

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

July 23rd 2023

8th Sunday after Pentecost

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 on Zoom or on Facebook Live. The zoom link will be posted on the website.

Prelude: Jesu Joy by J.S.Bach

Our guest preacher today is Rev. Canon Karen Kovats

Welcome.

Call to Worship

L: God has searched us and knows us. God knows when we sit down and when we rise up.

P: **God searches out our path and our lying down. God is acquainted with all our ways.**

L: Before a word is on our tongues, God knows it. God's hand is ever available to guide us.

P: **Such knowledge is a wonder to us. It is beyond anything we can attain.**

L: We cannot escape from God's spirit. There is nowhere to flee from God's presence.

P: **Darkness is as light to our God. God illuminates the way before us.**

L: Let us worship God.

Hymn #654 O God of Bethel by Whose Hand

1. O God of Bethel, by whose hand
thy people still are fed,
who through this weary pilgrimage
hast all thy servants led:
2. our vows, our prayers, we now present
before thy gracious throne;
as thou hast been our faithful God,
so always be our own.
3. Through each perplexing path of life
our wandering footsteps guide;
give us each day our daily bread,
and raiment fit provide.
4. Oh spread thy covering wings around,
till all our wanderings cease,
and at our God's own loved abode
our souls arrive in peace.

5. Such blessings from thy gracious hand
our humble prayers implore,
and thou shalt be our chosen God
and portion evermore. Words and music Public Domain

Prayer of Approach

L: Come, O God. Come to search us. Come to know us again. We were knit in your womb. We have tried to count your works. Come, O God, so that we can hear you calling our names. Here and now. When we run away from our problems, we discover that we cannot run away from ourselves. Yet God is present with us to hear our confession and offer forgiveness. God brings us back to face what we have let behind in order that we may claim the promise of reconciliation and wholeness.

L: P: Search us and test us, that all wickedness may be purged from us, O Creator. Save us from our futile striving after our own advantage. Reshape our will to conform with our intentions for us. | We confess that we have allowed weeds to grow in our lives. | Our focus has drifted from the haven't our intent to the fears and greed that hold us hostage. Release us from bondage and decay that we may grow in likeness to Jesus Christ. We want to bear fruit for you. Turn us to the brightness of a new day.

L: Friends, if by the Spirit we put to death those things that distract us from You we will live. We are set free from bondage to death to claim the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

P: We will live in the hope God offers, waiting with patience for all the God will yet reveal. We will shine like the sun in the realm of God, who leads us in the way everlasting. Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm 139

L: O Lord, you have searched me and know me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

P: You search my path and my lying down; and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord you know it completely.

L: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

P: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

L: Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

P: If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea even there your hand shall lead me and your right hand shall hold me fast.

L: If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me and the light around me become night,"

P: Even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

L: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.

P: See if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.⁰

Genesis 28: 10-19 Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran.¹¹ He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place.¹² And he dreamed that there was a ladder^[b] set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.¹³ And the LORD stood beside him^[c] and said, 'I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring;¹⁴ and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed^[d] in you and in your offspring.¹⁵ Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.'¹⁶ Then Jacob woke from his sleep

and said, 'Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!' ¹⁷ And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'¹⁸ So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.¹⁹ He called that place Bethel;^[e] but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away.²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?"²⁸ He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?"²⁹ But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" ⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.'³⁷ He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man;³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one,³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers,⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears^[g] listen!

Hymn 414

1. God, reveal your presence:
gladly we adore you,
and with awe appear before you.
Holy is your temple:
all within keep silence,

humbly bow with deepest reverence.
You alone now we own,
as our God and Saviour:
praise your name forever!

2. In God's holy presence:
hear the harps resounding;
see the crowds the throne surrounding;
"Holy, holy, holy!"
hear the hymn ascending,
angels, saints, their voices blending.
Turn your ear to us here;
hear, O Christ, the praises
that your church now raises.

3. Fountain of all blessing,
purify my spirit;
all my trust is in your merit.
Like the holy angels
on your glory gazing,
we adore, hosannas raising.
Let your will ever still
rule your church terrestrial,
as the hosts celestial.

Life & Work of the Church

Celebration of our Generosity

Offertory

Message: I feel the Touch of Angel's Wings

Hymn: 675 Precious Lord, take my hand

1. Precious Lord, take my hand;
lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak,
I am worn; through the storm,
through the night, lead me on to the light:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

2. When my way grows drear,
precious Lord, linger near;
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call;
hold my hand lest I fall:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

3. When the darkness appears
and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand,
guide my feet, hold my hand:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Prayers of the People

Benediction

Choral Benediction

Go now in peace ...never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Words: © Don Besig and Nancy Price (pub. Harold Flammer)

Postlude

Martin Bohl

This Week at St. Andrew's

Tuesday: Hope Clothing
Thursday: Food Bank
Thursday: Hope Clothing

9:00 —11:30AM
Noon—2:00 PM
Noon — 2:00 PM

Mission Moment – Sunday, July 23rd

The PCC's partnership with Theological Education by Extension in Malawi began 45 years ago when the Rev. Charles Scott helped establish a lay training program at the request of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Blantyre Synod and other churches. The distance learning program is open to anyone who wants to study the Bible and theology. It has opened doors for women and working church leaders who want to deepen their biblical and theological knowledge and be better equipped to serve. During these challenging times, the Rev. Chimwemwe Mitengo, Executive Director, is thankful for the PCC's continued partnership and support through Presbyterians Sharing.



Daily Prayers

Sunday, July 16 We pray for those who are anxiously awaiting the results of medical tests, that they may know God's love and peace.

Monday, July 17 We pray for the generosity to share our blessings with those in need, and to give from all we have, trusting in the abundance of God's provision.

Tuesday, July 18 We pray for the Rev. Mary Fontaine as she begins serving the PCC as Moderator of the General Assembly.

Wednesday, July 19 We pray for chaplains in hospitals and long-term care homes as they provide comfort, offer hope and minister during moments that matter.

Thursday, July 20 We pray for children and young adults at camp, and for the counsellors and camp staff who ensure their safety and provide guidance and care.

Friday, July 21 We pray for ministers and lay preachers who seek to help us understand what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Saturday, July 22 We pray for the children and spouses of ministers.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada



**Prayer
Partnership**

Engaging in God's Mission
Through Word and Action

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Laurina Chopping-Clarke and her family on the recent death of Glenn. Please keep the Clarke family in your prayers at this difficult time.

There are some sympathy cards for the Buchanan and Clarke families and anniversary card for a wonderful couple at the back of the sanctuary. Please take some time to sign them so that we can let people know that we are thinking of them.

Reverend Scott is on vacation until August 5. While he is away, the Reverend Mark Gaskin is available for emergency pastoral care. Mark can be reached at (519) 504-5270 (cell) or at mgaskin@rogers.com.

We were very pleased to welcome Reverend Karen Kovats to the pulpit today. Thank you Karen!

Our special guest preacher next week will be the Reverend Cathy Stewart.

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

Greeter: Margret Hunter

Beadle: Bill Hunter

Organist: Martin Bohl

Tech Team: Dylan Smith & Laura Einwechter

Save the Date

The **Women's Retreat** will be held at **Crieff Hills Retreat Centre** on **November 10—12, 2023**. For further information, contact **Sylvia Brooks** (519/260-0834) or contact Crieff Hills directly by email at: info@crieffhills.com.



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