Centennial United Church, Stayner

Sunday, November 15, 2026 10:30am

Affirming Celebration

Minister: Jennifer Irving *Pianist: Megan Arksey*

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To Ponder: *"Diversity is a fact. Equity is a choice. Inclusion is an action. Belonging is an outcome."* ~ Arthur Chan

We Gather in Diversity

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

One: For thousands of years, Indigenous people have lived, hunted and fished on this land and these waters, gifts of the Creator.

ALL: We acknowledge as a community of faith we are gathered on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Tionontati and Wendat peoples.

One: We recognize and deeply appreciate their historic and spiritual connection to this land.

ALL: We gather in the light of that history and honour the ancestors and stories.

One: We also recognize the contributions that Metis, Inuit and other Indigenous peoples have made in shaping and strengthening our community, province and country.

ALL: We acknowledge we are all treaty people and this land in particular is subject to Treaty 18 of 1818. We commit to the journey of right relationship which includes ongoing learning and action with our lives and faith.

Sharing our Life & Work and our Joys & Concerns

Affirming Welcome *(adapted from Gaetz Memorial United Church and Trinity United Church in Collingwood, led by Affirming & Outreach Committee members)*

One: Our rainbow pouring this morning includes the colours of the rainbow you can see in the sky when rain and sunshine combine but our commitment to inclusivity and God's love is even broader than that. The current Pride flag also incorporates pink, pale blue and white, representing trans and non-binary people, a purple circle on yellow for intersex people, and black and brown representing the additional

struggles of people of colour and people with HIV/AIDS. We celebrate all the marvelous diversity of life.

One: The rainbow is a sign of diversity and hope,

ALL: a reminder of the covenant made between God and all of us.

Two: Purple is the colour of grapes and lilacs, strength and dignity. *Purple sand is poured.* Profound and majestic, colour of spirit: purple.

ALL: Thank you, God!

Three: Blue is the colour of sky and mountain ridges, depth and inspiration. *Blue sand is poured.* Soaring and fluent, colour of harmony: blue.

ALL: Thank you, God!

Four: Green is the colour of inchworms and pine trees, calm and growth. *Green sand is poured.* Restful and abundant, colour of nature: green.

ALL: Thank you, God!

Five: Yellow is the colour of lemons and sunshine, joy and enthusiasm. *Yellow sand is poured.* Radiant and bold, colour of hope: yellow.

ALL: Thank you, God!

Six: Orange is the colour of pumpkins and flames, warmth and compassion. *Orange sand is poured.* Bright and enlivening, colour of healing: orange.

ALL: Thank you, God!

Seven: Red is the colour of strawberries and rose petals, passion and birth. *Red sand is poured.* Sweet and vivacious, colour of life: red.

ALL: Thank you, God!

One: We light this candle on top of our rainbow sand to remind us as an Affirming congregation of the United Church of Canada that we believe all creation is sacred and holy, all God's people deserve wholeness, peace, and safety, and embracing differences brings joy and blessings to our community. May it help us envision a world where people are free to live as their own vibrant and authentic selves.

ALL: We all belong here!

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Opening Prayer & The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

God of all, we celebrate your all-inclusive love!
We worship you, our Making One, who is filled with imagination and creativity and delights in diversity.
We worship you, our Loving One, who is known in Jesus travelling the margins of life, who embraces and accepts, challenges and confronts, and brings hope to those who are lonely.
We worship you, the Enlivening One, the Spirit who envisions a future where all are one, where walls that divide us are gone, and who gives us strength to carry on.
Holy One, help us to join with you and all our brothers, sisters, and siblings, through the words Jesus taught us to pray: Our Father…
Amen. *adapted from Ivan Gregan, gatheringworship.ca*

Opening Hymn TLUS 30 "We're the Light of All the World" *(insert)*

Prayer Seeking Reconciliation

One: Loving and gracious God, you meet us at the wells of our everyday lives. You see us fully, know our stories, and offer us living water that never runs dry. Yet we confess that we have not always shared that grace with others.

ALL: Forgive us, O God, for the times we have turned away from those seeking refuge and belonging.

One: We confess the ways we have built walls instead of bridges. Too often, we have let fear, tradition, or prejudice keep us from welcoming our 2S and LGBTQIA+ siblings and all who have been pushed to the margins. We have sometimes walked past the well rather than sitting down to listen, learn, and love as Jesus did.

