

# St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church February 5th, 2023 Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

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.



## Wrestling with Angels

Prelude: Gibbons Tune by H. Willan

Welcome

Responsive Call to Worship

L: Just as sunrise breaks through the darkness each day,

**P: So God's grace, mercy and justice shine forth.**

L: We gather together, with devotion and doubt, with weariness and wonder;

**P: trusting that God's peace and love are present here.**

L: Come and worship as you are, knowing you are loved.

**P: We come, rejoicing, to praise God's holy name.**

Opening Prayers:

L: Holy One, Light of the world. In the sparkle of the snowflake, we see your beauty. In frosted treetops, we delight in your splendour. Even in the cold of winter, our creation amazes us. We praise you for blessing the world with such beauty and giving us a place within it. Just as months of winter renew creation for springtime growth, renew us with your Spirit in this time of worship to grow in faithfulness and service. Grant that our lives can shine the light of Christ into these challenging times. Amen.

**P: Holy One, we confess we have taken your creation for granted. We squander its resources as if they**

**were only for us. We consume whatever we want, selfishly and carelessly. Forgive us, we pray. Shine your light on us so we see the ways of your wisdom more clearly and follow the path Jesus sets before us with more humble hearts. Amen.**

L: Christ is the first born of creation, shining a redeeming light into the darkness of human sin. In him we are forgiven, restored and made new.

**P: Thanks be to God, we can make a fresh start today.**

Hymn #693 Come, O thou traveler unknown

1. Come, O thou traveler unknown,  
whom still I hold, but cannot see!

My company before is gone,  
and I am left alone with thee.

With thee all night I mean to stay,  
and wrestle till the break of day.

With thee all night I mean to stay,  
and wrestle till the break of day.

2. I need not tell thee who I am,  
my misery and sin declare;  
thyself hast called me by —y name,  
look on thy hands and read it there.

But who, I ask thee, who art thou?  
Tell me thy name and tell me now.

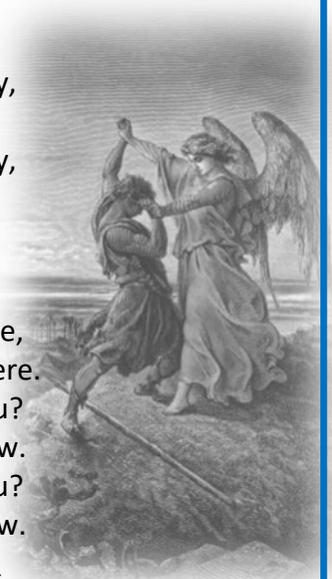
But who, I ask thee, who art thou?  
Tell me thy name and tell me now.

3. Yield to me now for I am weak,  
but confident in self-despair!

Speak to my heart, in blessing speak;  
be conquered by my instant prayer.

Speak, or thou never hence shalt move,  
and tell me if thy name is Love.

Speak, or thou never hence shalt move,  
and tell me if thy name is Love.



4. 'Tis Love, tis Love! Thou diedst for me,  
I hear thy whisper in my heart.  
The morning breaks, the shadows flee;  
pure, universal love thou art.  
To me, to all, thy mercies move;  
thy nature and thy name is Love.  
To me, to all, thy mercies move;  
thy nature and thy name is Love.

Words: public domain

Responsive Psalm 112:1-9

L: Praise the LORD! Happy are those who fear the LORD,  
who greatly delight in his commandments.

**P: Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever. They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.**

L: It is well with those who deal generously and lend,  
who conduct their affairs with justice. For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever.

**P: They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD. Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.**

L: They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor;

**P: their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honour.**

Video Reading: Matthew 5:13-20 Joan Lacey

Genesis 32:22-32

<sup>22</sup>The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup>He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. <sup>24</sup>Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. <sup>25</sup>When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup>Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup>So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup>Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." <sup>29</sup>Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the place

Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." <sup>31</sup>The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip. <sup>32</sup>Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the thigh muscle that is on the hip socket, because he struck Jacob on the hip socket at the thigh muscle.

Hymn #712 Arise, your light is come

1. Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;  
Show forth the glory of your God Which shines on you today.
2. Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;  
Proclaim the captive's liberty, Good tidings to the poor.
3. Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,  
Bind up the brokenhearted ones And comfort those who mourn.
4. Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Words: Public domain

Family Time

Life and work of the church

Offertory: O Lord my God

Jane Bennett

Celebration of our Generosity

Sermon: Wrestling with Angels

Hymn #769 Lord of light, whose name and splendour

1. Lord of light, whose name and splendour far outshine  
the suns of space,  
deign to make us your co-workers in the kingdom of  
your grace;  
use us to fulfil your purpose in the gift of Christ your  
Son:  
Abba, as in highest heaven so on earth your will be  
done.
2. By the faithfulness of workers serving you in every  
field;  
by the courage where the radiance of the cross is still  
revealed;  
by the victories of meekness, through reproach and  
suffering won:  
Abba, as in highest heaven so on earth your will be  
done.
3. Grant that knowledge, still increasing, at your feet  
might humbly kneel;  
with your grace our triumphs hallow, with your charity

our zeal;  
lift all nations from the shadows to the gladness of the sun:  
Abba, as in highest heaven so on earth your will be done.

