

# Centennial United Church - Stayner

January 8, 2012 – Communion

Minister: All who have been baptized by the Holy Spirit!

## Thought for the Week:

“Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven” cannot possibly mean less than allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us as a species in evolving mutually enhancing relationships with one another, with the larger body of Life (Nature) and with our own creations (arts, technology, social systems, etc.), and doing so to the glory of God – that is, honouring the Wholeness of Reality. This is our destiny as a species.

Michael Dowd, *Thank God for Evolution*, p. 265

## 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: MV 1 “Let Us Build a House” vs. 1, 3

Lighting Christ Candle

Call to Worship

The days are lengthening again, but slowly. Yet the light we need, the true light of the world, is already here.

**Submitting to Jordan’s waters, Jesus was baptized to his calling.**

He asks us to share with him the vision: our world illuminated by the glory of God. Come, let us live in that light!

**With joy we seek its shining as we come to worship God.**

Written by Rod Sykes.

**Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2011-2012. p. 38

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Hymn: 87 “I Am the Light of the World”

## Path of Letting Go

Prayer of Awareness: Psalm 29 VU 756

Affirmation of God’s Love: We all have experienced the incredible greatness of God’s presence. We regularly

encounter events, people, vistas, that remind us of our humanity with its limited understanding and shortness of life, while pressing upon us the timelessness and eternal qualities of wholeness, peace, love, acceptance and love. May we always be open to the presence of God in our lives. Amen

## Path of Centering

Story Time

Hymn: 585 “Jesus Bids us Shine”

Scriptures: Hebrew: Genesis 1:1-5

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

Reflection/Sermon: “Sacraments”

## Path of Transformation

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.**

Hymn: 471 “Eat This Bread and Never Hunger”

Celebration of Communion

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Therefore, with all that is, seen and unseen, and with all the faithful of every time and place, we join in this hymn of praise and thanksgiving:

**Holy, holy, holy God,  
power of life and love!  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory!  
Hosanna through the ages!  
Blest is the One who comes to bring your justice to earth!**

Now, therefore, we gratefully remember: Jesus' birth into our humanity, compassion for our suffering, intimacy with our frailty, bearing of the cross with its death, whose hope, peace, joy, and love has risen from the tomb by the power of God.

On the night before he died, it was Jesus who took a loaf of bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and said, "Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying, "This is the new covenant; remember me."

**We proclaim Jesus,  
crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

Loving God, creative Power, blessing your name, we seek your Spirit. Come to us and bless these gifts of bread and wine that they may be the sign and seal of our adoption as the children of God. As we eat and drink together, make us one with Christ and one in Christ, a sign of his eternal reign in all the world.

In the name of the One who said, "I am the bread of life," I invite you to come and eat. In the name of the One who said, "I am the true vine," I invite you to come and drink. In the name of the One who said, "Love one another, as I have loved, you," I invite you to the table of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.

Jesus Christ the True Vine.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Life-giving God, may we, who share Christ's body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup, bring new life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and all creation will live to praise your name. Amen.**

Hymn: 481 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

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. 1