

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church September 17th, 2023 16th Sunday after Pentecost

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church
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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. You may also join us on Zoom or Facebook Live. The Zoom link will be posted on the website.

Too Big to Fail



Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: Praise the Lord.

P: Let us praise God together.

L: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love;

P: As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins.

L: So let us rejoice in God's gracious presence.

P: Let us praise the God of mercy together.

Hymn #712 Arise, your light is come

1. Arise, your light is come!

The Spirit's call obey;

Show forth the glory of your God

Which shines on you today.

2. Arise, your light is come!

Fling wide the prison door;

Proclaim the captive's liberty,

Good tidings to the poor.

3. Arise, your light is come!

All you in sorrow born,

Bind up the brokenhearted ones

And comfort those who mourn.

4. Arise, your light is come!

The mountains burst in song!

Rise up like eagles on the wing,

God's pow'r will make us strong.

Words: Ruth Duck (1947-) Words © Ruth Duck, 1974

Prayer of Approach

L: God of might and mercy, the heavens and the earth are full of your glory. Your love transforms our lives. You enter our confusion and give insight. You bear our grief and bring healing. You see our fatigue and renew strength. You sense our fear and spark courage. You know death and raise up new life. So we come before you in worship, handing over to you all that weighs us down. Renew us in this time of worship, we pray, so that we may serve you with joy in Jesus' name. Amen.

Laying our Burdens Down

Video Reading: Exodus 14:19-31 by Alexis

Responsive Reading Exodus 15:1-11

L: Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

P: "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

L: The LORD is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation;

P: this is my God, and I will praise him; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

L: The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name.

P: Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea; his elite officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

L: The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone.

P: Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power—your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.

L: In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries; you sent out your fury; it consumed them like stubble.

P: At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.

L: The enemy said, 'I will pursue; I will overtake; I will divide the spoil; my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.'

P: You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

L: Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?

P: Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendour, doing wonders?

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Hymn #716 Pray for the wilderness (*Tune of #626*)

1. Pray for the wilderness, vanishing fast;
pray for the rain forest, open and vast;

pray for the waterfalls, pray for the trees;
pray for the planet brought down by degrees.

2. Learn from the elephant, eagle and whale;
learn from the dragonfly, spider and snail;
learn from the people in neighbouring lands;
learn from the children who play in their sands.

3. Work for the justice created things need;
work for the health of each plant and its seed;
work for the creatures abuse has betrayed;
work for the garden God's wisdom once made.

4. Trust that God's Christ overcame nails and wood;
trust that earth's people will turn to the good;
trust that creation forever will grow;
trust that God's goodness to us overflows.

5. Pray for the atmosphere; pray for the sea;
learn from the river, the rock and the tree;
work till shalom in full harmony rings;
trust the connection of all living things.

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Life and Work of the Church

Celebration of our Generosity

Offertory: "Because He Lives" Jean McMurtrie
& Ray Godin

Sermon: Too Big To Fail

Prayers of the People

Hymn #717 We cannot own the sunlit sky

1. We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wild-
flowers growing,
for we are part of all that is within life's river flowing
With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's
creation,
that all may have abundant life in every earthly nation.

2. When bodies shiver in the night, and, weary wait for
morning.
when children have no bread but tears, and war horns
sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake, to join in common labour,
that all may have abundant life in oneness with their
neighbour.

3. God calls humanity to join as partners in creating
a future free from want or fear, life's goodness
celebrating.

That new world beckons from afar, invites our shared
endeavour,
that all may have abundant life and peace endure
forever.

Benediction

Choral Response

Go now in peace... never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Words: © Don Besig and Nancy Price (pub. Harold Flammer)

Postlude

Next Week's Sermon:

The Parable of the Next Day in the Vineyard



Other Lectionary Readings this Week:

Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

Help us celebrate our Anniversary Weekend! Sunday, October 29, join us for a bar-b-que after worship. If you are able to bring a salad or dessert, or condiments for the burgers that would be great. Help is also needed for the lunch on October 29. If you can help out with set up, bar-b-queing or clean up please speak to an elder; Steve, Donald, Patrice, Jean, Nancy, Dean or Vern.



Thank you to Margaret McKenzie-Leighton for presiding on the piano today. We appreciate you sharing your talents with us to help us worship.

Next Sunday, we will begin to work on one of the decisions we made in our "Join us on the Journey" process. We will begin to make a "Welcome Video" for our congregation. It will be lighthearted and fun. We will tape some of the worship portions of the video next week.

St Andrew's Fall Workshop Day
SIGN-MAKING WORKSHOP



Saturday Oct 28
from 9-11:30 OR 1-3:30

at St Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church
73 Queen St E, Cambridge



Cost: \$45/person
Pre-registration required by sending DM to Sandi with the following information

Pattern #
Workshop Time
contact phone #

Payment by e-transfer to sandi@mysistersidea.com to book your spot. Class size limited

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

Worship Assistant: Sylvia Brooks
Greeter : Margret Hunter
Beadle: Elaine McLean
Guest Musician: Margaret McKenzie-Leighton
Duet: Jean McMurtrie, Ray Godin
Tech Team: Dylan Smith

This Week at St. Andrew's

Tuesday: Hope Clothing 9:00 — 11:30AM
Thursday: Hope Clothing Noon— 2:00 PM

A special thanks to everyone who volunteered and helped make yesterday's special events — **Doors Open and Comedy in Motion** — such a success. You are all amazing people!

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, September 17 We give thanks for the Northern New Brunswick Regional Ministry and pray that they continue to find new ways of meeting the physical and spiritual needs within their diverse communities.

Monday, September 18 We pray for the Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations Committee and its convenor, Laura Lee Campbell.

Tuesday, September 19 We pray for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, especially during this time of lingering post-pandemic challenges. May they find comfort and peace in the knowledge of God's eternal love and presence.

Wednesday, September 20 We pray for international students who are far from home and family. Pray that they will be comforted in times of loneliness and for encouragement as they strive for success in their studies.

Thursday, September 21 (International Day of Prayer for Peace) We pray for peace worldwide, and for world leaders, as well as for PWS&D partners providing life-saving aid and emotional support to families suffering the terrifying consequences of war.

Friday, September 22 We pray for congregations that support refugee families by welcoming them to Canada and helping them to find housing, jobs and community in which to build relationships.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada



**Prayer
Partnership**

Engaging in God's Mission
Through Word and Action

MISSION MOMENT: Sunday, September 17

For the five congregations that comprise the Northern New Brunswick Regional Ministry, 'church' goes well beyond someone's physical presence in the building on Sunday morning. Over the past year, they have asked themselves, "How do we reach out to those in our community and meet them where their needs are greatest?" Each congregation faces a wide diversity of social and economic challenge in their communities, including drug addiction, homelessness, unemployment and food insecurity. A

common thread that unites their communities despite distance: people are searching for acceptance and help. The congregations are working to meet these needs through compassion and care.



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Sharing**



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