

# St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

## January 1st, 2023

### Epiphany Sunday

**St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church**  
**73 Queen Street East,**  
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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

#### **Responsive Call to Worship**

**L:** Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights!

**P:** Praise the Lord, sun and moon; give praise, all  
shining stars!

**L:** Give praise, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind  
fulfilling God's command!

**P:** Give praise, hills and mountains.

**L:** All people together, let us praise the name of the Lord  
and declare God's glory in heaven and on earth.

**P:** Let us worship God!

Prayer:

**L:** God of majesty and mystery, like the magi following  
the star, we come to you in wonder. Your purposes  
are beyond our comprehension, your majesty  
incomparable and your love beyond imagination and  
your presence always with us. We praise you for your  
steadfast love, and offer you our trust for the days  
ahead as we seek to follow faithfully in the footsteps  
of Christ, our newborn King.

**P:** God of light and life, you have come to us in Christ  
Jesus to open a path to new life, but we fall back on  
what is familiar. We confess that we are in love

**with our old ways and our resolution for change is  
all to short. Forgive us when our resolve wavers and  
shine your light on the way we can follow into your  
future.**

**L:** If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Be  
assured of God's forgiveness. Make a new start this  
year, be at peace with God, secure in the knowledge  
of God's love.

**P:** We will with God's help.

Carol #136 The first nowell

3. And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far,  
to search for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell!  
Born is the King of Israel.

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell!  
Born is the King of Israel.

5. Then entered in those wise men three  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell!  
Born is the King of Israel.

6. Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our souls hath bought.  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell!  
Born is the King of Israel.

*Words: public domain*

Responsive Psalm 148

L: Praise the LORD!

**P: Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!**

L: Praise him, all his angels;

**P: praise him, all his host!**

L: Praise him, sun and moon;

**P: praise him, all you shining stars!**

L: Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!

**P: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.**

L: He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

**P: Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,**

L: fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

**P: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!**

L: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

**P: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!**

L: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

**P: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.**

L: He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,

**P: for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!**

Matthew 2:13-23

<sup>13</sup> Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. <sup>17</sup> Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup> "A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no

more."

<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." <sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

Hymn #172 As with gladness, men of old

1. As with gladness, men of old  
Did the guiding star behold  
As with joy they hailed its light  
Leading onward, beaming bright  
So, most glorious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led to Thee.

2. As with joyful steps they sped  
To that lowly manger bed  
There to bend the knee before  
Him Whom Heaven and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

3. As they offered gifts most rare  
At that manger rude and bare;  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

4. Holy Jesus, every day  
keep us in the narrow way,  
and when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds of glory hide.

5. In that heavenly country bright  
need they no created light:  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun which goes not down;  
there forever may we sing  
hallelujahs to our King.

Words: Public domain

Family Time

Life and work of the church

Offertory: Pastoral by A. Corelli

Celebration of our Generosity

Sermon: A funny thing happened on the way home from Egypt

Carol #173 We three kings

1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we  
traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following  
yonder star.

*Refrain:* O star of wonder, star of light, star of royal  
beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy  
perfect light.

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to  
crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. *Refrain*

3. Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity  
nigh,  
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshipping God on  
high. *Refrain*

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of  
gathering gloom,  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-  
cold tomb. *Refrain*

5. Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and  
sacrifice:  
hallelujah, hallelujah, sounds through the earth and  
skies. *Refrain*

*Words: Public Domain*

Prayers of the People

Benediction

Postlude: Wie schoen leuchtet der Morgenstern by  
J.C. Bach

We are thankful to those who were involved in worship  
this morning:

- Tech Support: Laura Einwechter
- Organist: Martin Bohl

### Other lectionary readings this week:

Isaiah 63:7-9

<sup>7</sup> I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,  
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,  
because of all that the LORD has done for us  
and the great favor to the house of Israel

that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

<sup>8</sup> For he said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will not act deceitfully,"

and he became their savior

<sup>9</sup> in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel

but his presence that saved them;

in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;

he lifted them up and carried them all the days  
of old.

Hebrews 2:10-18

<sup>10</sup> It was fitting that God, for whom and through  
whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory,  
should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect  
through sufferings. <sup>11</sup> For the one who sanctifies and  
those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this  
reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and  
sisters, <sup>12</sup> saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise  
you."

<sup>13</sup> And again,

"I will put my trust in him."

And again,

"Here am I and the children whom God has given  
me."

<sup>14</sup> Since, therefore, the children share flesh and  
blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so  
that through death he might destroy the one who has  
the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and free those  
who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of  
death. <sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help  
angels but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he  
had to become like his brothers and sisters in every  
respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful  
high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of  
atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he  
himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to  
help those who are being tested.



The sympathy of the  
congregation is  
extended to Jack  
Krueger & family and  
Terry & Janice Barnard  
& family on the death of  
Barb last week. Please  
keep the Barnard and

Krueger families in your prayers during this difficult time.

## Happy New Year! Many Regular Activities will Restart Soon

**Hope Clothing** will reopen after the holidays on this coming Saturday morning. This is a new initiative to help families who can't come during the week. Please pray for successful connections.

**Breakfast on Queen** will restart on January 8, 2023

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.

Next week, to help us prepare for this journey, Steve Marsh (one of the reference group members) will be preaching for us. The sermon title will be **"Who's gonna feed them hogs?"**

### DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, January 1 (New Year's Day)** We give thanks for the start of a new year. May God give us hope, joy and peace for the year ahead.

**Monday, January 2** We give thanks for the faithful generosity of congregations across Canada as we share in mission and ministry together through Presbyterians Sharing.

**Tuesday, January 3** We pray for the Canadian Armed Forces and all military chaplains who bring guidance and support to our troops and their families.

**Wednesday, January 4** We give thanks and pray for Bishop István Csúry of the Királyhágómellék District of the Reformed Church in Romania as he retires after 12 years of faithful service.

**Thursday, January 5** We give thanks for the many contributions of migrant workers in Canada. We pray that decision makers will support legislation that opens pathways to permanent residency for migrant workers as well as better protection of their rights.

**Friday, January 6 (Epiphany)** Source of Wisdom and Creator of the heavens who led the Magi to worship the Christ child, guide us so that we may find our calling and journey's end in Jesus Christ.

**Saturday, January 7** We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Newfoundland.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada



**Prayer  
Partnership**

Engaging in God's Mission  
Through Word and Action

### Mission Moment – Sunday January 1st

When we give to Presbyterians Sharing, we express our faith. Together, we continue Christ's ministry by engaging in vibrant and faithful ministries in our communities, our country and around the world. Together, we call for justice and act with compassion. We support ministries with Indigenous people, both in and outside Canada. We send mission staff to accompany international partners. We support ministries that provide aid for refugees, people involved in the sex trade and all who are vulnerable to exploitation. We start and build new faith communities and

encourage and support congregations renewing their ministries. **Together, we are making a difference. Together, we are Presbyterians Sharing!**

