

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

May 21st 2023

7th Sunday of Easter

Ascension Sunday

Healing and Reconciliation Sunday

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.

Why do you
stand
looking up
toward
heaven?



Prelude: Air on the G String by J.S. Bach

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: Let us be joyful before God!

P: We will sing praises to God's holy name.

L: Let us lift up a song to the One who rides upon the clouds,

P: who protects orphans and widows, and gives the desolate a home.

L: Sing to God, all nations of the earth;

P: We will sing praises to the Lord, our God

Hymn #363 All hail the power of Jesus' name

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name;
let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem
to crown him, crown him, crown him, crown him Lord
of all.

2. Crown him, ye martyrs of your God,
who from his altar call;
extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod,
and crown him, crown him, crown him, crown him
Lord of all.

3. Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
ye ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him, crown him, crown him, crown him
Lord of all.

4. Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
the wormwood and the gall,
go, spread your trophies at his feet,
and crown him, crown him, crown him, crown him
Lord of all.

5. Let every tribe and every tongue,
responsive to the call,
lift high the universal song,
and crown him, crown him, crown him, crown him
Lord of all.

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Prayer of Approach

L: God of Majesty and Mystery, we praise you as Lord of all, maker of the deepest dimensions and delicate details of all that is. You live beyond time and hold all our days in your hands. You still come to us in Jesus as Lord of Mercy, to walk with us wherever we are in the world. You claim us as beloved children, blessed by the Spirit in his name. Receive our prayers and praise this day, and inspire us to live as witnesses to your grace and goodness here and everywhere, now and always.

Laying Down our Burdens

Responsive Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35

L: Let God rise up;

P: let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him.

L: As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;

P: as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God.

L: But let the righteous be joyful;

P: let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.

L: Sing to God; sing praises to his name;

P: lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—his name is the LORD— be exultant before him.

L: Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

P: God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land.

L: O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,

P: the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel. Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished;

L: your flock found a dwelling in it;

P: in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

L: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;

P: sing praises to the Lord,

L: O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens;

P: listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.

L: Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel and whose power is in the skies.

P: Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!

Video Reading: John 17:1-11 Read by Donald

New Testament: Acts 1:1-14

¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my

witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Hymn #274 Crown him with many crowns

1. Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon the throne:

hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!

Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died to be your Saviour and your matchless King through all eternity.

2. Crown him the Son of God, before the worlds began; let all who tread where he has trod, crown him the Son of Man,

who every grief has known that wrings the human breast,

and takes and bears them for his own, that all in him may rest.

3. Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,

and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.

His glories now we sing who died and rose on high, who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

4. Crown him the Lord of peace whose kingdom is at hand;

from pole to pole let warfare cease and Christ rule every land!

A city stands on high; Christ's glory it displays, and there the nations Holy cry in joyful hymns of praise.

5. Crown him the Lord of years, the Source, the End of time,
 Creator of the rolling spheres in majesty sublime.
 All hail. Redeemer, hail, for you have died for me;
 your praise shall never, never fail through all eternity!

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Family Time

Life and Work of the Church

Celebration of our Generosity

Offertory: Chorale Prelude on "St. Cuthbert" by Healey Willan

Sermon: Why do you stand looking up toward heaven?

Prayers of the People

Hymn #270 The head that once was crowned

1. The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glory now;
 a royal diadem adorns the mighty Victor's brow.

2. The highest place that heaven affords is his, is his by right,
 the King of kings, and Lord of lords, and heaven's eternal Light;

3. the joy of all who dwell above, the joy of all below to whom he manifests his love and grants his name to know.

4. To them the cross, with all its shame, with all its grace, is given,
 their name an everlasting name, their joy the joy of heaven.

5. They suffer with their Lord below; they reign with him above,
 their profit and their joy to know the mystery of his love.

6. The cross he bore is life and health, though shame and death to him,
 his people's hope, his people's wealth, their everlasting theme.

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Benediction

Postlude on "Fredericktown" by Robert J. Powell

Other lectionary reading this week:

1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Next Week's Sermon:

Now you're talking my language!



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

Greeter:	Joanne Waugh
Beadle:	Carol Johnston
Organist:	Martin Bohl
Tech Team:	Laura Einwechter

This Week at St. Andrew's

Tuesday:	Hope Clothing	9:00—11:30AM
Tuesday:	Elder/Deacon call out	7:00 PM
Thursday:	Hope Clothing	Noon—2:00 PM
Thursday:	Food Bank	Noon—2:00 PM

The flowers in the sanctuary are placed in loving memory of Tom and Pat Aitchison. Pat (1932-2022) and Tom (1931-2012) contributed greatly to the life of St. Andrew's. With much gratitude for cherished parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, from the Hobler family—Laura, David, Suzanne, Ian and families.



