

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church November 19th, 2023 25th 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 Facebook Live. The Zoom link will be posted on the website.



Two women who stepped up
when men failed

Prelude: Andantino by Schubert

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: Let us praise the God of Truth!

P: Hallelujah! We seek God's truth.

L: Let us praise the God of Peace!

P: Hallelujah! We seek God's peace.

L: Let us praise the God of Love!

P: Hallelujah! In Christ we know God's love and so we offer our praise!

Hymn #657 Woman in the night

1. Woman in the night, spent from giving birth,
guard our precious light; peace is on the earth!

Woman in the crowd, creeping up behind,
touching is allowed; seek and you will find!

Refrain:

*Come and join the song, women, children, men;
Jesus makes us free to live again!*

2. Woman at the well, question the Messiah;
find your friends and tell; drink your hearts desire!
Woman at the feast, let the righteous stare,
come and go in peace; love him with your hair.

Refrain

3. Woman in the house, nurtured to be meek,
leave your second place; listen, think and speak!
Women on the road, from your sickness freed,
witness and provide, joining word and deed. *Refrain*

4. Women on the hill, stand when men have fled;
Christ needs loving still, though your hope is dead.
Women in the dawn, care and spices bring,
earliest to mourn, earliest to sing! *Refrain*

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Prayer of Approach:

L: Transforming God, you take the night and give us day.
You take our strife and give us peace. You take our
sadness and give us joy. You take our fear and give us
courage. You take death and give us new life. O God,
you give and you give and you give. So we come to
praise you and offer our love and loyalty as your
willing servants in the name of Christ who enriches
our lives with grace and in the power of the Spirit
who prays within us when we cannot find the right
words to honour you, God most kind and generous.
Amen.

Laying our Burdens Down

Responsive Reading Judges 5:24-31

L: Most blessed of women be Jael, the wife of Heber the
Kenite, of tent-dwelling women most blessed.

**P: Water he asked, milk she gave; she brought him
curds in a lordly bowl.**

L: She put her hand to the tent peg and her right hand to
the workers' mallet;

**P: she struck Sisera a blow; she crushed his head; she
shattered and pierced his temple.**

L: Between her feet he sank, he fell, he lay still;

**P: between her feet he sank, he fell; where he sank,
there he fell dead.**

L: Out of the window she peered; the mother of Sisera gazed through the lattice:

P: 'Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why tarry the hoofbeats of his chariots?'

L: Her wisest ladies make answer; indeed, she answers the question herself:

P: 'Are they not finding and dividing the spoil? A woman or two for every man;

L: spoil of dyed stuffs for Sisera, spoil of dyed stuffs embroidered, two pieces of dyed work embroidered for my neck as spoil?'

P: So perish all your enemies, O LORD! But may your friends be like the sun as it rises in its might."

Video Reading: Matthew 25: 14-30 Read by Alexis

Judges 4:1-10, 15-24

¹ The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. ² So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. ³ Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help, for he had nine hundred chariots of iron and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

⁴ At that time Deborah, a prophet, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. ⁵ She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. ⁶ She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Position yourself at Mount Tabor, taking ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. ⁷ I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him into your hand.' " ⁸ Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go." ⁹ And she said, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. ¹⁰ Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh, and ten thousand warriors went up behind him, and Deborah went up with him.

¹⁵ And the LORD threw Sisera and all his chariots and all his army into a panic before Barak; Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away on foot, ¹⁶ while Barak pursued the chariots and the army to Harosheth-ha-goiim. All the army of Sisera fell by the sword; not one was left.

¹⁷ Now Sisera had fled away on foot to the tent of Jael wife of Heber the Kenite, for there was peace between King Jabin of Hazor and the clan of Heber the Kenite. ¹⁸ Jael came out to meet Sisera and said to him, "Turn aside, my lord, turn aside to me; have no fear." So he turned aside to her into the tent, and she covered him with a rug. ¹⁹ Then he said to her, "Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty." So she opened a skin of milk and gave him a drink and covered him. ²⁰ He said to her, "Stand at the entrance of the tent, and if anybody comes and asks you, 'Is anyone here?' say, 'No.' " ²¹ But Jael wife of Heber took a tent peg and took a hammer in her hand and went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple, until it went down into the ground—he was lying fast asleep from weariness—and he died. ²² Then, as Barak came in pursuit of Sisera, Jael went out to meet him and said to him, "Come, and I will show you the man whom you are seeking." So he went into her tent, and there was Sisera lying dead, with the tent peg in his temple.

