

**St. Andrew's Hespeler  
Presbyterian Church  
January 29th, 2023  
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church  
73 Queen Street East,  
Cambridge, ON N3C 2A9  
519-658-2652**

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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: God calls us to seek justice:

**P: Let Christ's love for the poor and hungry fill the earth.**

L: God calls us to show kindness,

**P: Let Christ's light shine in places of brokenness and despair.**

L: God calls us to walk humbly in the Spirit,

**P: Let us join the work of the kingdom in humility and hope.**

L: Called, blessed and inspired, let us worship God together.

Opening Prayers:

L: God of wisdom and blessing, on this cold day we come into the warmth of your presence. Here we find shelter in the strength of your promises; here we find welcome in your tender care. Grateful for the protection you provide, thankful for the comfort of your community, we offer our praise to you. For you give blessing when the world condemns; you bring freedom when the culture confines. Embrace us with your love in this hour of worship as we offer you our

love in return. Through Christ our Lord we pray.  
Amen.

**P: God of the ages, we confess the world's wisdom attracts us, in advertisement and argument. We fail to measure messages according to the wisdom in your Word. We find calls to do justice too demanding, for the world has taught us to look to our own interests first. Forgive us, we pray. Renew us with your mercy, so that we may walk more humbly with you and each other day by day. Amen.**

L: Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Though God knows our failings, forgiveness is ours in Jesus Christ. Rejoice and be glad for his renewing love.

**P: Thanks be to God!**

Hymn #624 Blest are they

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.

*Refrain: Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you!*

*Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the Kingdom of God!*

2. Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth.

Blest are they, who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill. *Refrain*

3. Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs. Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God!  
*Refrain*

4. Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.

Blest are they who suffer in faith, the glory of God is theirs. *Refrain*

5. Blest are you who suffer hate all because of me.  
Rejoice and be glad – yours is the kingdom – shine for all  
to see. *Refrain*

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Responsive Psalm 15

L: O LORD, who may abide in your tent?

**P: Who may dwell on your holy hill?**

L: Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right

**P: and speak the truth from their heart;**

L: who do not slander with their tongue

**P: and do no evil to their friends nor heap shame upon  
their neighbours;**

L: in whose eyes the wicked are despised

**P: but who honour those who fear the LORD;**

L: who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

**P: who do not lend money at interest and do not take a  
bribe against the innocent.**

L: Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Video Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

Read by Joanne

Hymn #730 O for a world

1. O for a world where everyone  
respects each other's ways,  
where love is lived and all is done  
with justice and with praise.

2. O for a world where goods are shared  
And misery relieved,  
Where truth is spoken, children spared,  
Equality achieved.

3. We welcome one world family  
And struggle with each choice  
That opens us to unity  
And gives our vision voice.

4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong,  
the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong,  
who perishes will rise.

5. O for a world preparing for  
God's glorious reign of peace,  
where time and tears will be no more,  
and all but love will cease.

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Family Time

Life and work of the church

Offertory: Prayer by J. Ascher

Martin Bohl

Celebration of our Generosity

Sermon: Congratulations!

Hymn #467 Praise, my soul, the God who crowns you

1. Praise, my soul, the God who crowns you,  
crowns with mercy all your days;  
bless the God whose good surrounds you,  
rescues, heals, forgives, reclaims.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, all within me, bless and praise.

2. Praise God's mighty works of justice,  
for, as far as east from west,  
God removes transgression from us  
and restores the sore-oppressed.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, may the Holy One be blest!

3. Mortal days are few in number;  
soon our place is known no more.  
God eternal will remember,  
and the faithful will restore.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, children's children will adore.

4. Praise the Lord in highest heavens,  
mighty ones who do God's will;  
angels, cry through all dominions,  
God is sovereign over all.

