

St. Andrew's Hespeler
Presbyterian Church
March 5, 2023
Communion
2nd Sunday in Lent

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church
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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. This will be a communion service so, if you are joining from home, please prepare communion elements for yourself.



So
Abram
Went

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: Into life's challenges and questions comes the
Mystery of God,

P: and God's truth opens our eyes.

L: Into our routines and rituals walks the presence of
Christ.

P: and God's love brings healing and hope.

L: Into our traditions and conclusions blows the wind of
the Spirit,

P: and God's people are born from above.

L: We gather in Jesus' name to encounter God's grace
and glory.

P: Let us worship God with open hearts and minds.

Prayer of Approach

L: God of majesty and mercy, Christ, both Lord and
Servant, Spirit of new life, your mystery embraces the
vast reaches of the universe and yet you are present
with us in the course of our daily lives. With even the
tiniest spark of your wisdom illuminated the greatest
complexities. With the smallest gesture of your love,
you renew our hope. Deepen our sense of your holy

presence this day. Assure us that your love will never
let us go. And so we offer our praise and our prayers
this day to you, Holy God, Holy One and Holy Three,
with humble hearts and faith that seeks
understanding. Amen.

Laying down Burdens

Hymn #478 To Abraham and Sarah

1. To Abraham and Sarah the call of God was clear:
"Go forth and I will show you a country rich and fair.
You need not fear the journey for I have pledged my
word:

that you shall be my people, and I will be your God."

2. From Abraham and Sarah arose a pilgrim race,
dependent for their journey on God's abundant grace
and in their heart was written by God this saving
word:

"that you shall be my people and I will be your God."

3. We of this generation on whom God's hand is laid
can journey to the future secure and unafraid,
rejoicing in God's goodness and trusting in this word:
"that you shall be my people and I will be your God."

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Responsive Psalm 121

L: I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help
come?

**P: My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven
and earth.**

L: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you
will not slumber.

P: He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

L: The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at
your right hand.

**P: The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by
night.**

L: The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

P: The LORD will keep you going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Video Reading: John 3:1-17

Genesis 12:1-4

¹ Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Hymn #373 Jesus loves me, this I know

1. Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so, little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.

*Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

2. Jesus loves me, this I know, as he loved so long ago, taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."

Refrain

3. Jesus loves me still today, walking with me on my way, wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live.

Refrain

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Family Time

Life and work of the church

Offertory: Not While I'm Around (by Stephen Sondheim)

Celebration of our Generosity

Sermon: So Abram Went

Celebration of Communion — Invitation

Hymn #548 Let us break bread together

1. Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees;
when I fall down on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

2. Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees;

when I fall down on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me.

3. Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees;
when I fall down on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Words: Public Domain

#564 The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Prayer opens with thanksgiving for creation and for God's mighty acts throughout salvation history. The people join in the ancient song after these or similar words:

L: ...we join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

P: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Prayers of thanksgiving continue for the work of Jesus Christ, his' life, death, and resurrection and for the institution of the Lords' Supper The people are invited to 'proclaim the mystery of faith:'

P: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Thanksgiving continues for the gift of the Holy Spirit. The presence of the Holy Spirit is invoked followed by a doxology and the people say:

P: Amen.

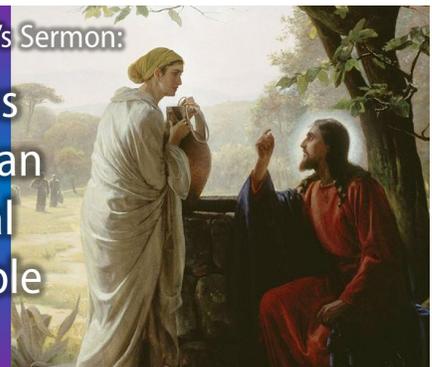
Communion of the People

Prayers of the People

Benediction

Next Week's Sermon:

Jesus
finds an
Ideal
Disciple



Other lectionary readings this week:

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

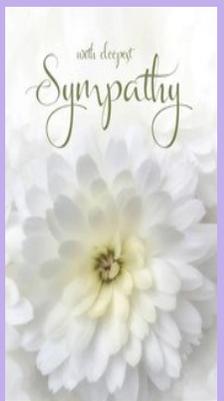
¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Celebration of Life for

Elsa Kiertscher Schaubert (Bob's wife)

will be held today (March 5, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Meditative Prayer Series

The season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 22. Throughout Lent we will be introducing a practice of **Meditative Prayer**. You are encouraged to participate and you can do so in various ways.

Please make sure to pick up the guide to our prayers this week this morning.

- Every Wednesday and Sunday morning at 7 am, a new **Lectio Divina Prayer** will be posted on the Youtube channel. (<https://www.youtube.com/@standrewshespeler73>). Subscribe to this channel and follow the instructions at a time convenient to you at any time during the week. Videos will be about 10 minutes long.
- Every Wednesday morning, you can join us **in the sanctuary at 9 am** to do the Lectio Divina of the day together in person.
- Every Monday morning at 7 am, a **meditative prayer** will be posted on the same YouTube channel. You can do this approximately five minute Meditative prayer exercise at a time that works for you during the week. Do not worry if you are unfamiliar with these practices. We will teach you and walk you through them in a simple to follow way. Meditative practices are learned through repetition, so please be patient with yourself as you learn. Do as many or as few of the prayer practices as fit into your week!

