

# St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church December 17, 2023 Third 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](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.



## A Tale of Two Families

Prelude: Largo by  
Pergolesi

Welcome

Advent Candle lighting  
(*Bill, Marg and Titus*)

Voice 1: The  
prophets call  
and an apostle  
writes to  
announce that joy

comes from God.

Voice 2: "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me...and has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, ...to comfort all who mourn; ...to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning..." (Isaiah 61)

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice." (Philippians 4)

Voice 1: Grief, pain and loss are inevitable. But woven into life is the joy of living in a universe that reflects God's beauty. Advent provides time to nurture joy in our lives and in the world God loves. Advent calls us to share with others the good news that comes into the world with the birth of Christ.

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

**All: Jesus Christ comes as joy to the world.**

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

**All: We light this candle to glow for joy.**  
(while lighting the candle of joy)

#119 Hope is a star

3. Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
telling the world that the Saviour is born.

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.

Words: copyright © 1989 by Hope Publishing Co.

Prayer of Approach

L: God of light and love, we rejoice in your presence this day, for you look kindly on us, no matter how we came to be here. You bring order from chaos, and call for justice for the vulnerable. You turn weeping into laughter, promising life made new. You redeem all that appears lost, giving each one a path and purpose. And so we come to you in joy, trusting you to bring peace and hope into these uncertain times. Receive our worship this day as we anticipate the difference your gifts will make to us through Christ, your Son and our Saviour. Amen.

Laying Down our Burdens

Hymn #162 On Christmas night all Christians sing

1. On Christmas night all Christians sing  
to hear the news the angels bring,  
on Christmas night all Christians sing  
to hear the news the angels bring,  
news of great joy, news of great mirth,  
news of our merciful King's birth.

2. Then why should we on earth be so sad,  
since our Redeemer made us glad,  
then why should we on earth be so sad,  
since our Redeemer made us glad,  
when from our sin he set us free  
all for to gain our liberty?

3. When sin departs before his grace,  
then life and health come in its place,  
when sin departs before his grace,  
then life and health come in its place.  
Heaven and earth with joy may sing,  
all for to see our new-born king.

4. All out of darkness we have light  
which made the angels sing this night;  
all out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night;  
“Glory to God,” we sing again  
now and forevermore, amen.

Words: Public domain

#### Responsive Psalm 126

L: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we  
were like those who dream.

**P: Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our  
tongue with shouts of joy;**

L: then it was said among the nations, “The LORD has  
done great things for them.”

**P: The LORD has done great things for us, and we  
rejoiced.**

L: Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in  
the Negeb.

**P: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.  
Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for  
sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying  
their sheaves.**

Video Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28 Read by Sylvia

Luke 3:23-31

<sup>23</sup> Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his  
work. He was the son (as was thought) of Joseph son of  
Heli, <sup>24</sup> son of Matthat, son of Levi, son of Melchi, son of  
Jannai, son of Joseph, <sup>25</sup> son of Mattathias, son of Amos,  
son of Nahum, son of Esli, son of Naggai, <sup>26</sup> son of  
Maath, son of Mattathias, son of Semein, son of Josech,  
son of Joda, <sup>27</sup> son of Joanan, son of Rhesa, son of  
Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, son of Neri, <sup>28</sup> son of  
Melchi, son of Addi, son of Cosam, son of Elmadam, son  
of Er, <sup>29</sup> son of Joshua, son of Eliezer, son of Jorim, son of  
Matthat, son of Levi, <sup>30</sup> son of Simeon, son of Judah, son  
of Joseph, son of Jonam, son of Eliakim, <sup>31</sup> son of Melea,  
son of Menna, son of Mattatha, son of Nathan, son of  
David...

Hymn #144 'Twas in the moon of wintertime

1. 'Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds  
had fled,  
that mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;

before their light the stars grew dim, and wandering  
hunters heard the hymn  
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis Gloria.

