the church and our Hespeler community.
- Hope Clothing continued throughout most of the pandemic, once we figured out how to serve people in a safe way. Now we are back to offering in person shopping two days during the week. We are excited to say that in January we will start to offer in person shopping on the first Saturday of the month. Once again the amazing volunteer team for Hope Clothing is made up of people from St. Andrew's and the community.
- We have just recently welcomed back the Hespeler Outreach Worker from The House of Friendship. The pandemic gave some organizations an opportunity to examine why/how they offered services and where. As a result, the Outreach Workers now go to where the people already are. The Hespeler Outreach Worker is available on Thursdays during the times when the food bank and Hope Clothing are open. Families needing help can access this service. We work closely with this Outreach worker to better serve the community of Hespeler.

Providing a home to community groups!

- We are pleased to provide gym space to Glimmer, a Rhythmic Gymnastics club with classes offered in Toronto, Barrie and here as well as in Europe. Glimmer has athletes who compete for Team Canada. You can check them out here: <https://glimmerathletic.com>
- The Scouting groups are back into full swing this fall, too. Various groups meet on different evenings/times throughout the week.
- The TOPS (Take Pounds Off Sensibly) group meets weekly.
- The Hespeler A-A groups are just starting to meet at St. Andrew's again after a pandemic pause. In normal circumstances an A-A, Al-Anon & Al-Ateen group are all offered, at the same time, on Friday evenings. Offering all three groups at the same time is unique to Hespeler. The A-A Meditation group hopes to resume meeting mid-week soon.

Receiving some love from the community!

- Hope Clothing could not provide its services without the donations from our church and community. The Hespeler community is an extremely generous community and this allows us to offer some very nice, new or very gently used clothing items. We always have a great selection that changes weekly. If ever we run short of something in particular we post in on social media and soon the needed items show up
- Monetary donations from community members and community groups also helps ensure that Hope Clothing continues to serve this community. Last December the Hespeler Legion presented us with a very generous cheque (part of the proceeds from one of their events). This November the Cambridge Highlands Lions Club included us in their Christmas give-aways, presenting us with a case of brand new, children's winter coats and a generous cheque. This particular cheque was to ensure that the clothing and food programs can continue at St. Andrew's.
- Monetary contributions have also been given by individuals in the community to help provide food for our meal programs.
- The Cambridge Food Bank has closed their clothing room, in part because we have one that their clients are welcome to access. The Food Bank passes along donations of brand new clothing that have been gifted to them by various businesses in the region.

Will you consider making a GivingTuesday contribution? GivingTuesday gifts can be allocated 3 ways: to the Christian Education, to Worship or to our Mission work.

Instructions for making 2022 GivingTuesday Campaign Gifts:

- *GivingTuesday* Campaign gifts can be made online at www.standrewshespeler.ca and use the "Donate Now" button. From there you can choose where your *GivingTuesday* gift should go.
- *GivingTuesday* Campaign gifts can be either sent via mail in the enclosed envelope to the church office or placed on the Sunday morning offering plate. **Please do not send cash via external mail.**
 - If making a *GivingTuesday* Campaign gift using your Offering Envelope, please clearly mark the amount to be designated to this campaign on the envelope so that it can be distinguished from your regular giving.
 - If not using your Offering Envelope nor the envelope provided, please ensure the outside of the envelope you use clearly indicates (a) **your name** and (b) that the amount inside is to be **designated to the GivingTuesday Campaign**
- All one time *GivingTuesday* Campaign gifts of \$20 or more will be receipted for tax purposes if a proper name and address is supplied.



Many thanks to everyone who was a part of St. Andrew's float in last weekend's Hespeler Santa Claus parade.

We managed to stay dry and we didn't blow away! We had lots of fun!

Thanks also, to Glen McKittrick for once again lending us the straw bales!



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We need your help! On December 22nd, from noon—2:00 pm we will be having a mini Christmas day and we would like to be able to share some small packages of Christmas cookies. If you can bake, please consider helping us bring a little Christmas cheer to people who are struggling.



The Cambridge Food Bank will be available on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month beginning in December. We serve approximately 25 - 30 different families on each of these days. We are always looking for volunteers to help out. If you'd like to join this fun and supportive group please speak with Joni.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, December 11 (Third Sunday of Advent) Give us joy, O God, as we prepare to welcome Christ among us again.

Monday, December 12 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.

Tuesday, December 13 We pray for chaplains serving in hospitals, retirement homes and other health-care facilities across Canada.

Wednesday, December 14 We pray for Indigenous women in Guatemala as they learn their rights and are empowered to exercise them with support from the church through Presbyterian World Service & Development.

Thursday, December 15 We pray for the members and work of the Atlantic Mission Society.

Friday, December 16 We pray for those struggling with spiritual and mental health during the holidays. May they reach out for help and find faithful and supportive spiritual care providers.

Saturday, December 17 O God, you are the giver of life. We pray for the church throughout the world. May God renew its worship, nurture its growth, empower its witness and restore its unity as we continue Christ's ministry.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada



**Prayer
Partnership**

Engaging in God's Mission
Through Word and Action

Mission Moment – Sunday, December 11th

In Nepal, 70-year-old Dhani Gharti found a boil on the sole of her foot. When she sought treatment, Dhani received a diagnosis of leprosy. Despite taking medication for a year, Dhani's wound kept coming back. One day, Dhani's friend told her about the Presbyterian World Service & Development-supported Shining Hospital, a Christian hospital run by the International Nepal Fellowship, where she thought Dhani could get more successful treatment. "Every time I visit the Shining Hospital with my wounded foot, the nurses always welcome me and give the best medical care. They always show love and care while dressing my wounds," shared Dhani.

