

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church December 3, 2023 First 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

Email: office@standrewshespeler.ca

Prayer Requests: prayerchain@standrewshespeler.ca

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.



The Lesson of the Fig Tree

Prelude: Prayer by Beethoven

Welcome

Advent Candle lighting (Paul Bender & Sylvia Brooks)

Voice 1: The prophets call and the psalmist sings to announce that hope comes from God.

Voice 2: "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence." (Isaiah 64) "We shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living." (Psalm 27)

Voice 1: The world cries for justice and transformation. Advent summons us to watch, to wait and to hope. In the destruction of the current order is the promise of a new order beyond our imagination. Signs of hope are all around us if we have the patience to wait and to see them.

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

All: Jesus Christ comes as the hope of the world.

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

All: We light this candle to bear witness to hope.
(while lighting the candle of hope)

#119 Hope is a star

1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

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: Creator God, you made the heavens and the earth. You set the planets in their courses, lit the sun with fire, caused the stars to shine and the world to turn. Life springs up wherever your breath moves. In Jesus Christ, you brought hope into a world full of fear and despair. You sent your Spirit to enliven our hope and guide us on the way. Now we wait in anxious times for the world to be made new. Move in us and in all your creation to bring forth new life, while we wait with hope in your grace and goodness. Amen.

Laying our Burdens Down

Hymn #122 Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel (1-4)

1. Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. Oh come, oh come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

3. Oh come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show,

and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

4. Oh come, thou Branch of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
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Responsive Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

L: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph
like a flock!

**P: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine
forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might, and come to save us!**

L: Restore us, O God;

P: let your face shine, that we may be saved.

L: O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with
your people's prayers?

**P: You have fed them with the bread of tears and given
them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the
scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among
themselves.**

L: Restore us, O God of hosts;

P: let your face shine, that we may be saved.

L: But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.

**P: Then we will never turn back from you; give us life,
and we will call on your name.**

L: Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;

P: let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Video Reading: Mark 13:24-37 Read by Jean Godin

Hymn #115 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son,
hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

2. He brings salvation speedy to those who suffer wrong,
he saves the poor and needy, and helps the weak be
strong,
they sing who once were sighing, their darkness turned
to light,
for they, who once were dying, are precious in his
sight.

3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful
earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to
birth.

Before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go,

and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley
flow.

4. All powers shall bow before him, and gold and
incense bring;
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing,
for he shall have dominion o'er river, sea and shore,
far as the eagle's pinion or dove's light wing can
soar.

5. O'er every foe victorious, Christ on his throne shall
rest,
from age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-blest:
the tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever— that name to us is Love.

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Family Time

Life and Work of the Church

Celebration of our Generosity

Offertory: "I wonder as I wander" Jane Bennett

Sermon: The Lesson of the Fig Tree

Communion Hymn #529 O holy Father, God most dear

1. O holy Father, God most dear,
behold us round thine altar here;
accept for sacrifice, we pray,
the common food we here display.
For bread set forth, for wine outpoured,
we bless thee, all-creating Lord.

2. O Christ, who at the supper board
took bread and wine and spoke the word,
and, in that solemn paschal meal,
gave flesh and blood our wound to heal,
for us redeemed, for life restored,
we bless thee, all-creating Word.

3. O Holy Spirit, be thou nigh
this bread and cup to sanctify
that, eating of the food unpriced,
we form one body, one in Christ.
Redeemed, restored in unity,
we bless thee, Holy Trinity

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Celebration of Communion

Prayers of the People

Hymn: #122 Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel (5-7)

5. Oh come, thou Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high

and close the path to misery.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O
Israel.

6. Oh come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O
Israel.

7. Oh come, desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart, one mind;
bid envy, strife and discord cease
and be thyself our source of peace.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O
Israel.

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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: Once in Royal David's City by Donald Johns

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

Worship Assistant: Joanne Waugh
Organist: Martin Bohl
Soloist: Jane Bennett
Greeter: Carol Johnston
Beadle: Sylvia Brooks
Tech Team: Laura Einwechter & Dylan Smith
Sunday School: Donald Paddock

This Week at St. Andrew's Hespeler

Tuesday: Hope Clothing 9:00—11:30 am

Thursday: St. Andrew's Pantry Noon— 2:00 pm

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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.



Next Week's Sermon:

Where is
the
promise of
Peace on
Earth?



New Hope Friends Group Christmas Social

Thursday, December 7th

all are welcome to join us, 7:00 - 9:00 pm



Together
we spread
kindness

GivingTuesday.ca
#GivingTuesdayca

GIVING
TUESDAY Nov
28

Today we kick off our GivingTuesday year end campaign. Everyone will be given a "GivingTuesday" Unselfie page. We ask that everyone fill theirs out. How to fill it out? Write out a sentence or two about why St. Andrew's is important to you. Then bring it to our photographer at the end of the worship service to have your photo taken with you holding up your Unselfie. We will keep all of the Unselfie sheets and hang them in the sanctuary as a reminder of why St. Andrew's means so much to so many of us.



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 you will receive them in time for Christmas.

Thank you for your continued support of this program.

Thank you to Laura & Patrice for continuing to look after this program for St. Andrew's



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, December 3 Nourish us with hope during this season of waiting, O God, as we prepare to receive Christ among us again.

Monday, December 4 We pray for students from theological colleges who will be graduating in December.

Tuesday, December 5 Pray for the spirit of resilience to move among refugees around the world and remember the PWS&D work that helps protect their rights.

Wednesday, December 6 (National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women) We pray for the healing and wellbeing of women who experience violence and for God's guidance that we may build communities that do not tolerate misogyny and gender-based violence.

Thursday, December 7 We pray for those who find this time of year a time of mourning and sadness.

Friday, December 8 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Vancouver Island.

Saturday, December 9 We pray for the Women's Missionary Society Council Executive members as they prepare for the WMS Council meeting and celebration of the 110th WMS Anniversary to be held in May 2024.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada



Prayer Partnership
Engaging in God's Mission Through Word and Action

Mission Moment: December 3

In Malawi, Jennifer joined a program for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) supported by PWS&D. When she was in Grade 5, Jennifer lost both of her parents to HIV and was cared for by her great-aunt. Jennifer is also HIV positive and is undergoing treatment. Through the OVC program, Jennifer received training in tailoring as well as beekeeping. Now 19 years old, Jennifer has just had her first honey harvest, yielding 5 kg of honey, which she sold to buy food. Jennifer now dreams of volunteering with a local tailor, hoping to secure a paid job in the field. With the skills she learned from this program, Jennifer is able to live positively with HIV and earn a livelihood to support herself.



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**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.





YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED

TO ATTEND OUR GIVING TUESDAY CELEBRATION

ST. ANDREW'S HESPELER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 10, 2023

We will be celebrating all of our partnerships and volunteers on this day. We would not be able to offer any of our programs: Cambridge Food Bank offsite location, Hope Clothing, Outreach Worker from the House of Friendship, Lunch on Queen; without you!

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

Sunday, December 10, 10 am: Second Sunday of Advent and special *GivingTuesday* celebration after worship

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 24, 10 am: New Year Eve (Morning) Worship. Prepare to star the new year right!