ALL: Wash away our judgment and our hesitation. Heal the harm caused by exclusion in our church and in our world.

One: As we celebrate the gift of affirming ministry today, we acknowledge that true welcome is an ongoing journey. We confess where our love has fallen short, and we ask for the courage to make room for every voice, every story, and every beloved child of yours.

ALL: Pour your living water into our hearts, O God. Renew our spirit, widen our welcome, and make us instruments of your radical love. Amen.

Words of Assurance

One: Hear the good news: Just as Jesus offered living water without condition at the well, God's grace is poured out freely for us all. Through the love of Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and set free to love one another boldly.

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Sung Response VU 958 "Halle, Halle, Halle"

We Listen for Equity

Time of Wondering

Hymn MV 145 "Draw the Circle Wide" *(insert)*

Scripture Reading: John 4:4-42 *(adapted)*

Reflection "An Unexpected Welcome" *David Graham*

We Respond with Inclusion

Presentation of Affirming Ministry Certificate

-- David Graham – Affirm United

Words of Congratulations

-- from The Right Reverend Dr. Kimberly Heath, Moderator of the UCC

Centennial United Church Affirming Vision and Commitment

One: Do you, the people of Centennial United Church believe that creation is holy and sacred, all God's people deserve wholeness, peace, and safety and that embracing differences brings joy and blessings to our community?

ALL: We do.

One: Today will you join together and commit to keep learning how to be public and intentional and explicit in actively affirming, supporting, and celebrating, as well as engaging in the life and work of our church, all peoples of every age, race, class, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation,

family configuration, economic status, neurodivergence, and, mental and physical ability, as part of a broader commitment to seeking justice and inclusion for all people?

ALL: With God's help we will strive to celebrate the full rainbow spectrum of human diversity and respond to God's call to love and compassion.

One: Are you willing to share your faith and your gifts to do whatever God calls us as a church to do?

ALL: With God's help we will do so with compassion, fun, courage, and laughter. And we will pray for God's Spirit to guide us as we work for reconciliation and acceptance for all people in both the church and society so we may all live in a world where people are free to live as their own vibrant and authentic selves.

Responding with our Offering

Offertory VU #605 "Jesus Teacher, Brave and Bold" *(vs 2, adapted)*

Jesus, friend, so strong and true, show us good, brave work to do.
Show us those who need a friend, all things broken, help us mend.
Bless these gifts and stretch our care,
teach us to serve you everywhere.

Prayer of Dedication *by mihee kim-kort in A Rhythm of Prayer by Sarah Bessey, adapted*

Heart of my own heart, be my sight, be my song, be my light. Soften my heart that it would break for Your world. Lead my hands and feet to do work that is poured out for the sake of Your children. Bless what my hands offer here and through these gifts may Your Church be brave, may it be a sign of Your love in the world, in Jesus' sweet, sweet name I pray. Amen

We Are Welcome at the Table

Special Music *"When Jesus Sets the Table" Jennifer & Neelah Irving*

Communion Service *by Gary Hopkins for Open Table Birmingham*

Invitation to our open table

One: This is our open table,
a place for people to come as they are.

But we pause:
remembering those times when the presence of others means we cannot be ourselves at God's table;
recognising the many people with diverse identities who in the past had no place to be themselves;
praying for our many siblings who find themselves in places of hate and fear because of who they are.

But, this is our open table!
Be fully yourselves before God, be fully yourselves before others, just be the 'you' God made you.

ALL: We come as we are.
We come as ourselves.
We come as God made us. Amen.

The Thanksgiving Prayer

One: God be with us.
ALL: God is with us!
One: Give your whole being to God.
ALL: We give all we are to God!
One: Celebrate and give thanks.
ALL: We praise and thank God!
One: It is right for us to celebrate and praise…
So with all creation, believers and angels, we say:
ALL: God who fills the cosmos with glory,
we praise and bless you!
One: Holy God, You gave us a world full of hope and potential,…
by choosing death and resurrection.
ALL: In dying, you destroy all that denies our fullness.
In rising, you affirm God's love for each of us.
Christ Jesus, come and transform the world in love!
One: Generous God,
As we remember all that you have done,
we ask that you send your Holy Spirit,
that these gifts of bread and wine
may unite us with Christ and each other,
and affirm us as fully part of the Body of Christ,
diverse and beautiful. **Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread & Pouring of the Cup

One: Siblings in Christ, the table is ready.

