# *Centennial United Church, Stayner*

*Sunday, November 22, 2026 10:30am*

*Reign of Christ Sunday – Unexpected Jesus - Week 6*

*Minister: Jennifer Irving* *Pianist: Megan Arksey*

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**To Ponder:** *"Jesus remains. He is worth it all. He is under the steeples and in the wilderness. He is in the megachurch and in the spiritual conversation at the bar. He inhabits our certainty and also our doubt."* ~ Sarah Bessey

## *We Gather*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Sharing Our Joys & Concerns & Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**Call to Worship** *(Gill Le Fevre, Gatheringworship.ca, used with permission.)*

One: We are called to worship God with all that we are: our whole selves, every hair on our body, every fibre of our being.

**ALL: We bring before God our scars and bruises.**

One: We carry these signs of hurts we have felt knowing that each one is enfolded in the healing and compassion of God.

**ALL: We bring before God our age spots and wrinkles.**

One: We carry these signs of life lived, vigorously and wholeheartedly, as a reminder of the faith that we have in and from God, a faith that encourages us.

**ALL: We bring before God our dimples and grins.**

One: We carry these signs of laughter and joy, as a promise of the hope that we have through God.

**ALL: Embraced by God, accepted by God, beloved by God:**

One: Let us give ourselves over in worship to God.

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

**On this Reign of Christ Sunday, we pray to you O God, as the one who comes to us as friend and not a King. You are our gentle shepherd, who calls us by our names and whose voice we know even as we are fully known. We show up here to worship that we might be reminded again of your love that we might keep showing up in the world as your apostles, sharing your love and ushering in your kin-dom where your will is done as we pray: Our Father…**

**Hymn VU #345 "Come, Children, Join to Sing"**

**Prayer Seeking Reconciliation (in unison)**

**God of unending grace, all too often, we are a people who build walls and draw lines to keep out what and who we decide is not worthy or sacred. We close ourselves off from being surprised and build up hard shells around our own yearning hearts. We make tidy categories and plans and clench our know-it-all jaws, holding tight to our expectations. We resign ourselves to the powers and principalities and give in to despair in the darkest moments of our lives. We don't hear you call our name and invite us to the party that is your kin-dom come.** *(Silent confessions)* **Knock on the door of our wonder and ask us to come out to play where you reign through Christ. Amen.**

*(inspired by Sarah Bessey's "Blessing for Those of us who Want (or Hope) to be Surprised by Jesus")*

**Assurance of God's Grace**

**Sharing the Peace of Christ**

**Sung Response VU 958 "Halle, Halle, Halle"**

## *We Listen for God's Word*

**Time of Wondering** *Celebration of Baptism (see insert)*

**Choir Anthem "Jesus Loves Me"**

**Scripture Reading: John 20:1-18** *(The Message)*

**Reflection** *"Unexpected Commission"*

## *We Respond in Love*

**Hymn VU #215 "Hope of the World"**

**Our Generosity at Work** *(A Mission & Service Story)*

**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**

**Prayers of the People**

**Closing Hymn VU #649 "Walk with Me"** *(adapt "walk" to "run")*

**Blessing and Sending Forth**

**Choral Sending Forth "Go Now in Peace"** *Don Besig & Nancy Price, adapted*

***Go now in Peace, Never be afraid.***
***God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day,***
***Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true***
***Know God will guide you in all you do.***
***Go now in love, and show you believe.***
***Reach out to others so all the world can see.***
***God will be there, watching, filled with love.***
***Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.***

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*Thank you for worshipping with us this morning.*
*Thank you to Janice Have for reading Scripture*
*& Sharing our M&S Story*
*Thank you to Neelah Irving for our Live-Stream and Tech Support*

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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**

*A proudly Affirming Ministry in the United Church of Canada*

234 William Street, Stayner, ON L0M 1S0

Website ~ 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

email: jennifer@ucstayner.ca

Office Hours: Wednesdays and Fridays: 10:30am-2:30pm

**Administrator: Pat Elson**

email ~ office@ucstayner.ca phone: 705-428-3711

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

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

**Zoom: 862 4551 6433 pwd: WORSHIP**

"Embracing Diversity – A place for you!"