4. By the prayers of faithful watchers, never silent day or night;  
by the cross of Jesus bringing peace to all, and healing light;  
by the love that passes knowledge, making all your children one:  
Abba, as in highest heaven so on earth your will be done.

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Prayers of the People

Benediction

Postlude: Grave by J.S. Bach

Martin Bohl

### Other lectionary readings this week:

Isaiah 58:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup> Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments;  
they want God on their side.

<sup>3</sup> “Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day  
and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup> You fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.  
Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup> Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?  
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup> Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you;  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup> Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

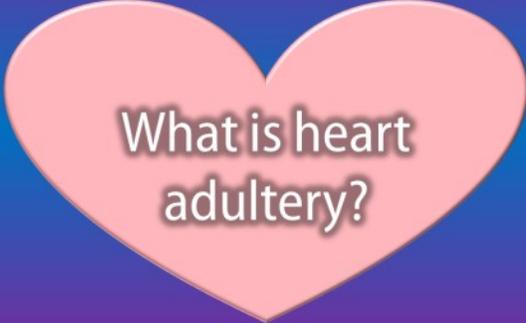
1 Corinthians 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup> For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup> My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup> Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. <sup>7</sup> But we speak God’s wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory <sup>8</sup> and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> But, as it is written,  
“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him” —

<sup>10</sup> God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Next Week’s Sermon:



What is heart  
adultery?

**We welcome our very special guest preacher and conversation leader this morning!**

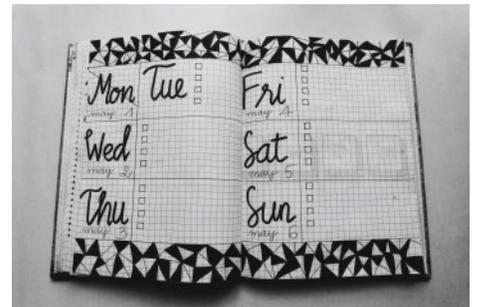
Cathy Stewart is a Consultant with Credence & co, as well as a Presbyterian Minister. She has been guiding congregations for over 30 years, helping them to discern their sense of purpose and calling, and encouraging them to listen for how to be faithful to God. Cathy sees listening skills to be at the heart of spirituality, in addition to being crucial for the transformation of conflict and congregational life. Cathy is a Qualified Mediator, trained Interim Minister, and holds Certificates in Conflict Management and Mediation/Congregational Leadership from Conrad Grebel University College. She lives in Hamilton.

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

- Greeter: Brenda Holm
- Beadle: Elaine McLean
- Organist: Martin Bohl
- Guest Soloist: Jane Bennett
- Tech Team: Dylan Smith, Laura Einwechter

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

- Monday: **Breakfast on Queen** 6:30 — 8:30 am
- Tuesday: **Hope Clothing** 9:00 — 11:30 am
- Thursday: **Hope Clothing** Noon — 2:00 pm
- Thursday: **Food Bank** Noon — 2:00 pm
- Thursday: **Lunch On Queen** Noon — 1:45 pm
- Saturday: **Hope Clothing** 10:00 am — Noon



**Important February Dates**

- Today, 10:00 am** Worship with Cathy Stewart; lunch and congregational conversation to follow worship. Cathy will be presenting the "What we think we know" document and seeking our feedback. Childcare will be available after worship.
- Wednesday, February 22** Introduction of our Meditative Prayer series
- Sunday, February 26 10:00 am** Worship with Cathy Stewart; lunch and "Conversations that matter" with Credence follow worship
- Sunday, February 26 10:00 am** First Sunday in Lent; entering into 6 weeks of a "Time to open our hearts to God's word"

**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.

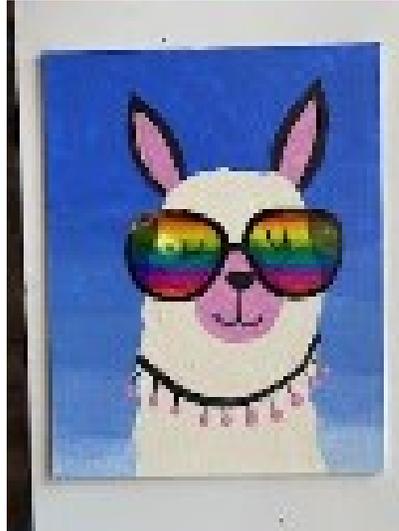
Email submissions to [office@standrewshespeler.ca](mailto:office@standrewshespeler.ca) are best as that will save retyping.