Sharing the Elements

Take, eat. God's love for you. **Amen.**

Take, drink. God's love for you. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion (in unison)

Generous God,
We give you thanks that in this moment,
being fully ourselves at your table,
we have glimpsed the fullness of your reign
where everyone can be who they are
at your Great Banquet. Amen.

We Go Forth Belonging

Closing Hymn MV 154 "Deep In Our Hearts" *(insert)*

Blessing and Sending Forth

Sung Blessing MV 209 "Go, Make a Diff'rence" *(v. 3, insert)*

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Thank you for worshipping with us this morning.

Please join us for Potluck Lunch and Rainbow Cake in the CE Hall when our worship service is completed

Thank you to the Affirming, Outreach & Social Action Committee for Greeting and Ushering & Taking Part in the Service

Thank you to Wendy Whalen for reading Scripture.

Thank you to David Graham from Affirm United for his words.

Thank you to Neelah Irving for Tech Support and Livestream.

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Our Mission

We believe God is calling Centennial United Church

- to become open, caring and loving to all people
- to work together as Christians in harmony
- to show love, respect and forgiveness
- to share our talents, listen and respond to the needs of our congregation and the local and global community
- to provide opportunities for involvement of children, youth and young families
- to celebrate God's presence in our lives, grow spiritually, communicate and build faith.

Our Affirming Vision Statement
Centennial United Church

We Believe:

Creation is holy and sacred
All God's people deserve wholeness, peace, and safety
Embracing differences brings joy and blessings to our community

We Envision:

A world where people are free to live as their own vibrant and authentic selves

We Commit:

To keep learning how to be public and intentional and explicit in actively affirming, supporting, and celebrating, as well as engaging in the life and work of our church, all peoples of every age, race, class, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, family configuration, economic status, neurodivergence, and, mental and physical ability, as part of a broader commitment to seeking justice and inclusion for all people.

CENTENNIAL UNITED CHURCH
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YouTube Channel ~ Centennial United Stayner
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Minister: Reverend Jennifer Irving
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Office Hours: Wednesdays and Fridays: 10:30am-2:30pm

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 9:00am-1pm

On-Line & In Person Worship: Sundays: 10:30am
Zoom: 862 4551 6433 pwd: WORSHIP

Our Land Acknowledgement Statement

For thousands of years, Indigenous people have lived, hunted and fished on this land and these waters, gifts of the Creator.

We acknowledge as a community of faith we are gathered on the traditional territory of the Anishnaabe, Haudenosaunee, Tionontati and Wendat peoples. We recognize and deeply appreciate their historic and spiritual connection to this land. We gather in the light of that history and honour their ancestors and stories.

We also recognize the contributions that Metis, Inuit and other Indigenous peoples have made in shaping and strengthening our community, province and country. We acknowledge we are all treaty people and this land in particular is subject to Treaty 18 of 1818.

We commit to the journey of right relationship which includes ongoing learning and action with our lives and faith.

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

SCENT SENSITIVE SPACE We ask that you please be mindful that we are trying to keep our church scent free and refrain from applying perfume or wearing scented deodorants in the building.

CALL FOR STARS! For Advent, we will be using a Worship Resource from Sanctified Art called "Until the Dawn". This series focuses on the actions we can take as we move through the night with hope for tomorrow. To embody this Advent journey, we're looking for stars! Star lights, strings of twinkly lights, glow in the dark stars, star stickers, and more. Donations can be left at the church office with the expectation they will be returned to you after Christmas!

INTERESTED IN READING SCRIPTURE? Sharing an M&S story? Please sign up on the table in the entry way to the sanctuary.

INTERESTED IN SPONSORING A BULLETIN to share a special event in your life? Please let Pat know (office@ucstayner.ca). Cost is $ 20.

OUR LITTLE FOOD CUPBOARD continues to be well used. We welcome food contributions Also welcome are volunteers to restock the cupboard. If you are able to help out please contact Geoff Allen.

CLEARVIEW-STAYNER FOODBANK Is requesting contributions of money to enable them to provide Christmas gifts for the children whose families are using the foodbank at this time. Donations can be marked "Foodbank Christmas Gifts" and placed on the offering plate.

