

**St. Andrew's Hespeler  
Presbyterian Church  
December 18th, 2022  
Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church  
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Website: [www.standrewshespeler.ca](http://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.



Welcome

Lighting of the Candle of Love

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

**P: Soon we will welcome the beautiful and radical love of God as Jesus Christ comes to live among us.**

L: We embrace our identity as God's beloved children and let this truth guide our decisions and relationships.

**P: In our homes and in our church we offer hospitality, welcoming those we don't know, those who are in need, and those who are different from us.**

L: We demonstrate our care for creation in real and tangible ways through the products we buy, the food we eat, and the way we live every day.

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

L: Let us pray:

**P: God of extravagant generosity, in Jesus we discover the depth of your care and the lengths you will go to save us. Forgive us when we ignore those in need, trample your creation and refuse to share all that we receive from you. Teach us to love our neighbours, caring for each other in the name of**

**Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Sung Response:

*The song of love, first dreamt by God, is everywhere indwelling.*

*Its tune ascends and has no end – yet we're so often rebelling.*

*We, too, can lift our voice – as saints throughout the world rejoice.*

*Transformed by serving all, the holy fire of Advent.*

Prayer of Confession

**P: Lord of love, We confess we sometimes find your love daunting. You called Joseph to honour his love for Mary, even when custom called him to break his engagement. We confess custom has a hold on us, too, and challenging expectations for love's sake makes us nervous. You call us to love our neighbour, but we resist your call if our neighbours annoy us. You call us to love our enemies, too, but that seems impossible in these contentious times. Forgive us for loving only in the safest situations. Dare us to love as Jesus loved so he will be born again in us.**

L: Receive the Good News in love. With great mercy, God forgives what we have confessed and offers us new life in Christ. Know that God's steadfast love is yours this day, and share that love with friend and enemy alike, so that the power of such love can change the world.

**P: Amen!**

Carol #148 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"To all the earth good-will and peace,  
from heaven's all-gracious King";

the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

3. But with the woes of sin and strife,  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel strain have rolled  
wo thousand years of wrong,  
but we, through din of war, hear not  
the love-song which they bring.  
Oh hush the noise, oh still the strife and hear the angels  
sing.

4. And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,  
look now! For glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing.  
Oh rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

5. For lo! The days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
God's promised splendours fling,  
and all the world take up the song, which now the  
angels sing

*Words: public domain*

Psalms 80: 1-7, 17-19

L: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph  
like a flock!

**P: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine  
forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.  
Stir up your might, and come to save us!**

L: Restore us, O God;

**P: Let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

L: O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with  
your people's prayers?

**P: You have fed them with the bread of tears and given  
them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the  
scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among  
themselves.**

L: Restore us, O God of hosts;

**P: Let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

L: But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one whom you made strong for yourself.

**P: Then we will never turn back from you; give us life,  
and we will call on your name.**

L: Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;

**P: Let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Video Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 by Joanne Waugh

Isaiah 7: 10-16

<sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> "Ask a  
sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or  
high as heaven." <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I  
will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said,  
"Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to  
weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore  
the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young  
woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name  
him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the  
time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the  
good. <sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to refuse the  
evil and choose the good, the land before whose two  
kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Hymn 165 O little town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go  
by:  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee  
tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of  
wondering love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on  
earth.

3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings born of  
heaven.

No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ  
enters in.

4. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
oh come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.

*Words: Public domain*

Family Time

Life and work of the church

Offertory: O come, O come, Immanuel by Roger Wilson

Celebration of our Generosity

Sermon: I Dream of Joseph

Carol #166 Once in royal David's city

1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

2. Christ came down to earth from heaven, who is God  
and Lord of all,  
sheltered by a humble stable, cradled in a cattle stall:  
with the poor, oppressed and lowly, lived on earth our  
Saviour holy,

3. and our eyes at last shall see him, through his own  
redeeming love,  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven  
above,  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is  
gone.

4. Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing  
by,  
we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand  
on high;  
there God's children gather round, bright like stars, with  
glory crowned.

