

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church December 10, 2023 Second Sunday of Advent

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.



Where is
the
Promise of
Peace on
Earth?

Prelude: Prelude - Noel by C. Collin

Welcome

Advent Candle lighting (Karen Kincaid & Carol Johnston)

Voice 1: The prophets call and an apostle writes that peace comes from God.

Voice 2: "For a child has been born for us...and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ...and there shall be endless peace." (Isaiah 9)

"The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4)

Voice 1: The world, our relationships and our lives are all too often torn by conflict and injustice. Advent calls us to pray and work for peace—shalom—in the world God loves and to which Christ came. But God's shalom is not simply the absence of conflict. Shalom is the peace that comes when we live life in the balance, loving God and one another.

Voice 2: Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

All: Jesus Christ comes as the Prince of Peace.

Voice 2: We join with all creation and lift our hearts

in joyful praise.

All: We light this candle to shine for peace. (while lighting the candle of peace)

#119 Hope is a star

2. Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth, giving a promise of safety and worth.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

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Prayer of Approach

L: God of purpose and promise, you love the breadth and depth of your creation and care for us like shepherds tend their sheep. You set pathways for us to follow, clearing the way in the wilderness of the world. And yet we break your heart by wandering off, pursuing our own purposes. Still, you keep calling us back. You call us by name in our baptisms. You set us in the world to serve you, each one with a purpose you imagine for us. And so we come to worship you, O God, knowing that in you, we will find our true purpose, and the path you set will lead to peace and well-being in your deep love, revealed for us in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Laying Down our Burdens

Hymn #133 Go, tell it on the mountain

Chorus: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Chorus*

2. The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo, above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth! *Chorus*

3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Chorus

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Responsive Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

L: LORD, you were favourable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

P: You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.

L: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

P: Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

L: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

P: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

L: The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

P: Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps.

Video Reading: Mark 1:1-8 Read by Cynthia

2 Peter 3:8-15

⁸ But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be destroyed with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and destroyed and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³ But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish, ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord

as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him.

Hymn #124 People in darkness

1. People in darkness are looking for light.

Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.

People with blindness are longing for sight.

Come, Lord Jesus Christ.

These days of adventure when all people wait are days for the advent of love.

2. People with sickness are praying for health.

Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.

People in poverty want to have wealth.

Come, Lord Jesus Christ.

These days of adventure when all people wait are days for the advent of hope.

3. People in trouble would like to be free.

Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.

People with arguments want to agree.

Come, Lord Jesus Christ.

These days of adventure when all people wait are days for the advent of peace.

4. People in sadness are trying to sing.

Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.

Bells in the steeple are waiting to ring.

Come, Lord Jesus Christ.

These days of adventure when all people wait are days for the advent of joy.

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Family Time

Life and Work of the Church

Celebration of our Generosity

Offertory: Mary did you know ... Jane Bennett

Sermon: Where is the Promise of Peace on Earth?

Prayers of the People

Hymn: #137 Born in the night (Verses 1-3)

1. Born in the night, Mary's child,
a long way from your home;
coming in need, Mary's child,
born in a borrowed room.

2. Clear shining light, Mary's child,
your face lights up our way;
Light of the world, Mary's child,
dawn on our darkened day.

3. Truth of our life, Mary's child,
you tell us God is good;
prove it is true, Mary's child,
go to your cross of wood.

Benediction

Choral Response (#137 v. 4)

4. Hope of the world, Mary's child,
you're coming soon to reign;
King of the earth, Mary's child,
walk in our streets again.

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Postlude: Kommt und last uns Christus ehren by Carl Piutti

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

Worship Assistant: Sylvia Brooks
Organist: Martin Bohl
Soloist: Jane Bennett
Greeter: Brenda Holm
Beadle: Patrice Wappler
Tech Team: Laura Einwechter & Dylan Smith
Sunday School: Donald Paddock

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!



There's still time to order and get your cards by
Christmas. Have your order in to Laura by **December
17, next week** and you will receive them in time for
Christmas.

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

Next Week's
sermon:



A Tale of Two Families

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday December 10 (Human Rights Day) Give us peace in our relationships, homes, churches, communities and in our souls, O God, as we prepare to welcome Christ among us again.

Monday, December 11 Let us take time during this consumer-driven Christmas season to think about and be thankful for what it means to have "enough".

Tuesday, December 12 This Advent, we give thanks for PWS&D's global partners equipping marginalized communities as they discover hope, peace, joy and love.

Wednesday, December 13 We pray for ministers and professional church workers who will be retiring from active service.

Thursday, December 14 We give thanks for LGBTQI2+ community organizations that provide support, social connection, and advocacy for queer and trans people.

Friday, December 15 We pray for the Rev. Stewart Folster and the people at Mistawasis Memorial Presbyterian Church on Mistawasis Nehiyawak First Nation.

Saturday, December 16 Bless those who teach and those who learn in our theological colleges with humility, good humour and joy.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada



**Prayer
Partnership**

Engaging in God's Mission
Through Word and Action

Giving Tuesday: Outreach Sunday!

Why are volunteers important to our outreach programs?

