

**St. Andrew's Hespeler
Presbyterian Church
April 25th, 2021
4th Sunday of Easter
Mission Awareness Sunday**

**St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church
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Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-12pm



Order of Online Worship for April 25. We will meet online for as long as people want to stay on at 10 am. The link will be posted on the website. The sanctuary is presently closed for in-person worship.

Call to worship

L: Jesus the Christ said, I am the Good Shepherd.

P: We have come to follow him.

L: We gather in the name of the One who leads us by still waters.

P: We have come to be restored in him.

L: We gather in the name of the One who prepares a banquet for us.

P: We have come to be fed by his love, so let us worship God.

Prayers of approach and confession

L: Lord God, our good and loving shepherd, you nourish our lives and lead us into green pastures. You restore our souls with rest and peace. You give us true joy so our cup overflows with goodness. You walk with us through the darkest valleys, offering us courage and compassion. At all times and in all circumstances, you are with us, Creator, Redeemer, and Guiding Spirit, so we praise you, Holy One, now and always. Amen.

P: Patient God, your mercy is abundant and your love endless. Trusting in your mercy, we confess that often we have not shown your love to others, even though we claim it for ourselves. You have called us to show compassion, but too often we are quick to judge others. You have called us to follow Jesus, yet we are distracted by our own plans and desires. Forgive us for falling short of

your hopes for us and renew a right spirit within us.

L: The mercy of our God is from everlasting to everlasting. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, God's generous love reaches out to embrace us. We are forgiven and set free to begin again. Let us give thanks for God's most generous love.

Responsive Psalm 23

L: The LORD is my shepherd,

P: I shall not want.

L: He makes me lie down in green pastures;

P: he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

L: He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

P: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;

L: for you are with me;

P: your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

P: you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

L: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

P: and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Ongoing life of the church

Scripture: (other lectionary readings below)

1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in us, and by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

John 10:11-18

¹¹‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not

care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.’

Offertory: “If I can help somebody” Bill Hunter
Celebration of our Generosity

Sermon: “Laying down your life”



Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Benediction

Attention Youth! Our next get together, on Zoom, is Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 7:00 pm. The link to the zoom meeting will be emailed to you and it will be posted on the website on May 1. Even if you didn’t respond to the Doodle Poll, please join us. We will be playing some games and having a chance to talk. Questions? just ask Joni (jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca)



Check out our stories, read-alouds, Bible readings, and activities for our children, online. They are posted each Saturday morning on our website and on the church Facebook page.

There are some goodies in the mailbox at the church (the one marked "bulletins") that is free for anyone to pick up. You will find:

- The March/April edition of Today
- The March/April/May edition of Our Daily Bread
- The spring edition of Presbyterian Connection
- Printed copies of this bulletin each week.
- Printed copies of Scott's most recent sermon each week.



2021 Offering Envelopes are still available. Please arrange to get yours.



Meet Ron Koenderink. He has now been hired (probationally for the moment) as the new custodian for St. Andrew's Hespeler. Welcome Ron! He'll be around a little bit for the next while and then, when things start to open up, we hope to see a lot more of him.

Special thanks to Andy Cann and his family who helped out with custodial duties during the interim.

Other Lectionary Readings

Acts 4:5-12

⁵The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been

healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

it has become the cornerstone."

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'



Topic - The International Impact of COVID-19: A Conversation with Isaac Tiiga

Description - Join us on May 1 for a conversation with Isaac Tiiga, Program Coordinator at Garu Community-Based Rehabilitation in Ghana. You'll hear from this PWS&D partner about the international impact of COVID-19 and have the opportunity to ask questions.

Time - May 1, 2021 1:30pm EST

How to Register – Email the office and the link will be forwarded to you. [office@standrewshespeler.ca] or scan this QR code:



Mission Moment - April 25, 2021 - Arising

ARISE Ministry offers compassionate outreach and spiritual care to survivors of sexual exploitation living in the Greater Toronto Area. Inspired by Jesus' healing of the woman who was afflicted for 18 years with a condition that kept her bent over (Luke 13:10–17), ARISE aims to help those who have been living "bent over" by exploitation, trauma, abuse, and addiction. Staff and volunteers work with vulnerable women, youth, and children by providing one-on-one, goal-oriented support. As relationships strengthen, hope and empowerment are fostered, making it possible for futures to be reclaimed. Like the woman in the gospel of Luke, several women that ARISE has helped are now standing straight and tall, and God continues to do amazing things in their lives. This is a reason to rejoice!



Prayer Partnership

Sunday, April 25 (Mission Awareness Sunday) We remember in prayer and give thanks for all former and current mission staff who, in faith, accepted God's call to participate in God's mission in Canada and globally.

Monday, April 26 We pray for the people, ministries, and mission of the Presbytery of Montreal in Quebec.

Tuesday, April 27 We pray for congregations that are concerned about finances, and that God will provide the resources they need to continue the ministry they are called to do.

Wednesday, April 28 We pray that congregations that are searching for a new minister will be filled with hope, wisdom, and patience.

Thursday, April 29 We pray for the Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning as it works to build a society and churches that fully honour diversity and God's unequivocal welcome.

Friday, April 30 We pray for university students completing the academic year, that God brings them peace as they complete this part of their journey and move on to the next.

Saturday, May 1 We pray for those who are grieving the deaths of loved ones who they were not able to comfort and say goodbye to because of COVID-19 restrictions.