

Centennial United Church, Stayner

December 12th, 2010 – Advent 3 JOY



Minister: All who sing, dance, celebrate, and joyously live out the reality of their salvation!

Thought for the Week:



As you enter, please remember to put on your name tag.

Text in Bold Type is to be read in unison.

When the congregation stands, please stand as you are able.

PATH OF CELEBRATION

Welcome and Announcements

"I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way a voice of one calling in the desert, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him."

Mark 1:2-3

Hymn 1 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel vs 1, 6*

Lighting the Advent Candles

Two weeks ago we began our Advent journey by lighting our candle of Hope.

We light it again today as we continue to wait in Hope.

Last week we lit the candle of Peace. Our hearts filled with longing, we light it again.

Our time of eager anticipation seems unending. Yet we continue. . . waiting for the arrival of the one who will redeem us from our sorrow: sorrow stifling our lives, our families, our communities, our world.

We open our hearts and minds to divine Joy as we pray:

Compassionate God, whose will it is that we share in abundance, we light this next candle trusting that your ray of Joy will come to guide us into wholeness, even in our most broken hours.

Hymn 82 *A Light is Gleaming*

Call to Worship

God is coming in Christ

to push back the shadows of this world.

God is coming in Christ

to announce the dawning of a new day.

God is coming in Christ

to bring life where there is no life,

hope where there is no hope,

love where there is no love.

During the long nights of December,

we dance in Advent Light because we know our God is coming.

Written by Nora Vedress, *Gathering*, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2010-1011, p. 27

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Hymn MV144 *Like a Healing Stream*

PATH OF LETTING GO

Responsive Psalm Psalm 146, VU 898

PATH OF CENTERING

Story Time

Hymn 43 *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

Scripture Hebrew: Isaiah 35:1-7 Pgs 696-697 O.T.
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11 Pg. 16 N.T.

Reflection/Sermon "Hosea and Christmas"

PATH OF TRANSFORMATION

Hymn 508 *Just as I Am*

Minute for Mission

Presentation of our Gifts and Offerings

Song Presentation by our Choir

Doxology VU 544

In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today to serve your cause and share your love will all along life's way.

O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son, teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

Dedication

Awesome God, in the hustle and bustle of this season, we are aware of the abundance that surrounds us. With shelves that are heavy-laden and cupboards that are brimming over, it is hard to imagine that there are places in need. Yet we give realizing that many are dependent on our generosity. May these gifts become outreach for the hurting, care for the needy, and compassion for the troubled. Transform all that is offered, we pray. Amen.

Written by Laura Turnbull, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2010-1011, p. 31
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Congregational Prayer

Congregational Hymn

Commissioning

May the blessing of God settle upon us, as mysterious as the rustle of angels' wings, as surprising as a child in a manger, as holy as light in the darkness.

Written by Kate Crawford, **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2010-1011, p. 32
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Benediction

Hymn 28 Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness vs. 1, 4

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If you are visiting with us today, we feel blessed by your presence.

We hope you found today's service fulfilling and uplifting.

Please take a moment to sign our guest book in the Narthex.

Please join us for coffee after worship service in the CE Hall.

The Sip 'n Serve Committee are your hosts

for the month of December.

Greeting you today are the Grottoli Family

Scriptures read by Alice Grottoli

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Library: If you are looking for something to read over Christmas or on these snowy days, check out the books on the Book Trolley in the library. There is a good selection of both Christmas fiction and non-fiction. There will also be new titles on the "NEW BOOK" shelf on the north wall of the Round Room. Please remember to sign the books out with your name and date on the card and leave it in the basket provided. Thank you.

If you wish to contribute to the **Christmas Families**, please put your donations in your envelope and mark the amount for the Christmas Families.

In our efforts to keep all congregation members informed of our Church happenings, we will be emailing our bulletins weekly. Our email list

needs updating. Please email the office (office@ucstayner.ca) from your email account so we can add and/or update your email address.

If anyone would like to receive *These Days A Daily Devotional*, please contact Ferne in the library on Tuesdays or after service.

The beautiful 2011 **Canadian Church Calendar** is now available in the office. Called “Abundant beyond Measure”, this calendar features stunning vistas of our beautiful country as well as lists all the events of our Church year. Pick yours up for only \$5.00!

Christmas Poinsettias are being ordered that will be given to our shut-ins this Christmas Season. Please mark your envelopes with “Poinsettias” when you make your donation. If you have any questions, call Sharon Inkster, Gretta Bishop, or Les Beattie.

THIS WEEK AT CENTENNIAL

Sip 'n Serve Monday at 9:00 a.m.

Centennial Women will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 14. Please note the time change ~ at 6:15 p.m. We will meet at the church to car pool to go carol singing at Blue Mountain Manor and Stayner Nursing Home, then back to the church for refreshments. We need all the singers we can get, so don't be shy!

UPCOMING AT CENTENNIAL

Longest Night Service Tuesday, December 21st, 7:30 p.m.

Family Christmas Eve Service Friday, December 24th, 7:00 p.m. with a Communion Service to be held at 10:00 p.m.

ELSEWHERE

Join us in Celebration! Harry Tiemens is turning 80. We are having a Come and Go Luncheon on Saturday, December 18th from 12 p.m .to 3 p.m. at Centennial United Church. Best Wishes Only!

Easy Yoga for Seniors! Includes strength, joint awareness, and breathing exercises. Join us Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. for an hour of movement. Bring a floor mat and wear comfy clothes. Cost is \$8 Drop in or \$56 paid in advance. Starts January 13th for 8 weeks.



Where does the custom of the Advent wreath originate?

The origins of this custom are lost in the mists of time, but probably are rooted in the pagan practices surrounding the winter solstice. As the days grew shorter, the number of lights in the home was increased to symbolize the desire for the return of the sun. Evergreens were shaped into circles and adorned with lights to symbolize the return of light and life. Our practice of using the wreath of lights during Advent started in 17th century Germany, but did not become widespread until the middle of the 20th century. Think of the Advent wreath as the church's clock counting down to Christmas!