²³ So on that day God subdued King Jabin of Canaan before the Israelites. ²⁴ Then the hand of the Israelites bore harder and harder on King Jabin of Canaan, until they destroyed King Jabin of Canaan.

Hymn #655 Give me oil in my lamp

1. Give me oil in my lamp; keep me burning;
give me oil in my lamp, I pray.
Give me oil in my lamp; keep me burning;
keep me burning till the break of day.

*Refrain: Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the Servant King;
sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna, let us sing!*

2. Give me joy in my heart; keep me praising;
give me joy in my heart, I pray.
Give me joy in my heart; keep me praising;
keep me praising till the break of day. *Refrain*

3. Give me peace in my heart; keep me loving;
give me peace in my heart, I pray.
Give me peace in my heart; keep me loving;
keep me loving till the break of day. *Refrain*

4. Give me love in my heart; keep me serving;
give me love in my heart, I pray.
Give me love in my heart; keep me serving;
keep me serving till the break of day. *Refrain*

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Life and Work of the Church

Celebration of our Generosity

Offertory: "Make me a channel" (Jane Bennett)

Sermon: Two women who stepped up when men failed

Prayers of the People

Hymn: #393 I'm not ashamed to own my Lord
(Sung to the tune of #374)

1. I'm not ashamed to own my Lord, or to defend his cause,
maintain the glory of his cross, and honour all his laws.
2. Jesus, my Lord! I know his name; his name is all my boast
nor will he put my soul to shame, nor let my hope be lost.
3. I know that safe with him remains, protected by his power.
What I've committed to his trust till the decisive hour.
4. Then will he own his servant's name before his Father's face,
and in the new Jerusalem appoint my soul a place.

Words: Public domain

Benediction

Choral Response

755 Go ye, go ye into the world

1. Go ye, go ye into the world, and make disciples of all the nations.
Go ye, go ye into the world, and I will be with you there!
2. Go ye, go ye into the world, and take the gospel to all the people.
Go ye, go ye into the world, and I will be with you there!
3. Go ye, go ye into the world, and tell the story to all believers.
Go ye, go ye into the world, and I will be with you there!

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Postlude by J. S. Bach

Next Week's sermon:



Sorting
Sheep
and
Goats

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

Worship Assistant:	Steve Marsh
Organist:	Martin Bohl
Greeter:	Patrice Wappler
Beadle:	Carol Johnston
Tech Team:	Laura Einwechter & Dylan Smith
Sunday School:	Alexis Smith & Sarah English
Soloist:	Jane Bennett

This Week at St. Andrew's Hespeler

Tuesday: Hope Clothing 9:00—11:30 am

Thursday: Food Bank Noon—2:00 pm

Thursday: Hope Clothing Noon—2:00 pm



The "Women in the Bible" study will continue on Wednesday morning, November 29 at 10:00 am. Plan to come!

The New Hope Friends group

will be holding a special Christmas Social on

Thursday, December 7th, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm.

Please bring a Christmas goodie to share with the group. Coffee & tea will be provided.



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Potluck and Sharing Circle

As we agreed in our plans for this year, we want to continue to hold sharing circles from time to time to check in on how we are doing as a congregation and where we want to go. We will be doing that once again next Sunday, November 26 after worship. Please bring some finger food to share if you can and plan to stay and we'll take some time to talk.

Everyone is welcome to come and participate whether or not you can contribute to the lunch and whether or not you have participated in any of the previous sharing circles.

Here is an idea to cross some names off your Christmas list! Use the deposit

box in the foyer or speak to Laura Einwechter to order cards for all your favourite people using Fundscrip. It costs you nothing more and yet the church gets a commission!



DAILY PRAYERS

The Presbyterian Church in Canada



Prayer Partnership

Engaging in God's Mission
Through Word and Action

Sunday, November 19 On World Toilet Day, we acknowledge the critical importance of sanitation and access to proper toilet facilities. We pray that PWS&D's work will give more communities access to water, sanitation and hygiene.