This Week's Prayer Guide

Question to ponder this week:
We know we need to change, but we don't want to. What do we need in order to enter into a renewed future? What would we need to embrace? What would we need to let go of?

To find the prayers that are posted this week, follow a link from the church website or go to Youtube and search for St Andrews Hespeler Presbyterian Church (the url is <https://www.youtube.com/@standrewshespeler73>). Subscribe to this channel and you will receive automatic updates.

To prepare for your prayers, find a comfortable and quiet spot. Set aside 10 to 15 minutes during which you will not be interrupted. Follow the instructions on the video.

Meditative Prayer for Monday, March 6, 2023

Hebrews 3:1-6 (Good News Translation)

Jesus is Greater than Moses

1 My Christian friends, who also have been called by God! Think of Jesus, whom God sent to be the High Priest of the faith we profess. **2** He was faithful to God, who chose him to do this work, just as Moses was faithful in his work in God's house. **3** A man who builds a house receives more honor than the house itself. In the same way Jesus is worthy of much greater honor than Moses. **4** Every house, of course, is built by someone—and God is the one who has built all things. **5** Moses was faithful in God's house as a servant, and he spoke of the things that God would say in the future. **6** But Christ is faithful as the Son in charge of God's house. We are his house if we keep up our courage and our confidence in what we hope for.

Join us on our Journey

Join us on our Lenten Journey. During this time we will be "Telling our Stories." Next week be prepared to write out a story, to go with your photo or object (or a completely new story) that was included this week. This story needs to be an important story for you that connects you to St. Andrew's. Our story will take a few weeks to unfold.

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

Greeter: Carol Johnston
Beadle: Vern Platt
Coffee/Tea: Brenda Holm
Guest Musician: Margaret Mackenzie-Leighton
Tech Team: Dylan Smith & Laura Einwechter
Communion Servers: Dean Davidson, Nancy English, Jean McMurtrie, Donald Paddock, Vern Platt Joanne Waugh

This Week at St. St. Andrew's

Tuesday:	Hope Clothing	9:00 — 11:30 am
Wednesday:	Meditative Prayer	9:00 am
Thursday:	Hope Clothing	Noon — 2:00 pm
Thursday:	Food Bank	Noon — 2:00 pm
Thursday:	Lunch on Queen	Noon — 1:45 pm

The Annual General Meeting will be held today, **Sunday, March 5, 2023** after a short fellowship time following worship. Everyone is encouraged to stay and participate. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary and those who join us online are welcome to remain as well.

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.



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 we will end the Spring Fling on **Saturday, May 6th with our Dream Auction!**

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

- Watercolour painting workshops: multiple dates and times *Book now to avoid disappointment.*
- 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



Ukraine – One Year Later

February 24 marks one year since Russia invaded Ukraine, creating a humanitarian crisis and displacing hundreds of thousands of people.

As needs remain high, The Presbyterian Church in Canada continues to support those affected through Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) . In addition, the PCC supports its local partner, the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, assisting pastors and church workers in Ukraine.

PWS&D reports that generous Presbyterian support of almost \$950,000 has made much-needed support to those affected possible through its work with the ACT Alliance and Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Aid has also been provided to farmers through the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia.

Ukrainian Council of Churches calls for day of national fasting and prayer

The World Council of Churches (WCC) shared a message from the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations , inviting all believers of all denominations to unite in fasting and prayer on February 24. "Millions of believers pray for an end to the war every day..." notes the call to prayer.

Read more from the WCC on the war in Ukraine, including a report detailing the destruction and ruin of some 500 churches, mosques, synagogues, educational and administrative buildings among Ukraine's religious communities over the course of the year-long war.



Daily Prayers

The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Sunday, March 5 (Second Sunday in Lent) Dear God, help us to order our lives in faithful obedience to you so that we may come to know our weaknesses and appreciate your grace at work in our lives.

Monday, March 6 We pray for people around the world who are striving to rise above poverty with educational opportunities and livelihood support through Presbyterian World Service & Development.

Tuesday, March 7 We pray for the members and work of the Women's Missionary Society.

Wednesday, March 8 On **International Women's Day**, we give thanks for women. We pray for true gender equality and for an end to the violence that has marked the lives of too many women.

Thursday, March 9 We give thanks for Presbyterian World Service & Development projects that are breaking barriers to gender equality by empowering women to achieve economic independence and improve their well-being.

Friday, March 10 We pray for women living in Palestine who are suffering sorrow and heartache as they struggle to hold their families together in times of violence and oppression.

Saturday, March 11 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Montreal in Quebec.



Prayer Partnership

Engaging in God's Mission
Through Word and Action

Sunday, March 5 – Mission Moment

In Pakistan, Gauri learned how to cut and sew at an early age. As an adult, this knowledge allowed Gauri to contribute to her family's income by working as a seamstress. After her husband was killed in an accident, Gauri's income was not enough to provide for her family on her own. Gauri was selected for a Presbyterian World Service & Development project that provides emergency food assistance to families in need, as well as longer-term support through small business training and development. The food aid the family received made it possible for Gauri to save a



portion of her monthly income that would have otherwise been spent on food. With the money she saved, Gauri was able to further her child's education and stock her tailoring shop with more materials.

