

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

Worship Assistant: Joanne Waugh
Organist: Martin Bohl
Tech Team: Dylan Smith & Laura Einwechter
Sunday School: Alexis Smith
Greeter: Kathy Bott
Beadle: Elaine McLean

Our **GivingTuesday Kick Off Celebration** was a lot of fun and a great learning experience. We are thankful for Samantha, Patrick and Elyse for taking the time to come and share how their organizations are helping the community of Hespeler. Thank you to all of our volunteers for setting up such a fun and welcoming space for everyone to enjoy.

Please take a Giving Tuesday Calendar home with you today. There are lots of ideas on the calendar to help keep you focused on St. Andrew's, your faith and serving others this month. Please participate in any way you are able.

Our **Longest Night Service** will be on Saturday, December 21st at 7:00 pm. If you are missing someone this season and would like to remember them in this service, please bring in a photo for our candle display. If you'd like to bring a photo in ahead of time for us to keep for the service only, or to copy for the service please speak with Scott or Joni

This Thursday is the only **Food Bank pick up** this month and we expect to be extremely busy. Most of our volunteer team are coming in for the day, but if anyone else would like to join us, please speak with Joni. Food Bank runs from noon - 2:00 pm and we expect to go over that time. (jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca)

A Very Special Service

We will be hosting a very special service here on Sunday, December 22. The congregations of Doon, Duff's and Preston will be joining us for a musical celebration of the season. We will arrange a couple of songs to sing and there will be a mass choir that anyone can join. Speak to Scott if you'd like a copy of the mass choir music. There will be a mass choir practice on the 19th of December at 7:00 pm.

The December 22nd service will begin at **10:30 am** (with a carol sing 15 minutes before).

Next Sunday, December 15th our service will be an exciting and fun service that will involve our children and families and everyone who would like to get involved. We will need many readers - would you volunteer to do a short reading to help narrate our story? After our service is over we will enjoy a potluck lunch together. If you are able, please bring a food item to share with others for lunch. And ... if you can help with lunch, set up, serving, clean up ... that would also be very helpful. Please speak with Joni if you can help in any way. (jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca)

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, December 8 (2nd Sunday of Advent) We pray for those who grieve the death of someone they love—whose presence they miss with an ache too deep for words. Help us not to fear our grief, for it is a sign of how much we loved the one who now rejoices with the saints in God's presence.

Monday, December 9 We pray for Knox College students as they complete the Fall semester and journey through this Advent season to Christmas, for rest and renewal in time spent with family and friends.

Tuesday, December 10 (Human Rights Day of Prayer) We give thanks that women leaders in Nicaragua are receiving training in small business development with PWS&D support and are becoming better able to meet their families' needs.

Wednesday, December 11 We pray for people who are experiencing challenges conceiving or adopting children.

Thursday, December 12 We pray for the Continuing Education Grants Committee which meets this month and for grant recipients as they use their learning to enrich the ministries.

Friday, December 13 We pray for the proposed new pathway to ordained ministry for prospective Indigenous ministry students, which will help heal the relationship between Indigenous people, the church and country.

Saturday, December 14 As people gather with families and friends during the Christmas season, we pray for those who are experiencing loneliness.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada



Prayer Partnership

Engaging in God's Mission
Through Word and Action



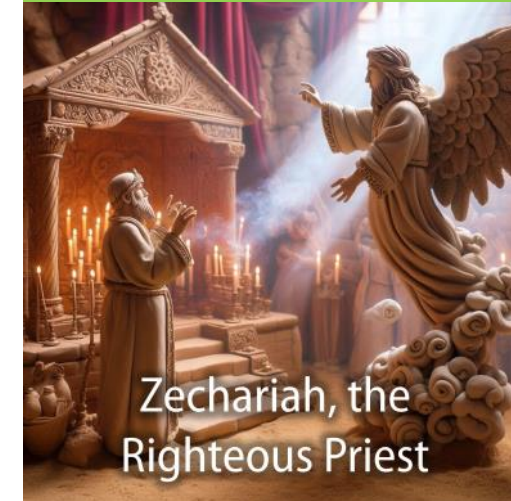
Mission Moment: December 8

In Ghana, 12-year-old Abigail Awini became physically challenged shortly after birth, which left her unable to walk. Abigail's father died when she was just four years old, and shortly thereafter, her mother left. Abigail's grandmother, a poor farmer, became her caregiver. During a community survey, Abigail was registered for support from PWS&D's partner, the Garu Centre. With their advice, her grandmother enrolled her in school. Unable to move independently, Abigail's grandmother carried her on her back daily until Abigail got too