AFFIRMING MINISTRY CELEBRATION Please stay after worship today for a Potluck Lunch and Rainbow Cake in the CE Hall! Contribution to the Potluck is not a requirement - everyone is welcome to the table.

ZOOM PRAYER CIRCLE Tonight at 7:00pm using our Worship zoom.

BAPTISM Next Sunday we will be celebrating the baptism of Matthew Grotenhuis, son of Jessica and Tim Grotenhuis, brother to William and grandson of Jim and Myrna Whitley. Join us for another special service of loving welcome and inclusion.

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY Tuesdays at 10:00am in the Round Room.

CENTENNIAL CHOIR PRACTICES Thursdays at 2:30pm in the Sanctuary for anyone and everyone!

PROGRAM & EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday November 18 at 6:30pm in the Round Room.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT REHEARSALS! Thursdays at 7:00pm at JUBILEE until the Concert-Sunday December 13th at 7:00pm! Join the mass choir at Jubilee Presbyterian Church to prepare for this special evening of celebration and song.

CHRISTMAS BAKING WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH Friday November 20th Gather for lunch at the church followed by an afternoon of baking for our Bake Table at the Christmas Bazaar. Donations of baking can be dropped off anytime between 11:30am and 2:30pm!

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Saturday November 21 9:30am-3:00pm. Lots of vendors, including a Sunday School Bake Table. If you would like to contribute to the Bake Table drop off goodies at the office Thursday, to the youth on Friday or on Saturday morning before 9!

NOVEMBER 26 & 27, 6:30 PM. Outreach and Social Action Committee are organizing **Wreath Making Workshops**. Registration is limited to 30 people per night. Cost is $ 50 per person All supplies and goodies provided. Contact Geoff Allen to reserve a space. Geoff.allen.re@gmail.com or 519-546-3991.

Other things to look forward to!

Saturday, December 5 Centennial United will be participating in the Stayner Santa Claus parade. 9 AM at the church for those wanting to be in the parade. Parade starts at 10:30 AM

Sunday, December 6 10:30 AM White Gift Sunday

Wednesday, December 9 Centennial Women's Christmas Lunch

Sunday, December 13 7 PM Community Christmas Concert hosted by Jubilee Presbyterian.

Sunday, December 20 10:30 AM Carols and Comfort. A service of music and story followed by a soup lunch.

Monday, December 21 Longest Night Service (time TBD)

Thursday, December 24 3 PM Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 27 10:30 AM Breakfast Church (peameal bacon on a bun, and worship!)

REGIONAL PRAYER CYCLE This week we are asked to pray for Cape Croker United Church in Neyaashiinigmiing.

Music Insert

"We're the Light of All the World" (TLUS #30)

We're the light of all the world, we are a city on a hill,
we're a candle on a stand proclaiming light,
We will not hide our lamp beneath a bushel anymore,
we will shine a ray of hope that's burning bright.

Refrain: ***We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace***
for the flood of tears will fin'lly cease to be.
Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,
paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.

We're a coat of many colours, sewn from many diff'rent threads,
cov'ring all in warmth, in welcome and in grace,
God said, "Let there be light," created every varied shade,
in the rainbow each of us can find a place. ***Refrain***

We are hope to still believe in tomorrow's better day,
we are peace in a world that's torn apart,
we are joy that will last in all the struggles that we face,
we are love that blooms and grows in every heart. ***Refrain***

When we face the storms of life, we will never be alone,
for our God will be with us on the way.
here we are, side by side, we won't be frightened anymore
as the mourning night of tears breaks into day. ***Refrain***

Words and music copyright ©2023 by David Kai, davidwkai@gamil.com

"Draw the Circle Wide" (MV #145)

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

God the still-point of the circle, 'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever, in God's gracious arms. ***Refrain***

Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call. ***Refrain***

Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we've ever dreamed before
let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door. ***Refrain***

Words and music: Gordon Light. Ccopyright ©1994 Common Cup Company.

"Deep in our Hearts" (MV #154)

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling creation that we are one.

Words © John Oldham, 1995. Music © Ron Klusmeier, 1996 www.jusiklus.com

"Go, Make a Diff'rence" (MV #209)

Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

So let your love shine on, let it shine for all to see.
Go make diff'rence in the world.
And the spirit of Christ will be with us as we go.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
Go make a diff'rence. We can make a diff'rence.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Words and Music: Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek, 1997.
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