Centennial United Church, Stayner

Sunday, October 25th, 2026 10:30am

"Unexpected Jesus" – The Incarnation

Minister: Jennifer Irving

Music: Megan Arksey & June Flynn

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To Ponder: *"In the end, the most sacred and holy moments of a life are often our most human moments."* ~ Sarah Bessey

We Gather

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Placing our Life & Work, Joys & Concerns in the Light of Christ

Call to Worship

One: Come, just as you are, to this time of worship.

ALL: We come, just as we are,
With our stories and our experiences
With our questions and our knowledge,
With our scars and with our beauty
With dirt under our fingernails, and our perfect hair.

One: Come, just as you are, to this time of worship.

ALL: We come, just as human as Jesus was,
Yearning to know God,
Wanting the world to know the love and compassion
That God shared through Jesus.

One: So we come, just as we are, in all our humanness,

ALL: To join our voices in hymn and prayer,
to connect with one another and with the Divine
as embodied in the life and ministry of Jesus.

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

God, you created us from earth and breath. You gave us bodies that tell the stories of our lives, that reflect our connection to our ancestors and that are infused with your Spirit. Our bodies are atoms and air, flesh and spirit. *(continued next page)*

As we worship today help us to remember our very human connection with Jesus, whose very human body told the story of his life. May we be inspired by his humanity to recognize our divinity for we are children, made in your image, and so it is, like Jesus, we pray to you saying: Our Father… Amen.

Opening Hymn VU #84 "O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word"

Prayer Seeking Reconciliation (in unison)

O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word, we admit that, more often than not, we curse these bodies that you have sanctified. For the times when we have looked at ourselves with judgment instead of awe and treated this sacred frame as a problem to be solved, a project to be fixed, or an enemy to be conquered, forgive us. Remind us that what we have hated, you call good. *(silent prayers of confession)* **Help us to feel your divine spark in every atom, bringing love to life in flesh and bone. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Sung Response VU #958 "Halle, Halle, Halle"

We Listen for God's Word

Time of Wondering

Hymn "Jesus Loves Me" *(camp version)*

Scripture Readings: John 1:1-18 *(The Inclusive Bible translation)*

Reflection

Hymn VU #357 "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

We Respond as Christ's Body

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 #333 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

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 in person and on-line this morning.

Thank you to Neelah Irving for running our live-stream and PowerPoint.

Thank you to Geoff Allen for Reading Scripture for us today.

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CENTENNIAL UNITED CHURCH
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YouTube Channel ~ Centennial United Stayner
Facebook Page ~ Centennial United Church –Stayner

Minister: Reverend Jennifer Irving
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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 lives, 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

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP. A great way to celebrate special milestones with the church family. If you are interested in sponsoring a bulletin for $ 20 contact Pat in the office.

BOARD MEETING Draft Minutes on bulletin board for those interested.

A huge thank you to those who have already made a special donation to the church in honour of our 135th Anniversary. Envelopes are at the back of the church if you still wish to contribute.

INTERESTED IN PURCHASING A UNITED CHURCH 2027 CALENDAR? Let Pat know if you would like to purchase by November 10.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU! To all those that helped write cards, deliver cards and visit with our housebound members. Keeping our community strong!

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY Tuesdays at 10:00am 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.

PUMPKIN CARVING Sunday October 25th at 1:30pm on the front lawn of the church (CE Hall in case of bad weather). Peanut free Hallowe'en treats welcomed! They can be left in the office.

You are invited to an All Unity Service **NOVEMBER 1, 6 PM** at Clearview Community Church, 1070 County Rd 42, Stayner featuring LCol (ret'd) Rev Gordon Mintz as speaker & hosted by Joshua Cabral.

NOVEMBER 4 TURKEY DINNER IS ON! Dine in (limited) or Take out, 4:30 – 6:30. Cost is $ 30/meal. Pre-order by November 2 (call 705-422 1201 or email fundraisers@ucstayner.ca). Payment can be made by etransfer to office @ucstayner.ca, or by cash/cheque at the door.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK! We need lots of volunteers to make the turkey dinner a success. Get your peelers ready! There will be many tasks, suitable for all abilities (!), in the week leading up to the dinner, and the day of. Please consider helping out. More information to follow.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 NEW LOWELL UNITED CHURCH is hosting a Roast Beef Harvest Dinner. More details to follow.

BRACELET WORKSHOP Saturday November 14. Join us for a "crafty" moment. Two workshops are planned for 2:30 and 6:30.

AFFIRMING MINISTRY CELEBRATION Sunday November 15 10:30am Join us as we celebrate becoming an Affirming Ministry in worship followed by a Potluck Lunch and Rainbow Cake! Bring your favourite dish as we celebrate our individuality! Contribution to the Potluck is not a requirement - everyone is welcome to join in our celebration!

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 please feel free to drop off goodies at the office, or on the day of.

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. Geoffallen.re@gmail.com or 519-546-3991.

Other things to look forward to!

Saturday December 5 – 10:30 am Centennial United will be participating in the Stayner Santa Claus parade

Sunday, December 6 – 10:30 AM White Gift Sunday

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

This week's regional prayers are for **James Street United Church** in Palmerston. You can learn more about James Street United on their Facebook page.

Thank you! Jennifer has sent a thank you to the Centennial United family. The note and photo is posted on the bulletin board in the CE Hallway. In her note Jennifer says: "I know I've expressed my gratitude in many ways over the past two years but this is just one more way to let you know how much your love and support have meant to me over this grief journey."