

Stettler United Church



**BESTOGETHER**

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

**Date: December 24, 2025**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**Theme: The Birth of Jesus Christ**

**Worship Leaders: Rev. Dr. OhWang Kwon**

**Musician: Barbara-Lynn & Dave Goodwin**

**Audio/Visual: Betty Birch**

**(\*: 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)**

- **No Service** ~ December 28<sup>th</sup>
- **Regular service** ~ January 04 11:00 am

## **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**

We seek a Christmas full of love,

**love close to home, a love shared with family or among friends.**

We seek a Christmas full of love,

**love that is faithful, love that embraces us in faith community.**

We seek a Christmas full of love,

**love that reaches out, love that welcomes everyone.**

We seek a Christmas full of love,

**love that is compassionate, love that brings healing and hope.**

We seek a Christmas full of love,

**love that is practical, love that is shared by those who work over the holiday.**

We seek a Christmas full of love,

**love that is personal, love that floods our hearts and enlivens our spirits.**

Because we seek a Christmas full of love, we gather to worship the One who came to be God's love for us.

*David Sparks, Rossland, B.C. Gathering, Advent Christmas Epiphany 2025-2026, 28. Used with Permission.*

## **Light the Christ Candle**

We gather as followers of the Prince of Peace.

**There are so many in need of peace this day.**

This candle is a beacon to those

**who worry about their health or that of loved ones, who worry about making ends meet, who worry about feeding their families and having shelter,**

who are in physical danger because of war and conflict, and who cannot rest because of toxic secrets.

**May this light shine for all who need peace this day. Amen.**

*Beth W Johnston, Bridging Waters P.C., Nipawin, Sask. Gathering, Advent Christmas Epiphany 2025-2026, 65. Used with Permission.*

## **\*Hymn    *Angels We Have Heard on High*    VU#38**

Words: French traditional, translation James Chadwick. Music: French carol melody, arranged by Edward Shippen Barnes. Public Domain. N/A

## **Opening Prayer**

We come before you with excitement, Lively God, for the gifts, the turkey, and the family gatherings are just hours ahead of us.

**We come before you with thankfulness, Gracious God, for we realize how wonderfully you have blessed us as a faith community through Advent.**

We come before you with a new vision of our neighbourhood and our world, Compassionate God, for there are deep needs that this Christmas season brings home to us.

**We come before you with awe, Revealing God, for in the stories of Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus, we are aware that your love for us and our world goes beyond all limits.**

**Amen.**

*David Sparks, Rossland, B.C. Gathering, Advent Christmas Epiphany 2025-2026, 29-30. Used with Permission.*

### **Prayer of Confession**

God, you offer the wonder of Christmas, and we give you thanks for the gift of your son, Jesus Christ.

**Thank you for this worldwide celebration of our Saviour's birth. Forgive us for the times this past year when we have neglected worship and prayer. Forgive us for times we have missed helping or listening or caring.**

Use this Christmas to refocus us.

**Forgive us, O God, and draw us back into right relationship with you, your church, our neighbours, and your creation.**

**Amen.**

### *Words of Assurance*

God's nature is generous: generous in love, generous in forgiveness, generous in meeting our needs. Eagerly, God forgives you and me again and again. Be assured that through Christ, you are forgiven. Live in this peace.

**Thanks be to God!**

*Elaine Bidgood Sweet, Zion Lutheran Church, Minot, North Dakota. Gathering, Advent Christmas Epiphany 2025-2026, 29-30. Used with Permission.*

### **\*Hymn O Come, All Ye Faithful VU#60**

Words: English Translation Frederick Oakeley 1841, et al, French translation Claude Rozier 1950. Music: attributed to John Francis Wade, ca. 1743  
Public Domain. N/A

## **Prayer of Illumination**

Treasured words for us to ponder,  
**caring words from one well-loved,**  
good words for us to take to heart,  
**honest words from a trusted friend,**  
challenging words that call us to action,  
**words that challenge us to seek justice for all,**  
inspired words that touch our deepest being:  
**the Bible—God’s word through prophets, disciples, and Jesus.**

We thank you, Loving God, that you give us  
**patience in listening, joy as we share, and helpful words that you call us to receive. Amen.**

*David Sparks, Rossland, B.C. Gathering, Advent Christmas Epiphany 2025-2026, 30. Used with Permission.*

## **Scripture Readings/Readers:**

**Donna Boyd-Stadelmann**

**Isaiah 9:2–7: A child has been born for us.**

**Hymn Away in a Manger VU#69 Verse 1 (Being Seated)**

**Barb Munholland**

**Titus 2:11–14: Live a godly, upright life.**

**Hymn Away in a Manger VU#69 Verse 2 (Being Seated)**

**Cassidy Munholland**

**Luke 2:1–14: Jesus’ birth.**

**Hymn Away in a Manger VU#69 Verse 3 (Being Seated)**

**Special Music Barbara-Lynn and Dave Goodwin**

**Message Rev. Dr. OhWang Kwon**

**\*Hymn Go, Tell It on the Mountain VU#43**

Words: John Wesley Work II. Music: African-American spiritual 19th century. Arrangement: © United Reformed Church. Used by permission of Oxford University Press. Words: Public Domain. Arrangement: Oxford University Press. 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

**ALL:     Holy God, bless these gifts and the givers. May the sign of our collaboration in giving be another sign of Emmanuel's presence in this world. Strengthen the work of this church and the growth of your kingdom coming. Amen.**

*Elaine Bidgood Sweet, Zion Lutheran Church, Minot, North Dakota. Gathering, Advent Christmas Epiphany 2025-2026, 30. Used with Permission.*

## Prayers of the Gathered Community

### The Lord's Prayer

**ALL:     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.**

**Candle Lighting from the Christ Candle with the accompaniment of   *Silent Night, Holy Night*   **VU#67 (Being Seated)****

**Gospel of the Incarnation: John 1:1-14**

**\*Hymn   *Silent Night, Holy Night*   **VU#67****

Words: Joseph Mohr 1818. English translation: John Freeman Young 1863, et al. Music: Franz Xavier Grüber 1818. Public Domain. N/A

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

**Postlude**