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Prayers of the People

Benediction

Postlude: Finale by Eric Thiman

Martin Bohl

Next Week's Sermon:



Wrestling with Angels

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

Greeter: Carol Johnston

Beadle: Vern Platt

Organist: Martin Bohl

Tech Team: Dylan Smith, Laura Einwechter

### Other lectionary readings this week:

Micah 6:1-8

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the LORD has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup> "O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King Balak of  
Moab devised,

what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

<sup>6</sup> "With what shall I come before the LORD  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

<sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to  
those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved  
it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

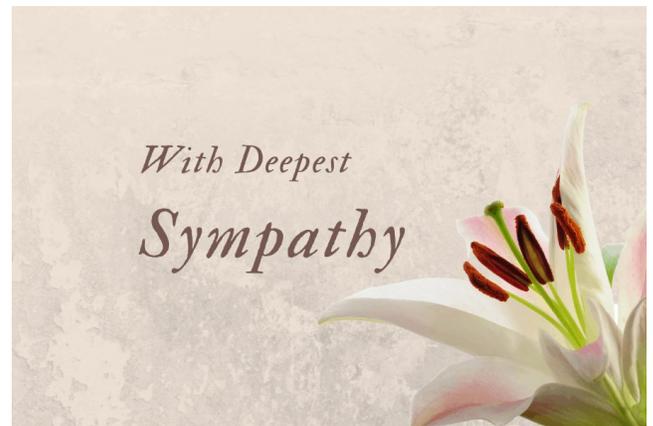
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will  
thwart."

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the  
scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God  
made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in

the wisdom of God, the world did not know God  
through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness  
of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For  
Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we  
proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and  
foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the  
called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God  
and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God's foolishness is wiser  
than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger  
than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not  
many of you were wise by human standards, <sup>[a]</sup> not many  
were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God  
chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise;  
God chose what is weak in the world to shame the  
strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the  
world, things that are not, to abolish things that  
are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one <sup>[b]</sup> might boast in the presence of  
God. <sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus,  
who became for us wisdom from God, and  
righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in  
order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts,  
boast in the Lord."

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to  
Mary Jane Jackson on the death of her sister Barbara  
Caskenette last week. Please keep Mary Jane in your  
prayers at this time.



### This Week at St. St. Andrew's

Monday:	<b>Breakfast on Queen</b>	6:30 — 8:30 am
Tuesday:	<b>Hope Clothing</b>	9:00 — 11:30 am
Thursday:	<b>Hope Clothing</b>	Noon — 2:00 pm
Saturday:	<b>Hope Clothing</b>	10:00 am — Noon



## Important January & February Dates

<b>January 30 7:00 pm:</b>	RG Credence
<b>January 31 7:00 pm:</b>	Session Meeting
<b>Sunday, February 5 10:00 am</b>	Worship with Cathy Stewart; lunch and congregational conversation to follow worship
<b>Wednesday, February 22</b>	Introduction of our Meditative Prayer series
<b>Sunday, February 26 10:00 am</b>	Worship with Cathy Stewart; lunch and congregational focus groups to follow worship
<b>Sunday, February 26 10:00 am</b>	First Sunday in Lent ; entering into 6 weeks of a “Time to open our hearts to God’s word”

Pssst! ... Mark your calendars for a **Spring Fling at St. Andrew’s**. Beginning on April 15 and moving into May we will have many opportunities to get together and be creative! We will have several different workshops for adults and children; Debbie Ellis Watercolours, Crafty Creatures, Hespeler Horticultural Society and more. And will we end the Spring Fling, on **Saturday, May 6th with our Dream Auction!** Our Dream Auction will be largely in person, but will have a small online portion.

**The Annual General Meeting** will be held on Sunday, March 5, 2023 after worship. An Annual Report is now being compiled and we would ask all of those who have a report to submit to do so as soon as possible — by the end of the month at the latest.

Email submissions to [office@standrewshespeler.ca](mailto:office@standrewshespeler.ca) are best as that will save retyping.

Thank you for your help!

### How can you help?

There are many ways you could help on a Sunday morning. To be able to get a little more back to normal we need you to take on some fun, meaningful and important roles. Please see the sign up board at the back of the sanctuary where you can sign up for some roles and ministries that need help. Please prayerfully consider how you can share your gifts with St. Andrew’s.