Monday, November 20 (Transgender Day of Remembrance) We remember those who have died because of transphobic violence. We pray for an end to hatred and commit to creating safer communities where people of all genders can thrive.

Tuesday, November 21 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Temiskaming.

Wednesday, November 22 We pray for church office administrators and custodians and all those who tend to the daily lives of the structures of congregations.

Thursday, November 23 We pray for the therapeutic treatment of malnourished children in Haiti and in Somalia through PWS&D's partners, that they may experience healthy recoveries and new beginnings

Friday, November 24 We pray and give thanks for the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan's Indigenous Pinuyumayan District churches as they celebrate 60 years of Christian mission in their area.

Saturday, November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) We pray for all women who are survivors of violence and for those who have lost loved ones to gender-based violence. We pray that we, as a society, commit to working toward achieving safety for all women and an end to misogyny.

Mission Moment: November 19

The friendship between the Rev. Dr. Paul McLean and the Rev. Manias Chang Yu-fa began in 2012 when they first started working together on the Bunun Bible translation project, one of the Indigenous languages in Taiwan. In March 2023, they had just finished finalizing the entire translation when Manias was hospitalized. He passed away three months later. Although Manias did not live to see the complete Bunun Bible, his family and friends find comfort in knowing that he knew that his translation work of many years was completed before he passed away. We give thanks for faithful servants. Paul receives support from Presbyterians Sharing for his work in Bible Translation.



**This letter of concern was recently sent to the Prime Minister of Canada by Mary Fontaine,
Moderator of the General Assembly**

Dear Prime Minister,

The Presbyterian Church in Canada follows the reports of the violence between Hamas and Israel and the mounting civilian death tolls in Gaza, the occupied West Bank, East Jerusalem and parts of Israel with deepening distress and grief.

The tragic evil that comes with war – the murder of civilians, many of whom are children and the most vulnerable in society – compels us to condemn violence and call for a just peace.

We condemn the violence, especially against Palestinian and Israeli civilians, which are war crimes.

We condemn the war of words that continues to obscure the truth, seeking to hide ongoing atrocities.

Canada has consistently stated its support for human rights charters and international law. However, Canada and the wider international community have failed to uphold international law and human rights equally for all people.

To meet these commitments and our responsibilities, we urge the Government of Canada to call for

- an immediate ceasefire that includes both Israel's bombing of Gaza and Hamas' firing of rockets into Israel,
- the immediate and safe release of all hostages,
- opening a safe corridor (or number of corridors) to provide humanitarian relief to people in Gaza,
- restraint and de-escalation rather than militarized responses that will increase violence and lead to more deaths, and
- an end to the current blockade and the increased violence against Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and those who are citizens of Israel.

In addition to condemning the spiralling violence and doing everything in its power for an immediate ceasefire, Canada must work with a renewed effort toward peace with justice. Canada must strive for a solution to ongoing violence that upholds the rights of Palestinians and Israelis.

As the first Indigenous Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, I personally urge the Government of Canada to consider an Indigenous worldview in speaking wisdom to the conflicts in Israel-Palestine. In Indigenous worldviews, violence begets violence, and conflicts such as this one can infect the whole world, leading to further national and global divisions and leading to the destruction of humanity and the earth. What happens to one happens to all. Indigenous worldviews envision there will be peace among the nations. But the spiritual side of humanity needs to grow beyond the material, towards a balance of the physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual aspects of human nature, towards sincerity, prayer, gratitude, respectfulness, compassion, non-judgmental attitudes, patience and kindness.

And so we also urge the Government of Canada to

- hold all parties to the same standard of international law regarding the protection of civilians and their human rights,
- respond to the humanitarian crisis unfolding in all affected parts of the occupied Palestinian territories and make resources available to those who can respond, including civil society organizations,
- address underlying systems of oppression that create circumstances that perpetuate violence, including the 75-year Israeli military occupation of Palestine, the Gaza blockade (ongoing since 2007), and the inequality of rights and self-determination of all Palestinians, and
- work constructively toward a future where all Palestinians and Israelis can live in peace and where both Israelis and Palestinians can define what they need for a just peace.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Mary Fontaine

Moderator of the 2023 General Assembly

The Presbyterian Church in Canada