

# *Centennial United Church, Stayner*

*Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Second Sunday in Advent*

*White Gift Sunday – “Not a Christmas Pageant”*

*Worship Leaders: Centennial Youth*

*Music Leader: Megan Arksey*



**To Ponder:** *“My soul sings praises to God and my Spirit rejoices in my Saviour.”*

*~ Luke 1:47*

## ***Our Community Gathers***

### **Gathering Music**

### **Welcome & Land Acknowledgement**

### **Call to Worship**

One: Greetings, favoured ones! God is with you.

**ALL: God is with us!**

One: Come without fear. You have found favour with God.

**ALL: We have found favour with God!**

One: Come and show in your lives the life of God.

Come as children of the Most High.

**ALL: We come as children of the Most High!**

One: The Holy Spirit will come to empower you that you might fulfill God's purposes, for nothing is impossible with God.

**ALL: For nothing is impossible with God!**

One: You gather here as servants of God.

Let it be with you according to God's word.

**ALL: Let it be with us according to God's word.**

### **Hymn VU #2 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

### **Lighting the Advent Candles** *Hailey & Jayne Coutts*

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

**R1:** Again, we light a candle for hope –

hope for ourselves, hope for our beloved world.

*[light the purple candle that was lit the week before]*

**R2:** Today we remember that Jesus was called the Prince of Peace.

**R1:** We remember the angels' song: Peace on Earth.

**R2:** We still do not have peace on earth.

Many suffer, because of war and violence.

R1: And so, we light a candle to shine the light of peace: peace in our hearts, peace in our community, peace in the world.

*[light a second purple candle]*

R2: May that gentle and peaceful light spread out all through the world!

**All: God of all peace, may your light always shine bright within us. May we choose the paths of peace. May all our words and deeds and prayers express our longing for a peaceful world: a world where wounds are healed, where enemies become friends, where war is no more, where all can live free of fear. In the name of Jesus, Prince of Peace. Amen.**

### **Sharing Our Advent Moments**

Think of all the places your feet have traveled this past week...

What signs of PEACE did you notice along your journey?

What moments of awe and wonder did you encounter?

**Centering Prayer** *(by Lori Megley Best, used with permission)*

**Sung Response VU #7 “Peace is a Ribbon”** *(verse 2 & refrain)*

### *We Listen for Wisdom*

**“Living Nativity” Story** *Neelah Irving*

**Sung Response VU #38 “Angels We Have Heard on High”** *(vs. 1)*

**Reading** *Luke 1:26-38 “Gabriel’s conversation with Mary”*

**Interview** *Amelia Dryden, Skylar Soules, Blythe Sterrenburg*

### *We Respond with Gratitude & Prayer*

**Photo Gallery** *Centennial saying “YES”*

**Reading** *Luke 1:46-55 “Mary’s Song of Praise” Blythe Sterrenburg*

**Response to the Scriptures**

**Time for Thanksgiving, Gratitude & Generosity, Our Life & Work**

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

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

**Hymn VU #64 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”** *(Tune: VU 518)*

**Community at Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer**

## *We Go Forth to Be a Blessing*

Hymn VU #59 "Joy to the World"

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 Peace \*is born!***

✧ ✧

*This Advent worship combines elements from "Living Nativity" developed by Shawn Redden & Janice MacLean. [www.prayerbench.ca](http://www.prayerbench.ca) and "Not a Christmas Pageant" by Meg Illman-White and the youth at Grace-St. Andrew's United Church in Arnprior, Ontario and published in "Seeds and Sowers: Children 2006".*

*These resources are used with permission.*

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

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

*Thank you to our Sunday School and Youth for Leading this Service 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.

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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

**Today is White Gift Sunday** presented by the Youth and Sunday School. On this Sunday we collect items for the Foodbank and our Food Cupboard (traditionally wrapped in white) along with monetary gifts to support local families in need and donations to the UCC's "Gifts with Vision". Donations can be made by e-transfer to [office@ucstayner.ca](mailto:office@ucstayner.ca) (please note Christmas Family in memo) or on the donation plate on a Sunday morning (please note Christmas Family on the envelope or cheque).

We welcome donations for our **CHRISTMAS FAMILY PROGRAM**. We are partnering with the Clearview Stayner Foodbank this year to ensure each child and youth receives a gift or gift-card this Christmas Season. We will also be sharing the hope, peace, joy and love of the Christmas with other families who are struggling this Christmas.

**MITTEN TREE** The Christmas Tree in the foyer of the CE Hall is waiting for your decorations of toques, socks and mittens that we will share in our Food Cupboard and with Collingwood Out of Cold run by the Busby Centre-Barrie.

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

**ADVENT STUDY TUESDAY DECEMBER 9 AT 10:30 AM.** Please join us for one, two, three or all four of these sessions that partner our "Living Nativity" worship series.

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

**FINANCE, PROPERTY AND STEWARDSHIP** meets Dec 11 at 2pm

**DECEMBER 14, 7 PM COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT.** Jubilee Presbyterian Stayner, 7320 Hwy 26 is inviting the community churches to join in an evening of special music to celebrate the birth of Christ. A mass choir, carol singing and local church choir performances to honour the birth of Christ. The theme this year is: "Infant God, Divine King".

**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. Offered 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 or know someone who might like to add their talent to our afternoon. All are welcome!

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

**This week's regional prayers** are for Badjeros United Church. You can find Badjeros United on Facebook.

**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](#)

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**Office Hours**

Tuesdays: 9:00am-1:00pm

Thursdays: 9:00am-1:00pm

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