

# Centennial United Church, Stayner

Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Third Sunday in Advent

Worship Leader: Jennifer Irving

Music Leader: Megan Arksey



**Words of Wisdom:** *"Animals are footprints of God"*

~ Martin Luther

## ***Our Community Gathers***

### **Gathering Music**

### **Welcome & Land Acknowledgement**

### **Sharing our Life & Work and our Joys & Concerns**

### **Hymn VU #7 "Hope is a Star" (vs. 1 & refrain, vs. 2 & refrain)**

### **Lighting the Advent Candles** (from [Let Us Pray, Volume 4](#) by Jane Doull)

Reader 1: Again, we light a candle for hope—hope for ourselves,  
hope for God's beloved world.

Reader 2: *(light the shortest purple candle)*

Reader 1: Again, we light a candle for peace—peace in our hearts  
and peace on earth.

Reader 2: *(light the next shortest purple candle)*

Reader 1: And now we remember how the angels told the  
shepherds news of great joy.

Reader 2: God's beloved was born among us,  
so that we could all have joy deep in our hearts.

Reader 1: This joy is deeper than sorrow, stronger than fear. This  
joy surprises us even on the coldest, darkest winter day.

Reader 2: We light a candle for joy. May joy shine bright in our  
hearts and in every human heart. *(light the pink candle)*

**ALL: God of deep joy, we do not always feel happy.**

**Sometimes we feel sad. Sometimes we are worried.**

**Sometimes we feel lonely.**

**But your joy runs deeper than our every sorrow.**

**May it bubble up within us,**

**so that we can bring light and joy to all we meet.**

**In the name of Jesus, Joy to the world! Amen.**

## Sharing Our Advent Moments

What JOY moments are you celebrating today?

**Centering Prayer** (*by Lori Megley Best adapted by Shawn Redden*)

**Sung Response VU # 7 “Hope is a Star** (*verse 3 & refrain*)

### *We Listen for Wisdom*

**Time of Wondering**

**Hymn VU #56 “Jesus, Our Brother”**

**“Living Nativity” Story**

**Choir Anthem “All Over Creation”**

**Introduction to the Scripture Reading**

**Wisdom Readings** *Hildegard of Bingen, Meister Eckhart,*

*Colossians 1:27, John 14:17*

**Reflection “At the Edge of the Crèche—What Shall I Give Him?”**

### *We Respond with Gratitude & Prayer*

**Hymn VU #55 “In the Bleak Midwinter”**

**Community at Prayer**

**Time for Thanksgiving, Gratitude & Invitation to Generosity**

**Offertory Hymn VU #74 “What Child Is This”** (vs. 3)

**Prayer of Dedication** from [Let Us Pray, Volume 4](#) by Jane Doull, adapted

### *We Go Forth to Be a Blessing*

**Hymn VU #58 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”**

**Sending Forth and Blessing**

**Sung Blessing VU #43 “Go, Tell it On the Mountain”** (*refrain, alt.*)

***Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.***

***Go, tell it on the mountain that \*Advent Joy\* is born!***

✧ ✧

*Thank you for worshipping with us this morning online & in person*

*Thank you to Chris Valentine for reading scripture and the M&S story  
and to Dave Hopper and Neelah Irving for technical support*

### **Our Land Acknowledgement Statement**

We acknowledge with respect and with awe the history, spirituality, and culture of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Tionontati and Wendat peoples with whom Treaty 18 of 1818 were signed and the territory wherein our church resides, and our responsibility as Treaty members. We also honour the heritage and gifts of Métis people. May we live appreciating the gifts of this land we share with wonder and gratitude and may we live in peace and friendship with all its people.

### **CENTENNIAL UNITED CHURCH**

234 William Street, Stayner, ON L0M 1S0

Website ~ [www.ucstayner.ca](http://www.ucstayner.ca)

YouTube Channel ~ [Centennial United Stayner](#)

Facebook Page ~ [Centennial United Church –Stayner](#)

**Minister: Reverend Jennifer Irving**

home: 705-517-0130 cell: 1-306-327-7776

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#### **Office Hours**

Wednesdays and Fridays: 10:00am-2:00pm

**Administrator: Pat Elson**

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#### **Office Hours**

Tuesdays: 9:00am-1:00pm

Thursdays: 9:00am-1:00pm

**On-Line & In Person Worship: Sundays: 10:30am**

*Our Advent Worship: Living Nativity was developed by Shawn Redden & Janice MacLean. [www.prayerbench.ca](http://www.prayerbench.ca) and used with permission.*

*All music lyrics printed with permission: OneLicense #730030-A*

*Many Thanks to Greta Horton for the beautiful poinsettias in the Sanctuary in memory of her husband Ken.*

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## LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

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*\*Worship in person or on Zoom: 862 4551 6433 pwd: WORSHIP*

We welcome you to worship in our Sanctuary and thank you for not wearing scented products to church for those who are scent sensitive

### **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT! December 14 at 7:00pm.**

Jubilee Presbyterian Church hosts this truly ecumenical event with a mass choir to honour the Christ Child! A freewill offering will be taken to support the work of the Clearview Ministerial. Refreshments served after the concert.

**SIP 'n' SERVE** Join us Monday mornings at 9:00 AM. All cleaners are rewarded with coffee and conversation!

**MILK BAG MAT MAKING** Postponed until further notice.

**ADVENT STUDY TUESDAY DECEMBER 16 AT 10:30 AM.** Please join us for our final session of our "Living Nativity" discussion.

**CHOIR PRACTICE:** Thursdays at 3:30pm in the Sanctuary

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 18 at 7:00PM** Selina Ree's Music Studio and Friends will be hosting a **Christmas Concert** with performances by the Stayner Sing Club!

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 19 at 4:00 PM** Centennial United hosts a meditative Blue Christmas service for those who find the Christmas season challenging in partnership with Creemore/New Lowell Pastoral Charge, Badjeros and Rob Roy United Churches.

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 21 at 2:00 PM** Centennial Hosts a **Festive Carol Festival** with special music and lots of carol singing! Please contact Jennifer if you are interested in performing. All are welcome! (our usual worship service will be at 10:30 AM)

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24 at 2:00 PM** a **Christmas Eve Service** will be held, followed by Christmas pudding in the CE Hall.

Please consider making a special donation to the Church this Christmas Season as we meet our year end commitments.

**This week’s regional prayers** are for Knox United Church in Belgrave.  
You can find Knox United on their Facebook page