

# St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church December 31, 2023 7th Day of Christmas

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.

Prelude: Sheep may safely graze by J.S. Bach

Welcome

Call to Worship:

L: Praise the Lord!

**P: Praise the Lord from the heavens!**

L: Praise God in the heights and the depths!

**P: Praise God, all creatures of earth and sky!**

L: Praise God, young and old, together!

**P: Let us praise the Lord and worship God's holy name!**

Carol #160 Unto us a child is born

1. Unto us a child is born! Sovereign of creation, came once to a world forlorn, the Lord of every nation, the Lord of every nation.

2. Cradled in a cattle stall, held by love maternal, see the Sovereign of us all, our Lord of lords eternal, our Lord of lords eternal.

3. Now may Mary's son, who came so long ago to love us, lead us all with hearts aflame unto the joys above us, unto the joys above us.

4. "Christ the Source and Christ the End!" Let the organ thunder while our happy voices rend the joyful air asunder, the joyful air asunder!

Words: translation, copyright © Oxford University Press

Prayer of Approach

L: God of grace and glory, we praise you from the heights and from the depths; from the courts of power and from the sidewalks of our lives. Your splendour shines from a manger, where the Light of the World was born for us. In fragile flesh, you are revealed to us face to face reaching out to claim our love. And so we gather with those who have glimpsed that love to rejoice that you have claimed us in Christ. We offer you our praise, Creator, Son, and Spirit; Source of life, Glorious light, and Wisdom of the ages. Amen.

Laying Down our Burdens

Responsive Psalm 148

L: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens;



Two Turtle Doves

praise him in the heights!

**P: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

L: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!

**P: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

L: Praise the LORD from the earth,

**P: you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

L: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

**P: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

L: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together!

**P: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.**

L: He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.

**P: Praise the LORD!**

Video Reading: Luke 2:22-40, Read by Cynthia

Hymn #168 Il est Né (He is born)

Refrain : *He is born! Now the child has come!  
Fill all the air with our merry carolling!  
Play the pipe, beat the joyful drum!  
Hope is born, for the child has come!*

1. Faithful sages through ages long,  
prophets sang of the Saviour's coming:  
faithful sages through ages long,  
prophets sang of the promised dawn. *Refrain*

2. See what light from his face has shone,  
grace and mercy of God revealing;  
see what light from his face has shone,  
from this child, from the promised one! *Refrain*

3. Christ embraced our human form,  
made the stable a holy dwelling;  
Christ embraced our human form:  
dwell in us, well-beloved Son! *Refrain*

4. Jesus, Sovereign and Holy One,  
we adore you, before you kneeling;  
Jesus, Sovereign and Holy One,  
dwell in us, make our hearts your throne! *Refrain*

Words: English translation copyright © Andrew Donaldson, 1997

Family Time

Life and Work of the Church

Celebration of our Generosity

Offertory: The Angel, by V. Rebikoff

Sermon: Two Turtle Doves

Prayers of the People

Hymn: #811 Standing at the portal

1. Standing at the portal of the opening year,  
words of comfort meet us hushing every fear,  
spoken through the silence by God's loving voice,  
tender, strong and faithful, making us rejoice.

*Refrain: Onward, then, and fear not, children of the day,  
for God's word shall never, never pass away.*

2. "I, your God, am with you: do not be afraid;  
I will help and strengthen; do not be dismayed,  
for I will uphold you with my own right hand;  
you are called and chosen in my sight to stand." *Refrain*

3. God will not forsake us and will never fail;  
God's eternal covenant ever will prevail.  
Resting on this promise, what have we to fear?  
God is all-sufficient for the coming year. *Refrain*

Words: public domain

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.

Words: © 1964 by Stainer & Bell Ltd. Used by permission of Hope Publishing Co

Postlude: An English Traditional Carol by H. Willan

Next Week's  
Sermon:  
**Are You  
Simeon  
or Anna?**



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

Worship Assistant: Joanne Waugh  
Organist: Martin Bohl  
Greeter: Sylvia Brooks  
Beadle: Joanne Waught  
Tech Team: Laura Einwechter

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

January 6: 10 am to Noon  
Reopening for Hope Clothing

The "**Women in the Bible**" study will continue  
on January 10 at 10 am. You are welcome to join  
us in the foyer!

**Mission Moment: December 31**

In Malawi, Madalitso Mphamba, a determined 16-year-old, once doubted she would ever have the chance to attend secondary school. When Madalitso's mother fell seriously ill and had to give up her job, they moved in with family for support. At first, Madalitso's grandma's beer brewing venture was thriving and played a crucial role in supporting her primary school education. However, Madalitso's grandmother eventually had to stop this business, and the family could no longer afford to send Madalitso to school. With help from PWS&D, the Blantyre Synod Education Department's Neno scholarship program allowed Madalitso to re-enroll, enabling her to dream of a brighter future.