*Words: Public Domain*

Prayers of the People

Benediction

Postlude: Once in Royal David's City by Donald Johns

### Other lectionary readings this week:

Romans 1:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup> To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Greeter: Sylvia Brooks

Beadle: Elaine McLean

Organist: Martin Bohl

Advent Candle Lighters: Jean and Ray Godin

Refreshments: Brenda Holm and Jean Godin

**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. (Organist: Martin Bohl)
- **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.



## 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

As a follow up to our November Andrew's Voice Newsletter, you'll know we are getting ready to embark on a very exciting journey in January to re-discover God's plan for St. Andrew's Hespeler! Our team of Randy Rattansingh, Joni Smith, Sylvia Brooks, Steve Marsh, Scott McAndless and Donald Paddock has been working closely with our journey partner Cathy Stewart from Credence and Co. over the last several months to develop our journey's itinerary. Please watch your inbox or mailbox for important **Hold The Date** postcards. We look forward to you joining us on this journey! Hold the Date cards will be available at the back of the sanctuary as well.

### DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, December 18 (Fourth Sunday of Advent)** We pray that the love we know in Christ will nourish and nurture our love until we conform to the pattern of Christ's life.

**Monday, December 19** We pray for church planting initiatives in the church.

**Tuesday, December 20** We pray for refugees who have been displaced by war and famine.

**Wednesday, December 21** We pray that LGBTQI2+ people whose families have rejected them will feel God's comforting presence as they find love and support in their chosen families.

**Thursday, December 22** We pray for those who are prayerfully discerning a call to join God's mission around the world, to walk with, serve and learn from international partners.

**Friday, December 23** Christ who was born for us, help us to know you, worship you, serve you and be transformed by you.

**Saturday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)** Christ was born as one of us and, in him, God shows us how much the world is loved. We pray that God's love blesses and fills the world.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada



**Prayer  
Partnership**

Engaging in God's Mission  
Through Word and Action

## Mission Moment – Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup>

Through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, Cyclical PCC supports many important outreach ministries in Canada. One such ministry is the Presbytery of Montreal's Communauté Rivière des Prairies, a new worshipping community in the city's east end. Rivière des

Prairies embraces multilingualism in their church services

and children's programming, providing an open and welcoming space for newcomers to Canada. Over five different languages and dialects are used by the ministry to connect with newcomers, both in the church family and in the wider community.



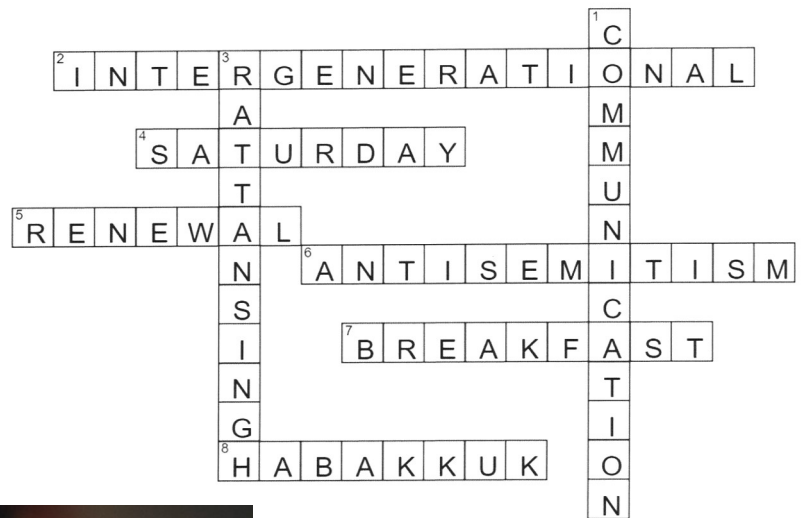


We need your help! On December 22nd, from noon—2:00 pm we will be having a mini Christmas day and we would like to be able to share some small packages of Christmas cookies. If you can bake, please consider helping us bring a little Christmas cheer to people who are struggling.

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.



Here is the solution to the puzzle that was in our November Newsletter. How did you do?



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