Thank you for your help!

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 Watercolors, Crafty Creatures, Hespeler Horticultural Society, My Sister's Ideas (sign making) and more. And will we end the Spring Fling, on **Saturday, May 6th with our Dream Auction!**

***Here's a sneak peek at the workshops that might be offered:***

- Watercolour painting workshops: multiple dates and times
- Bath Bomb making workshop for families (children participants in one room and parents' social adjacent room)
- Sign painting/making workshop
- Bee garden talk with a hands on component
- A teacup floral arrangement
- Mediation and mindfulness



## St. Andrew's Annual Dream Auction

Saturday, May 6, 2023, in person! with a small portion online.

Do you have a talent or gift that you would like to share? Please prayerfully consider how you can be a part of this exciting event. Do you have items to donate, a service/time to donate. All donations are much appreciated. Please contact Donald Paddock or Joni Smith if you have items to donate or would like more information.



St. Andrew's Household Presbyterian Church Halifax, N.S. 2023

# Greatness of Heart

Matthew 5:13-20

**Salt & Light**  
Click here

**Meditative Prayer**  
Click here

**Candle Holders**  
Click here

**Today's Bible Reading**  
Click here

**Additional Bible Readings**  
Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)  
Psalm 112:1-9 (10)  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

Light of the world, be our light today.  
Creator of life, preserve our life this day. Light  
of the world, we praise you with our hearts, songs, and minds.  
Amen.

In Matthew 5:13-20, Jesus presents three images – salt, light, and a city on a hill – to help listeners understand their relationship with God and what it means to live according to the ways of God's realm. Salt and light are metaphors used in the Hebrew scriptures to describe covenant and law. David and his descendants are called a lamp before God. Jesus expands the message.

Jesus teaches his followers that they are salt (cleansing, preserving, adding flavour), and light (revealing what is hidden and enabling all to see). God's reign is not only a future promise; it also is a present reality. We participate in that reign as we live in God's ways. Our light shines before others, not so they can applaud our piety but that our works can direct others to give thanks and praise to God. God, through us, gives light to everyone: to "all in the house." The word translated here as house is the word for "the established world" – it is a big house!

For Jews in Jesus' day, the law or Torah was understood as the full content of God's revelation to the people. It was contained in the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Hebrew scriptures. Torah included law codes such as the Ten Commandments and many other regulations that governed community life. Some scribes and Pharisees accuse Jesus of not keeping God's law. However, Jesus is faithful to the law's intent. He came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it. Jesus calls us to live righteous lives and to show justice and mercy to all. The concern of the scribes and Pharisees was obedience to God's law. Jesus' followers must be just as wholehearted in following the intent and the spirit of it.

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. Thank you to all of our readers.

**Sunday, February 5 (PWS&D Sunday)** We give thanks and pray for Presbyterian World Service & Development programs and partners empowering vulnerable communities and supporting abundant life.

**Monday, February 6** We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Halifax and Lunenburg in Nova Scotia.

**Tuesday, February 7** We pray for the members and work of the Assembly Council.

**Wednesday, February 8** We honour in prayer the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024), and we give thanks for Black History Month events that honour and celebrate the legacy of Black Canadians and their communities.

**Thursday, February 9** We pray for the people who gather at the Well Church in Mississauga, Ontario. We give thanks for the welcoming space this church plant provides for the third culture community.

**Friday, February 10** We pray for the Rev. Lyton Kilowe—Assistant Synod Internal Auditor for the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Blantyre Synod, in Malawi—as he pursues a Master's in Business Administration.

**Saturday, February 11** We pray that congregations work to preserve the collective history of our denomination by caring for their church records and congregational history

The Presbyterian Church in Canada



**Prayer Partnership**  
Engaging in God's Mission  
Through Word and Action

For over 75 years, Presbyterian World Service & Development has faithfully responded to serve those in need around the world. Together with our partners, we are making a positive difference. We are working together to care for the poor, sick and vulnerable, helping restore human dignity, ease the pain of want and promote community cooperation that benefits all. As people of faith, we are responding to Christ's call to walk with the distressed and marginalized, and work towards equality,



human dignity, peace and care for God's creation. United, we are working towards a world that is sustainable, compassionate and just.