

Stettler United Church



BESTOGETHER

We are United Churches of Big Valley, Erasmie and Stettler.

Date: January 4, 2026
Second after Christmas
Theme: The Light of the World

Worship Leaders: Rev. Dr. OhWang Kwon

Musician: Linda Kneeland

Audio/Visual: Holly McKenzie

(*: Please, stand if you are able.)

Musical Prelude

Greetings

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Response: And also with you.

Welcome & Announcements (Care & Concerns)

Acknowledgement of Territory

ALL: God calls us to live with respect and care for all our relations in creation. For thousands of years, Indigenous peoples of this area have tended the earth, and we give thanks for such diligence. We covenant to live and work together, sharing this land in peace and respect as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the river flows.

Peter Chynoweth, Cochrane AB

Call to Worship

Every year, into our shadowed world,

a light is born.

Every year, into our complicated lives,

hope is born,

Every year,

the Christ child comes to the world.

Every year, and this year,

we celebrate in hope, in gratitude, and in joy.

Beth W Johnston, Bridging Waters P.C., Nipawin, Sask. Gathering, Advent Christmas Epiphany 2025-2026, 33. Used with Permission.

Light the Christ Candle

***Hymn Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom MV#10**

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Opening Prayer

God Incarnate, thank you.

Setting aside your glory, you took on flesh and came to live among us.

Thank you for thinking of us.

Thank you for making yourself known to us.

Thank you for doing for us what we are unable to do for ourselves.

Save us.

Reconcile us to you.

Give us a new spirit and a new heart.

You came so that we might have life, life to its fullest.

Thank you. In the name of Jesus, thank you. Amen.

Sue Webb, Faith Centennial U.C., Selkirk, Ont. Gathering, Advent Christmas Epiphany 2025-2026, 33. Used with Permission.

Prayer of Confession

ALL: We feel lost and alone, Holy Parent. We forget that in becoming flesh, you demonstrated the way into a relationship with you. Forgive us for the times that we live in fear, the times when fear governs our actions and colours our words. Forgive us the times that we hate another person. We know that to truly live in you, our hearts can know no hatred. But we are human, Gracious God, as you well know. Lead us into a life of love and help us to let go of the insecurities and judgments that breed

hatred. Allow us to be made perfect in your love. For you are love, and to live in love is to live in you. Amen.

Words of Assurance

God sent Jesus, the Word-Made-Flesh, to model life for us—to model love for us.

God loves us enough to have sent a willing sacrifice for our sins in order to make us whole. We love because God first loved us, and it is beautiful.

Tori Mullin, Hampton U.C., Hampton, N.B. Gathering, Advent Christmas Epiphany 2025-2026, 34. Used with Permission.

***Hymn *God, Whose Almighty Word* VU#313**

God, Whose Almighty Word Words: John Marriott. Music: Adapted from Felice de Giardini. Public Domain. N/A

Prayer of Illumination

Breathe on us, Breath of God, and enlighten us with understanding.

May these words take root and grow within our spirits. Amen.

Susan Girard, Riverview U.C., Atikokan, Ont. Gathering, Advent Christmas Epiphany 2025-2026, 30. Used with Permission.

Scripture Readings: Linda Kneeland

***Psalms 147:12–20:* God sends God's word to earth.**

***Ephesians 1:3–14:* Destined for adoption as God's children.**

***John 1:10–18:* The Word became flesh; we have seen his glory.**

**Hymn *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus* VU#357 (verse 1)
(being seated)**

Words: William H. Parker 1885 Music: Fredrick Arthur Challinor 1903 © 1904 National Christian Education Council, 1020 Bristol Rd., Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6LB, England. Reproduced with permission. Words, Music: National Christian Education Council. CCLI.

Congregational Theme/Story Time

Message Rev. Dr. OhWang Kwon

***Hymn *I Am the Light of the World* VU#87**

Words, Music: Jim Strathdee 1967 © 1969 Desert Flower Music. Words, Music: Desert Flower Music. Licensing, OneLicense.net

Invitation for Offering

Offering Hymn *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

VU#541 Words: Thomas Ken ca. 1674. Music: Genevan Psalter 1551. Public Domain. N/A

Offering Prayer

Loving God, you have given us everything we need.

Indeed, you have shown us the way of humble self-giving through the birth of Jesus in a simple stable.

Take what we offer as gifts of our hearts for Jesus' mission among us.

Weave our giving into your tapestry of hope, beautifying the world. Amen.

Gord Dunbar, while at Kincardine P.C., Kincardine, Ont. Gathering, Advent Christmas Epiphany 2025-2026, 35. Used with Permission.

Prayers of the Gathered Community

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our
trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for
thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever
and ever. Amen.**

***Hymn *Psalm 90: O God, Our Help in Ages Past* VU p.806**

Words: Isaac Watts 1719, alt. Music: Attributed to William Croft 1798. Descant: © 1995 Frances P. Macphail, 165 Powell Ave., Ottawa, ON K1S 2A2. Words, Music: Public Domain. Descant: Frances P. Macphail. N/A

*Commissioning and Benediction

***Threefold Amen (Unison) VU#967**

Postlude