- We have some younger children who would very much like to attend Sunday School. Can you lead or help? To begin with the goal is to provide Sunday School once per month, after Family Time, during to remainder of worship.
- We need greeters and beadles.
- It would be nice to add some more voices and faces to our worship. Can you be a worship leader for a part of the service?
- Do you have any musical ability that you could share with us? Instrumental or singing - more music would be loved and appreciated.
- Do you miss coffee time following worship? Would you be able to help with preparing coffee/tea and juice for after worship?

All of these roles would come with training and lots of support if you have never tried them before .

St. Andrew's Hospitable Presbyterian Church January 29, 2022

# Beautiful Vision

Matthew 5:1-12

**Live the Blessings**  
Click here

**Meditative Prayer**  
Click here

**Blessings Game**  
Click here

**Today's Bible Reading**  
Click here

**Additional Bible Readings**

**Micah 6:1-8**  
**Psalm 15**  
**1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

O God, you turn things upside down, calling the wise to embrace your folly.

Help us to grow in acknowledging our need for you. Open us to the vision of your reign on earth and strengthen us to do our part. Amen.

The vision known as the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12 presented for the Christian community in Matthew's gospel is both beautiful and challenging.

Jesus calls a group of disciples. They travel throughout Galilee, sharing the good news that God's realm is breaking into the world. It is a message that the gospel writer's community desperately needs to hear. The gospel of Matthew speaks to a group of new Christians after a disaster. The temple has been destroyed and the people scattered. Jesus is no longer present in the flesh. What laws will govern the community now? What is the good news for those trying to be faithful in a hostile world?

Jesus goes through a litany of statements regarding who is blessed.

There is urgency in Jesus' teaching. He uses the present tense in this series of sentences beginning with the word blessed, or happy in some translations. Blessing is God's gift, a sign of covenant relationship with God. Jesus teaches that the blessed ones are those who are humble of heart ("poor in spirit"), who are gentle, who show mercy, who hunger and thirst for God's ways. Those who mourn will be comforted; those who make peace will be called God's children. Those persecuted in the cause of justice will find themselves part of God's transforming reality.

In Jesus, God's love is revealed and made manifest. This teaching is directed to the disciples, to the Twelve and the larger group of men and women who accompany Jesus. The Beatitudes describe the way of life for those who commit themselves to follow. For the community of the gospel of Matthew, this beautiful vision is what life should be like.

Our weekly Family Playlist is posted on our [website](#), Facebook and Twitter every Friday. This Playlist is developed for children and families, but anyone who would like to learn a little bit more is encouraged to check it out. You will find a short lesson on Sunday's focus bible reading, links to bible readings, videos and activities.

## Daily Prayers

**Sunday, January 29** We give thanks and pray for Edmonton Urban Native Ministry in Alberta, a place where warm food is served, accompaniment is offered, and community is formed through prayer and a caring presence.

**Monday, January 30** We pray for the members and work of the National Indigenous Ministry Council.

**Tuesday, January 31** We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Cape Breton in Nova Scotia.

**Wednesday, February 1** This **Black History Month**, we give thanks to God for the many accomplishments and contributions of Black Canadians that have made Canada a multicultural, caring and thriving nation.

**Thursday, February 2** We pray for theological students who graduate this spring and begin the process of seeking a call to a congregation.

**Friday, February 3** We pray for the members and work of the Committee on History.

**Saturday, February 4 (Black History Month)** We pray that all Canadians learn about the struggles and hardship of Black Canadians, who have been largely neglected throughout the history of Canada.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada



**Prayer Partnership**

Engaging in God's Mission Through Word and Action

One day, a neighbour asked the Rev. Tim Choi, Executive Director of Edmonton Urban Native Ministry (EUNM) in Alberta: "What difference has the ministry made after all these years?" This prompted the Rev. Tim to think about the impact the ministry has had on Indigenous people in Edmonton's Eastwood community. He reflected that the journey towards healing and reconciliation must be like a long and flowing river. The harm caused by generations past requires many future generations to heal. In this sense, EUNM is like a little brook that runs alongside this river. God has shaped this ministry into a place of hope for all who gather here. **Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing are helping us on the path to healing and reconciliation through Indigenous ministries like EUNM.**