**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** Please remember - we are trying to keep our church scent free and refrain from wearing scented products.

**CALL FOR STARS!** For Advent, we are using a Worship Resource from Sanctified Art called "Until the Dawn". The series focuses on actions we can take as we move through the night with hope for tomorrow. To embody the 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 AND volunteers to restock the cupboard. If you are able to help out please contact Geoff Allen.

**CHRISTMAS FAMILY PROGRAM** We welcome donations this season as we partner with the Clearview Stayner Foodbank 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 Christmas with other families who are struggling. Donations can be put in the offering plate on Sundays (please note designation on envelope) or by e-transfer (please note "Christmas Family" in the memo.) Those preferring to purchase a gift please speak to Jennifer.

**LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY** cancelled for Tuesday, November 24. Resumes Tuesday, December 1.

**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY** begins Thursday, November 26, 1 – 2:30 for 4 weeks. All welcome!

**WOWRC AFFIRMING NETWORK GATHERING** Tuesday November 24th on Zoom from 1:00pm-2:30pm. Speak to Jennifer if you would like the Zoom Link to participate in sharing how we can "Make the

Yuletide Gay" as we plan for Advent and Christmas through an affirming lens.

**SAVE CAMP SIMPRESCA** Tuesday November 24th at 7:00pm at St. Paul's United Church in Midland, friends of Camp Simpresca will be gathering to learn more about what is happening with Camp Simpresca and possible ways forward.

**BOARD MEETING** Wednesday November 25th at 2:00pm.

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

**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.

**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 Wingham United Church. Find out more about Wingham United here https://winghamunited.wixsite.com/my-site.

# THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

**Statement of Purpose**

**Presentation of Candidate**

On behalf of the congregation of Centennial United Church in Stayner, I present the following child for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism:

*Matthew Tim Grotenhuis*

*Son of Tim and Jessica & Brother to William*
*Grandson of Dorothy Grotenhuis, Everett Grotenhuis and Jim & Myrna Whitley*

**Commitment of the Parents**

Do you desire that Matthew be baptized? *We do.*

Do you believe in the love of God, the presence of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit? *We do.*

Will you, throughout your living, seek to teach him God's love for all creation? *We will, with God as our helper.*

Will you seek to grow with your child in Christ-like loving kindness, so that in the fullness of time, Matthew may affirm the faith of his baptism? *We will, with God as our helper.*

Will you honour your child as a beautiful gift from God, giving him the foundation for self-esteem and the wisdom to esteem others? *We will, with God as our helper.*

**Commitment of the Godparents** *(Zach, Clay & Luke Whitley)*

Recognizing that many people nurture and influence the life of a child, will you support this child and his parents on life's journey? *We will, with God as our helper.*

Will you grow in love with this child, trusting that, "you are not alone, you live in God's world"?

*We will, with God as our helper.*

**Congregational Commitment**

We have heard the will of Jessica and Tim.
We receive Matthew Tim Grotenhuis in Christ's name,
as we ourselves have been received.
We all belong to the one household of faith in Jesus Christ.
Will you welcome, support and nurture this family with your love and prayers? ***We will, God being our helper.***

**Affirmation of Faith "A New Creed" VU 918**

***We are not alone, we live in God's world.***
***We believe in God:***
***who has created and is creating,***
***who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,***
***to reconcile and make new,***
***who works in us and others by the Spirit.***
***We trust in God.***
***We are called to be the Church:***
***to celebrate God's presence,***
***to live with respect in Creation,***
***to love and serve others,***
***to seek justice and resist evil,***
***to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,***
***our judge and our hope.***
***In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.***
***We are not alone.***
***Thanks be to God.***

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Pouring of Water**

**Act of Baptism**

**Declaration and Congregational Welcome**

**Presentation of the Certificate & Symbols**

**Blessing**