

Centennial United Church - Stayner

January 1, 2012 – New Year's Day

Minister: All who willingly embrace the newness of faith revisited; hope rekindled; peace implemented; joy lived; and love shared.

Thought for the Week:

Believe nothing just because a so-called wise person said it.
Believe nothing just because a belief is generally held.
Believe nothing just because it is said in ancient books.
Believe nothing just because it is said to be of divine origin.
Believe nothing just because someone else believes it.
Believe only what you yourself test and judge to be true.

Siddhartha Gautama (The Buddha), *Thank God for Evolution*, p. 356

Path of Celebration

Welcome and Announcements

"Search me, O God, and know my heart, test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Psalm 139:23-24

Hymn: 374 "Come and Find the Quiet Centre" vs. 1

Lighting Christ Candle

Call to Worship

The page of our calendar has turned to a new year, month and day, with new beginnings comes new hope, new possibility.

Our journey of faith continues as we continue learning, living, and sensing, new experiences.

Every new day is a day to learn more about ourselves, our neighbour, our beliefs and our world.

Our journey is one in which we are always traveling, always questioning, always searching.

Faith is not the certainty of the future but rather the certainty of the gift of life, love, and hope, which continually renews all things.

Our journey of faith has brought us to this house, to his place of worship, to this time of new beginnings.

May we continue to build a house of faith where all are welcome, where all are accepted, where all journeys are honoured.

Hymn: MV 1 "Let Us Build a House"

Path of Letting Go

Prayer of Awareness: (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

There is a time for everything, a season for every purpose under heaven:

L: a season to be born and a season to die;

R: a season to plant and a season to harvest;

L: a season to hurt and a season to heal;

R: a season to tear down and a season to build up;

L: a season to cry and a season to laugh;

R: a season to mourn and a season to dance;

L: a season to scatter stones and a season to gather them

R: a season for holding close and a season for holding back;

L: a season to seek and a season to lose;

R: a season to keep and a season to throw away;

L: a season to tear and a season to mend;

R: a season to be silent and a season to speak;

L: a season to love and a season to hate;

R: a season for hostilities and a season for peace;

There is a time for everything, a season for every purpose under heaven.

Affirmation of God's Love: (Ecclesiastes 3:9-13)

What do workers gain from their efforts? I have reflected on this while learning all the kinds of work God gives to humankind. God has made everything in harmony with the divine; yet although the Almighty has imbued eternity in our soul, we are unable to grasp the totality of God's work from beginning to end.

What I do know is that what is best for us is to be happy and enjoy life as long as we live. And God's gift to us is to eat and drink and find fulfillment in our work.

Path of Centering

Story Time

Hymn: 600 "When I Needed a Neighbour"

Scriptures: Epistle: Revelation 21:1-6a
Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Reflection/Sermon: "Post -Christmas"

Path of Transformation

Hymn: MV 49 "When We Seek Language"

Minute for Mission

Presentation of our Gifts and Offerings

Doxology: 542

*We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone, we give if gratefully.*

Dedication: **Most gracious and merciful God, you have richly blessed us in so many ways, that we might be able to serve you, our Creator and Redeemer, freely and faithfully. Accept these, our offerings, not as the measure that we owe to you, but as a celebration of your love for us, laid aside for your service and offered in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

Congregational Prayer:

Congregational Hymn:

Commissioning: **This day, the Spirit of God waits on the threshold of our experience, waits to be embodied, as always, in responsive human lives. So let us renew our commitment to be vehicles of that Spirit, and let us go forth with joy to set that Spirit free in our daily living.**

Benediction:

Hymn: MV 209 "Go, Make a Difference" vs. 2