

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

Worship Assistant: Steve Marsh
Organist: Martin Bohl
Tech Team: Dylan Smith & Laura Einwechter
Greeter: Jean McMurtrie
Beadle: Brenda Holm
Soloist: Jane Bennett
Narrators: Jane Bennett, Carol Johnston, Elaine McLean, Nancy English, Lori Marsh, Dean Davidson, Alexis Smith, Donald Paddock

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.

A Very Special Service

We will be hosting a very special service here next Sunday. 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).

For this day, we would ask you to consider (if possible)

- Carpooling or walking and parking further away to help out guests find parking. We'll reserve the front parking lot for people with mobility issues.
- Bringing some Christmas goodies to share
- Help out by taking the offering, directing traffic or in other ways.

Please take a **Giving Tuesday Calendar** home with you. 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.

After Christmas

On **December 29**, we will gather at our usual time and place to celebrate the First Sunday after Christmas.

On **January 5**, the folks at Knox Preston have invited us to experience worship in their space one time, so we will be gathering at 132 Argyle St. N. in Preston at 10 am. Rev. Scott will preach and a live stream will be available.

Our **Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service** will be held this year at 7:00 pm. Come for a joyous celebration of our newborn Lord



The Presbyterian Church in Canada



Prayer Partnership
Engaging in God's Mission
Through Word and Action

Sunday, December 15 (3rd Sunday of Advent) We give thanks for the programs of Edmonton Urban Native Ministry that provide a sense of belonging, care and inclusion for people of all nations while upholding Indigenous cultural practices.

Monday, December 16 We pray for the housing, facilities and chaplaincy team at St. Andrew's Hall as they provide hospitality, programming and Christian witness for over 250 residents on the University of British Columbia campus.

Tuesday, December 17 We pray for the Church Doctrine Committee as they advise the church on how best to respond to issues from a wounded world.

Wednesday, December 18 (International Migrants Day) For Christ, there was no room in the inn; we pray for ministries like Action Réfugiés Montréal who welcome and provide support to families seeking refuge and shelter.

Thursday, December 19 We give thanks for the alumni of The Presbyterian College, Montreal, and pray for wisdom and strength for each one in their respective place of ministry.

Friday, December 20 During the Christmas season, may we recognize the value of "enough" while surrounded by expectations of extravagance and consumerism.

Saturday, December 21 We pray for Women's Missionary Society members and groups as they support local organizations helping people in need this Christmas. May their service bring honour to God as well as respite to those who receive their loving care.

Mission Moment: December 8

Supported by Presbyterians Sharing, Edmonton Urban Native Ministry serves the needs of the local Eastwood community with compassion and care. Their comprehensive services include a daily hot meal program, distribution of clothing and essential supplies, a bi-weekly food bank, as well as spiritual and emotional support initiatives, such as Sunday worship and counseling sessions. The Rev. Tim Sungill Choi, the ministry's Executive Director, describes their role as a humble well, providing life-giving water to thirsty travelers. By extending a helping hand, offering essential resources, and standing in solidarity as allies, they help to empower Indigenous individuals and communities to navigate their paths, even amidst uncertainty.



St. Andrew's Hespeler
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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: Bethlehem by C. Gounod

Lighting the Third Candle of Advent (by: Dave, Lindsay, Levi, Isaac, Elijah)

L: As we prepare for Christ's coming, we remember your calling to be filled with joy.

All: We come knowing that our actions can help alleviate the burdens of others.

L: We light the third candle of Advent, a symbol of joy that uplifts the spirit. (*Light the candle of joy*)

L: May the warmth and brightness of this candle encourage us to act with compassion and courage.

All: Holy One, strengthen us by your Spirit to commit ourselves to being people of joy and justice. Fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in you, so that we may overflow with hope. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

#119 Joy is a song

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.

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Prayer for Understanding (Unison):

P: God of truth and wisdom, send us your Holy Spirit to teach us through the scriptures and the story told this day. Lead us to understand your truth more fully, and our hearts to live out your wisdom in the example of Jesus, your Living Word. Amen.

Carol #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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Luke 3:7-18 Read by Allison Cann

Life and Work of the Church

The Christmas Tree

Including the following carols

#165 O little town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

Away in a Manger (Sung by Jane Bennett)

#138 While shepherds watched

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.

2. "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you, all humankind.

3. "To you, in David's town, this day is born of David's line

a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:

4. "The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid."

#147 Angels we have heard on high

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

#139 Hark! The herald angels sing

1. Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King.

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgins womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail the incarnate deity!
Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King.

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and, life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild, he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise the lost of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King.

Celebration of our Generosity: (everyone brings their gifts forward and places under the tree)

Offertory: Saviour of the Nations Come by A. Vetter

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

Carol #153 Joy to the world

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive its King;
let every heart prepare him room and heaven and nature sing.
And heaven and nature sing. And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns: let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy.
Repeat the sounding joy. Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.
Far as the curse is found. Far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.
And wonders of his love. And wonders, and wonders of his love.

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: Wachtet auf, ruft uns die Stimme by J. Walther

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: St. Andrew's Pantry Noon—2:00 pm
Thursday: Hope Clothing Noon—2:00 pm
Saturday: Longest Night Service 7:00 pm

There will be a **Fundscrip order** going in after this 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 today. The cards will be back before Christmas!

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)

Sunday School is on break here until Sunday, January 12. Next week there will be lots of activities at the back of the sanctuary.

For next week, parents please help your children learn the short carol "We wish you a Merry Christmas." We will be using these words:

We wish you a Merry Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Good tidings we bring to you and your kin

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Hope Clothing will be closed from December 20—January 3. We will be open on Saturday, January 4th.

Food Bank will return on January 9th and **St. Andrew's Pantry** will return on February 6th.