- Volunteers Save Money
- Our Volunteers help boost visibility
- Our Volunteers have turned into advocates St. Andrew's, Hope Clothing, the Food Bank/Pantry and Lunch on Queen
- Our Volunteers have increased the impact of Hope Clothing
- Our Volunteers bring a diversity of skills to St. Andrew's and our outreach programs

Our volunteers are incredibly valuable to St. Andrew's. Each one has a different gift or talent that they share with our outreach programs.

- Hope Clothing is organized as a clothing store in the mall would be organized. Donations are sorted, shipped out to various other organizations if they don't meet our high standards, and rotated through our racks and shelves on a weekly basis.
- Hope Clothing has recently been able to add a time on the 1st Saturday of the month for people to shop. People who work love this option.
- Lunch on Queen serves lunch on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Not all who come for lunch are clients of the food bank or Hope Clothing. Some are from the community who come for the chance to see friends, get out and have conversations with others.
- Because we have volunteers who see a need in the community we have quietly started St. Andrew's Pantry. We have no budget for this program and rely solely on donations and volunteer support. We serve small amounts of food to people in the community on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month.

How many people do we serve with our Outreach programs? (on average)

- Hope Clothing serves approximately 100 people/families per month
- Our offsite location of the Cambridge Food Bank serves approximately 50 households per month
- Lunch on Queen serves 50+ people per month (in one lunch)
- St. Andrew's pantry serves 16+ households per month

Who do we serve?

- Anyone who asks for help
- Unhoused people of various stages: those who couch surf, those who camp in various known or unknown homeless camps, those who sleep in the parks and on benches
- International students who are having a difficult time making ends meet
- Refugees who have needed to flee from their homes due to war. Some are from refugee camps in and around Syria.
- Immigrants who have moved to Canada to make a better life for their family and children.
- We have served people from the Philippines, Afghanistan, India, China, the Ivory Coast, the Ukraine and other areas of the world.
- People from the community who need a little help making their budgets stretch. People who need some warmth, understanding, no judgment and compassion.

What do we get in return?

A relationship with new people helps all of us understand what other people go through. This enables us to be better people, to better serve them as Jesus would have us serve.

We have met some wonderful people who have taught us so much. There isn't enough space in the bulletin to list what we've each been taught. Let's just say it is a wonderful privilege to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

We have many people volunteer from within our St. Andrew's community and from the Hespeler community. All volunteers are shining examples of how well volunteers can advocate for the programs they are involved in. They talk up their experiences to people in person in the community and on social media.

St. Andrew's is able to offer all of these programs ONLY because of our amazing volunteers. In terms of dollars and cents our volunteers have an incredible impact on our programs: if we were to pay our amazing volunteers who support these programs (approximately 165 volunteer hours per month) the cost (at minimum wage) would be \$33,000 annually!

It doesn't matter which way you look at it, our volunteers make an incredible addition to St. Andrew's and the Hespeler Community. Thank you to all of our outreach volunteers!

Thank you everyone for your consideration of contributing to our Giving Tuesday campaign. When you decide on how you would like to participate you can:

- Go to the web page at standrewshespeler.ca and use the "Donate Now" button. From there you can choose where you want your *Giving Tuesday* give to be directed.
- Send a cheque to the church in the mail to the church office or leave a gift in the offering plate.
- If you use your offering envelopes (in the plate or in the mail, designate "Giving Tuesday on the envelope so that it can be distinguished from regular contributions.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Terry & Janice Barnard and family on the recent death of Janice's father, Ken Pearce. Plc keep the family in your prayer: difficult time.



A Note from Allison Cann

Thank you to my St. Andrew's church family for your support these past few weeks while I recover from my accident. Your lovely cards, phone calls, texts, prayers and visits remind me that I'm held in God's love, Beloved and never alone. ~Allison.

The Longest Night Service

The Longest night service on December 21 at 7:30 will include a time to remember those who we have lost or other griefs we have. If you would like to lend us a picture of someone you have lost, no matter how recently, to place on the memorial table, please bring it in or send a picture we can print to smcandless@standrewshespeler.ca

Mission Moment: December 10

In northern Ghana, people living with disabilities face a range of issues, such as widespread poverty, limited access to livelihood opportunities and health care, and social barriers to full inclusion. Political, environmental, and economic challenges work together to create those difficult conditions. PWS&D works with the Presbyterian Church of Ghana in a Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program to address these challenges through vocational skills training programs such as soap and pomade making. Ateni Lois, a participant in the soap-making class,



Presbyterian
World Service
& Development

expresses her gratitude, stating, "We are so grateful to the CBR program and PWS&D for equipping us with the skills to be able to produce soap and pomade for money. Very soon, we will be in good business and will be out of poverty in our respective communities."

Very Special Opportunities to worship all through this month of December!

Sunday, December 17, 10 am: Third Sunday of Advent & maybe a surprise!

Thursday, December 21, 7:30 pm: the Longest Night Service

Sunday, December 24, 10 am : Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24, 6 pm: Family Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24, 8 pm: Carols & Communion, Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 31, 10 am: New Year Eve (Morning) Worship. Prepare to star the new year right!



**St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian
Church**

Here's our Advent Challenge!

We would like to invite you to help us stock up with personal hygiene items, toilet paper, kleenex, household cleaning products and dried goods (food).

These items are very expensive and always appreciated by the people who access our programs. The items will be distributed, free of charge, in the new year.

Items can be placed under our Christmas tree or inside the glass doors off the parking lot.