CHURCH GARDEN UPDATE

The New Hope Friends Group is coordinating a spring clean up and planting day at the church on **Saturday, May 27, 2023 (starting at 9:30 AM)**

Do you have an abundance of garden plants that you'd like to split and share?

Do you have an hour to help water/weed the garden sometime this summer?

Please contact Allison Cann for more details and if you can help: aao.cannfamily@gmail.com

Thank you from the New Hope Friends Group

“And the Lord will continually guide you,
And satisfy your desire in scorched places,
And give strength to your bones;
And you will be like a watered garden,
And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.” Isaiah 58-11



The Presbyterian Church in Canada is responding to Cyclone Freddy in Malawi through [Presbyterian World Service & Development \(PWS&D\)](#).

Latest Update, April 19, 2023, by the Rev. Dr. Blair D. Bertrand, who serves as a Malawi Liaison with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) in the Synod of Blantyre.

The Rev. Dr. Blair Bertrand, who is in Malawi, writes that the situation in the country, while stable, is difficult, with reports of some 500,000 people still seeking shelter after Cyclone Freddy made landfall twice in the country's southern region earlier this year. These temporary shelters have been set up in schools, all closed for weeks across the southern region, where rainfall continues intermittently.

“Zomba Theological University has taken up a collection and is providing food, clothes, and other basic goods such as soap,” reports Blair. “This is very common. I preached at a church that had collected clothes from churches in Livingstonia and was going to provide them to people.” The CCAP Blantyre Synod has mobilized its congregations to provide mutual support to the most hard-hit communities. As well, CCAP congregations and their ministers are on the ground, providing counselling and spiritual support for communities traumatized by death and displacement.

Blair has been travelling throughout the southern region, visiting rural congregations, and preaching over Easter at Mongochi in the Yao territory. He also visited the village of Nguludi, which was swept away by a massive landslide, with lives lost and seventeen people still not accounted for. Concern has also been expressed about the structural integrity of churches. For instance, the historic St. Michael's and All Angels have been closed because of the impact of the water saturation. In smaller communities, churches and prayer houses (many prayer houses can seat up to

200, so they are substantial buildings) have sustained damage. The visiting group of Bertrand, the Rev. Glenn Inglis and the Rev. Thokozani Chilembwe also stopped at a prayer house that had two of its wall collapse. However, “they have a realistic hope that they can rebuild it,” Blair writes.

[PWS&D](#) provided an initial contribution to its partner, Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD), to assist with search and rescue efforts, needs assessments and immediate food for evacuated households. As of April 12, 325 households living in temporary shelters received an initial food distribution of a 10 kg bag of maize flour, as well as soya packets, to enable them to meet their immediate food requirements. PWS&D continues to work with our partners on the next phase of our response to the disaster.

Additionally, because of crisis food insecurity as a result of climate-related shocks, including Cyclone Ana which hit southern Malawi in January 2022, PWS&D is implementing a three-month food assistance project for 2,500 households. This project, which started in February 2023, is providing food assistance in the form of cash transfers, as well as seeds to produce high-value crops. However, Cyclone Freddy also hit many of the communities receiving assistance, and some of the seeds provided through the project were washed away. CARD plans to replace the seeds to ensure that project participants will be able to meet their food needs.

Daily Prayers

Sunday, May 21 (Healing & Reconciliation Sunday) We pray for healing for Indigenous families and communities, who are struggling with intergenerational trauma from Residential Schools and other forms of colonial violence. Guide our church and congregations in ways that uphold Indigenous rights and reject anti-Indigenous racism.

Monday, May 22 We give thanks for Presbyterian World Service & Development’s partners who work hard to ensure a quality education and a better future for girls in Malawi.

Tuesday, May 23 We pray for the people who gather and serve at Hummingbird Ministries in Vancouver, British Columbia, and we give thanks for their ministry.

Wednesday, May 24 We pray for the Rev. Jeanie Lee, former Ecumenical Accompanier, as she shares stories and advocates for justice and peace in Palestine and Israel.

Thursday, May 25 We pray for the members and work of the International Affairs Committee.

Friday, May 26 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Brampton in Ontario.

Saturday, May 27 We pray for commissioners of the 2023 General Assembly as they prepare to consider, discuss and make decisions about the ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada



**Prayer
Partnership**

Engaging in God’s Mission
Through Word and Action

Sunday, May 21—Mission Moment

When Esther was 13 years old, she got her period for the first time—just one day before the Malawi national primary school examinations, which would determine whether she would be admitted to secondary school. Esther was instructed by the older women in her village to not leave home and remain indoors for the next seven days in adherence with village customs. Caroline, an outreach volunteer for girls’ rights, learned about Esther’s situation and enlisted the help of the village’s chief to speak with Esther’s parents about letting her leave home isolation to write the exam. Esther was permitted to write her exam, allowing her to advance to secondary school. **With Presbyterian World Service & Development’s support, local partners are raising awareness about the importance of girls’ education for a successful future.**