2. Within a lodge of broken bark the tender Babe was  
found;  
a ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty  
round,  
but, as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang  
loud and high:  
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis Gloria.

3. The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and  
fair

as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.  
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and  
beaver pelt.

Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis Gloria.

4. O children of the forest free, the kin of Manitou,  
the holy child of earth and heaven is born today for you.  
Come kneel before the radiant boy, who brings you  
beauty, peace and joy.

Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis Gloria.

Words: translation, copyright © The Frederick Harris Music Co. Ltd.

Family Time

Life and Work of the Church

Celebration of our Generosity

Offertory:

Offering "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Jane Bennett

Sermon: A Tale of Two Families

Prayers of the People

Hymn: #148 It came upon the midnight clear

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of  
old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps  
of gold:

“To all the earth good-will and peace, from heaven’s all-  
gracious King”;

the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful  
wings unfurled,

and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary  
world;

above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering  
wing,

and ever o’er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

3. But with the woes of sin and strife, the world has suffered long;  
 beneath the angel strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong,  
 but we, through din of war, hear not the love-song which they bring.  
 Oh hush the noise, oh still the strife and hear the angels sing.

4. And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
 who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
 look now! For glad and golden hours come swifflly on the wing.  
 Oh rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

5. For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
 when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
 when peace shall over all the earth God's promised splendours fling,  
 and all the world take up the song, which now the angels sing.

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 - Exultet by Dandrieu

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

Worship Assistant: Steve Marsh  
 Organist: Martin Bohl  
 Soloist: Jane Bennett  
 Greeter: Lynn Platt  
 Beadle: Vern Platt  
 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  
 Thursday: Hope Clothing Noon—2:00 pm  
 Longest Night service: 7:30 pm



**Mission Moment: December 17**

With support from Presbyterians Sharing, The Well Church (Mississauga) provides a welcoming space for those who identify as a third culture community; that is, one that is neither the culture of mostly immigrant parents nor the dominant culture of Canadian society. In a post-pandemic world, the ministry has decided to re-set their focus around spiritual formation, in everything from small groups to children's ministry, retreats and conferences. They are also training leaders to be elders with spiritual formation at the centre. By focusing on spiritual formation and becoming more Christ-like, the congregation has not only grown closer as a community, but they also feel better equipped to share their personal stories of hope and transformation with friends and neighbours.



**Presbyterians Sharing**

## Giving Tuesday: Welcome to St. Andrew's!

Today we welcome you to the premiere of "A Quick Visit to St. Andrew's Hespeler." This video is a collaboration of the people of St. Andrew's. This video was one objective from our recent Journey of Discovery. The goal of this video was to highlight who we are right now. What does St. Andrew's mean to us? How do we serve each other and the Hespeler community? Thank you to everyone who participated in the video. And thank you, to Scott, for his creative editing powers!

Thank you everyone for your consideration of contributing to our Giving Tuesday campaign. When you decide on how you would like to participate you can:

- Go to the web page at [standrewshespeler.ca](http://standrewshespeler.ca) and use the "Donate Now" button. From there you can choose where you want your *Giving Tuesday* give to be directed.
- Send a cheque to the church in the mail to the church office or leave a gift in the offering plate.
- If you use your offering envelopes (in the plate or in the mail, designate "Giving Tuesday" on the envelope so that it can be distinguished from regular contributions.

### The Longest Night Service

The Longest Night service this Thursday, December 21 at 7:30 will include a time to remember those who we have lost and other griefs we have. If you would like to lend us a picture of someone you have lost, no matter how recently, to place on the memorial table, please bring it in or send a picture we can print to [smcandless@standrewshespeler.ca](mailto:smcandless@standrewshespeler.ca)

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, TODAY!** and you will receive them in time for Christmas.



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

**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 31, 10 am:** New Year Eve (Morning) Worship. Prepare to start the new year right!

### 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. 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.