big and had to drop out of school. However, the project supported Abigail with a tricycle to enhance her mobility. "The life of my granddaughter has changed," shares her grandmother. Abigail found independence and was able to resume her schooling.

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church December 8, 2024 Second Sunday of Advent



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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. Or join us on Zoom or Facebook Live. The Zoom link will be posted on the website.

Prelude: Hymnus de Adventu Domini by S. Scheidt

Lighting the Second Candle of Advent (By Nick, Cris and Stella)

L: In a world too often divided, we gather to embrace the gift of peace.

P: We come with hearts open to reconciliation and understanding.

L: We light the second candle of Advent, a symbol of God's peace in a troubled world. (Light the candle of peace)

L: May the light of this candle guide us as we seek to fulfill our calling as peacemakers.

P: Holy One, strengthen us by your Spirit to commit ourselves to standing against injustice in our communities and the world. Affirm within us a dedication to foster your peace. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

#119 Peace is a ribbon

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 peace and promise, you are the giver of life, living in us through the power of your Holy Spirit. You are the voice that calls us from our wandering, setting us on a new path. You are the living water that purifies us, baptising us for service in the world that so badly needs your love. You are the Way that we are called to walk and you are the one who supplies all things for the journey. Refresh us in this time of worship, and reignite our desire to serve you each and every day. Glory, honour and praise be yours now and always, one God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. **Amen.**

Laying Down our Burdens

Hymn #118 Hark the glad sound

1. Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes, the Saviour promised long;

let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song!

2. You come the prisoners to release in Satan's bondage held; the gates of brass before you burst, the iron fetters yield.

3. You come the broken heart to bind, the wounded soul to cure, to bring the treasures of God's grace, good tidings for the poor.

4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, your welcome shall proclaim, and heaven's eternal arches ring with your most honoured name.

Words: public domain

Luke 1:5-14

⁵In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

Luke 1:68-79

L: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

P: for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.

L: He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child David,

P: as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

L: that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

P: Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

L: to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

P: in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days.

L: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,

P: for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

L: Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

P: to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Luke 3:1-6 Read by Sylvia

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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Family Time

Life and Work of the Church

Celebration of our Generosity

Offertory: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus by Jan Bender

Sermon: Zechariah, the Righteous Priest

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer
(... forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors...)

Hymn #169 Il est né

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

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Benediction

Choral Response (to the tune of #146 Angels from the realms)

Christ, you taught us: "Pay attention!" So we humbly serve and pray:

May we gladly live your kingdom in a world that's gone astray.

May the hope of our salvation guide the things we do and say.

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Postlude: O Thou, of God the Father by J. S. Bach

There will be a **Fundscrip order** going in after Sunday, December 15. If you would like to order gift cards for Christmas Giving (or any reason) please make sure your order is in to Laura Einwcheter by next Sunday. The cards will be back before Christmas!

This Week at St. Andrew's Hespeler

Tuesday: Hope Clothing 9:30—11:00 am

Wednesday: Mobile Food Market 12:30—1:30 pm

Thursday: Food Bank Noon—2:00 pm

Thursday: Hope Clothing Noon—2:00 pm

Annual Advent Mission Project

Our annual Advent Mission Project has launched! If you can help us stock St. Andrew's Pantry shelves with canned food items, toilet paper, Kleenex, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, etc. we would appreciate it. Last year your contributions lasted until late April! These extra items are very much appreciated by members of our community. If you have questions please speak with Joni (jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca)

There will be a Congregational Meeting Today

After worship and a brief fellowship time, we will convene a congregational meeting. The motions and amalgamation plan to be considered are available at the back of the sanctuary. Please stay and participate if you are able.