

Coming Weeks

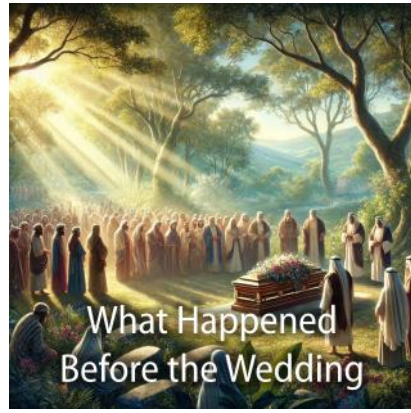
Next Sunday on **January 5**, the folks at Knox Preston have invited us to experience worship in their space once before the amalgamation, so we will be gathering at 132 Argyle St. N. in Preston at 10 am next week and **St. Andrew's Hespeler will not be open that day.**

Rev. Scott will preach, Martin will play their organ and a live stream will be available. We hope you can plan to join us.

On January 12, we are very excited to be able to celebrate baptisms with the Paetkau family.

On January 19, the amalgamation will finally be official and we will celebrate the beginning of a new amalgamated congregation. A final service will also be held by the Presbytery at Knox Preston at 4 in the afternoon.

Next Sunday's Sermon:



The Presbyterian Church in Canada



Prayer Partnership

Engaging in God's Mission
Through Word and Action

Sunday, December 29 We pray for those living in retirement homes who are struggling to find meaning in their everyday lives.

Monday, December 30 We give thanks to God for the generous gifts given to congregations, camps, ministries, Presbyterians Sharing and PWS&D all year, and for the ways these gifts have blessed our communities, country and world.

Tuesday, December 31 As we prepare to welcome in a new year, let us reflect on the past and pray for a hopeful and peaceful future.

Wednesday, January 1 (New Year's Day) We begin the year in thanksgiving to God for all that has been and for all that God will do in the months ahead.

Thursday, January 2 We thank God for our congregational treasurers who are working hard this month to finalize financial books and issue tax receipts, and we celebrate the gifts people give to enable ministry to happen.

Friday, January 3 We pray for the staff at Crieff Hills Retreat Centre, that the quieter winter season might offer a gentle pace and opportunities for sacred rest.

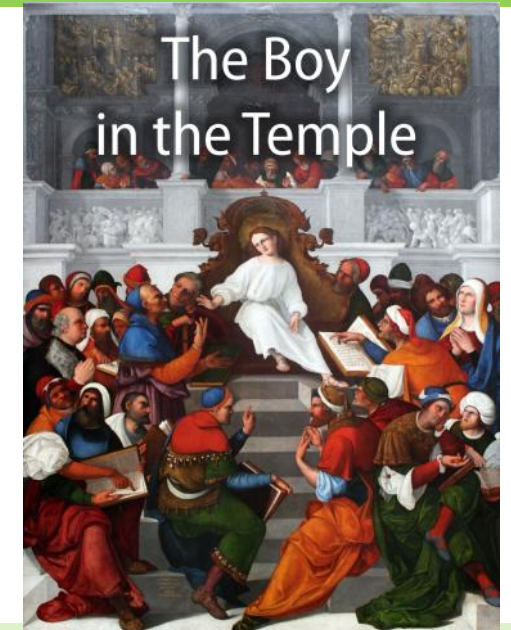
Saturday, January 4 We pray for the Friends of Prisons ministry in Malawi, whose work is supported by the PCC. May these dedicated ministers bring the hope and comfort of the Gospel for prisoners through counselling, Bible study, worship and gifts of personal care items.



Mission Moment: December 29

As Western culture becomes increasingly secular and Christianity occupies a more peripheral position in society, Canadian church plants are pioneering new ways to share God's love. One such initiative to encourage church planting is Cyclical PCC, supported by The Presbyterian Church in Canada in collaboration with Cyclical Inc. This initiative aims to empower presbyteries and leaders within the denomination to initiate new worshipping communities. Participants in the program are part of a larger network of PCC leaders exploring their calling and taking initial steps toward launching new ministries. What exciting new forms of ministry are emerging in your local community? *(See photo on back)*

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church December 29, 2024 1st Sunday After Christmas



St. Andrew's Hespeler
Presbyterian Church
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Cambridge, ON
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519-658-2652

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Website: www.standreshespeler.ca

Office Hours: Monday—Friday 9am-12pm

Prelude: "The Snow Lay on the Ground" a Traditional Irish Carol by R. Wilson

Call to Worship:

L: Praise the Lord from the heavens and in the heights;

P: Praise God, sun and moon!

L: God's name alone is exalted;

P: God is above the earth and heaven.

L: Young and old together, all creatures great and small,

P: Let us praise God's holy name, now and evermore!

Carol #160 Unto us a child is born

Prayer of Approach

L: Loving and everlasting God In whom we live and move and have our being: great are you; great is your power, greater is your love, and of your wisdom and of your grace there is no end. By your word that created all things and the love the moves the sun and moon and stars you created us; you have made us for yourself, and we are yours, and our hearts are restless until they come to rest in you. In this time of worship, receive our prayers and our praises as we honour your gifts of Light and Love which shine upon us through Jesus Christ this day and every day by your grace. **Amen.**

Laying down burdens before a New Year

Luke 2:41-52

⁴¹ Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers,

listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favour.

Psalm 148

L: Praise the LORD! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

P: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

L: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

P: Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

P: He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

L: Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

P: fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

L: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

P: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

L: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

P: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD,

P: for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth

and heaven.

L: He has raised up a horn for his people,

P: praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Carol #137 Born in the night

Life and Work of the Church

Celebration of Generosity

Offertory: Cradle Song by Brahms

Sermon: The Boy in the Temple

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

(... forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors...)

Hymn #811 Standing at the portal

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: "Go Tell it on the Mountains" by Richard Hillert

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.

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

Organist: Martin Bohl

Greeter, Beadle: Joanne Waugh