

# St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church December 24, 2023 Fourth Sunday of Advent

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church  
73 Queen Street East,  
Cambridge, ON N3C 2A9  
519-658-2652

Rev. Scott McAndless: [smcandless@standrewshespeler.ca](mailto:smcandless@standrewshespeler.ca)  
Email: [office@standrewshespeler.ca](mailto:office@standrewshespeler.ca)  
Prayer Requests: [prayerchain@standrewshespeler.ca](mailto:prayerchain@standrewshespeler.ca)  
Website: [www.standrewshespeler.ca](http://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.



## God's Dwelling on Earth

Prelude: He Shall Feed His Flock by G. F. Handel

Welcome

Advent Candle lighting

Voice 1: The prophets call and the psalmists sing to announce that God is love.

Voice 2: "For the mountain may depart and the hills may be moved, but my steadfast love shall never depart from you...and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord who has compassion on you." (Isaiah 54)

"Give thanks to the LORD, who is good...give thanks to the Lord of lords, whose steadfast love endures forever." (Psalm 136)

Voice 1: From the mystery of God's love came our creation and we are nurtured daily by it. The power of God's love is transformative; because we have received God's love, we cannot remain the same. Love means seeking the best for others. Love is compassion for all creation. Love speaks the truth with kindness. Love is the way of seeing others as God sees them.

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

**All: Jesus Christ is the love of God come into the**

**world.**

Voice 2: We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

**All: We light this candle to burn for love.**  
(while lighting the candle of love)

#119 Hope is a star

4. Love is a flame that burns in our heart.

Jesus has come and will never depart.

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 majesty and mercy, you are powerful, you are holy, and you are loving. You come among us not as a warrior or tyrant, but as a child, new life born among us, reaching out to embrace us in love. And so we come to worship you this day, trusting your wisdom with Joseph, pondering your mystery with Mary. We offer you our love for all that you have been, all that you are, and all that you will be, Creator, Christ and Spirit, one God. holy and loving, now and forever, Amen.

Laying Down our Burdens

Hymn #139 Hark! The herald angels sing

1. Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King,  
peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.

Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King.

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,

late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail the incarnate deity!

Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King.

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!

Light and, life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

Mild, he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

born to raise the lost of earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King.

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Video Reading: Luke 1:26-38, Read by Jean Godin

Anthem: Holy Child within the Manger GraceNotes

Responsive Reading Luke 1:46-55

L: And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

**P: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

L: for he has looked with favour on the lowly state of his servant.

**P: Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,**

L: for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;

**P: indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.**

L: He has shown strength with his arm;

**P: he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**

L: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones

**P: and lifted up the lowly;**

L: he has filled the hungry with good things

**P: and sent the rich away empty.**

L: He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

**P: according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

<sup>1</sup> Now when the king was settled in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup> the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup> Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind, for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup> But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup> "Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup> I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup> Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' <sup>8</sup> Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel, <sup>9</sup> and I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place and be disturbed no more, and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup> from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel, and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

<sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever."

Hymn #161 What child is this ?

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.

Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high; the virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

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Family Time

Life and Work of the Church

Celebration of our Generosity

Offertory: God Rest ye Merry Gentlemen Joyful Sound

Sermon: God's Dwelling on Earth

Prayers of the People

Hymn: #166 Once in royal David's city

1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

2. Christ came down to earth from heaven, who is God  
and Lord of all,  
sheltered by a humble stable, cradled in a cattle stall:  
with the poor, oppressed and lowly, lived on earth our  
Saviour holy,

3. and our eyes at last shall see him, through his own  
redeeming love,  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven  
above,  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is  
gone.

4. Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing  
by,  
we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand  
on high;  
there God's children gather round, bright like stars, with  
glory crowned.

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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 - Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland by J.S. Bach

- 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.
- You can use this QR code to take you to our CanadaHelps donation page

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

Worship Assistant: Joanne Waugh  
Organist: Martin Bohl  
Greeter: Jean McMurtrie  
Beadle: Elaine McLean  
Tech Team: Laura Einwechter & Dylan Smith  
Sunday School: Donald Paddock

**This Week at St. Andrew's Hespeler**

Thursday: Food Bank Noon– 2:00 pm

Longest Night service: 7:30 pm

Next Week's  
sermon:



**Giving Tuesday Update**

Our Giving Tuesday campaign is still going. Did you know that the first \$7500 in donations will be matched? Please help us ensure that the matching donations are used!

Thank you everyone who has made a donation 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](http://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.





### Advent Challenge—THANK YOU!

Many thanks to everyone who met our Advent Challenge. Our Christmas tree and food bin are full. These gifts will allow us to help people out in the next few months.

### A note from Sunday School

Next week, Sunday December 31 we will be taking a break. We will meet again, in room 206 after Family Time, on Sunday, January 7, 2024.

### DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, December 24** We pray that the love we know in Christ will nourish and nurture our

The Presbyterian Church in Canada



## Prayer Partnership

Engaging in God's Mission  
Through Word and Action

love until we conform to the pattern of Christ's life.

**Monday, December 25 (Christmas Day)** We thank you, loving God for the gift of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ who brings reconciliation. May we come to know you more clearly and serve you more faithfully as we receive the Christ Child again.

**Tuesday, December 26** For Christ, there was no room in the inn; we pray for those who seek shelter. Christ had to flee his birthplace; we pray for those who seek refuge. Christ read scripture as a child; we pray that God's wisdom will enlighten our minds and direct our paths.

**Wednesday, December 27** We pray for Cedar Tree Ministries, an outreach ministry for Indigenous people on Vancouver Island that hopes to bring healing and reconciliation between the church and the First Nations, as well as to worship God.

**Thursday, December 28** We pray for Bishop Szablocs Bogdán as he provides leadership to the Reformed Church in Romania, Királyhágómellék District for the next five years.

**Friday, December 29** We give thanks for the Rev. Mary Fontaine, Moderator of the General Assembly, and the connections she is making with congregations and individuals as she serves the church.

**Saturday, December 30** Christ was born as one of us and, in him, God shows us how much the world is loved. We pray that God's love blesses and fills the world.

### Mission Moment: December 24

Through Presbyterians Sharing we shine Christ's light in Canada and around the world. We are there when a prisoner in Malawi discovers Christ's love through Bible study, and when an Indigenous woman in Taiwan reads the Bible in her own language for the first time. We are there when a congregation adapts to meet community needs in new ways and when a theological student in Canada, Malawi, Nigeria, Ghana or Beirut graduates, ready to serve God. We are there when a child receives a healthy snack and after-school support from an inner-city ministry, and when a refugee claimant needs a friend. We are also there for one another as we pray, serve and share the gifts God has given us. When we put our gifts in God's hands, God does remarkable things!



Presbyterians  
Sharing