Stettler United Church

BESTOGETHER

We are United Churches at Big Valley, Erskine and Stettler.

Date: November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent
Theme: Called to Hope

Worship Leaders: Rev. Scott Reynolds
Musician: Linda Kneeland
Audio/Visual: Holly McKenzie or Nora Nixon
(*: 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)

- **Please start** preparing your items for the cookie walk and bake sale.
- **December 05** ~ Annual Bazaar and Cookie Walk
- **December 06** ~ Advent 2 ~ Light and Peace with an opportunity to light candles for remembrance.
- **December 09** ~ Choir Festival ~ If you can bring a treat for the lunch after, please let Mary Lou know.
- **December 13** ~ White Gift Sunday. We are hoping to fill our tree of warmth with gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves.

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

Lighting the Candle of Hope

We light the candle of Hope.
ALL: And yearn for the coming of Christ, Our Saviour.

Hymn: *A Candle Is Burning* VU #6, v.1 (seated)

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Opening Prayer

*Hymn: *God Is Here* VU #389

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Prayer of Confession

ALL: God of Mercy and Grace,
We confess to you that we have sinned:
we sometimes cling to half-truths
instead of clinging to the words of Jesus;
we sometimes find comfort in believing we are right
instead of finding comfort in Christ's love;
and we sometimes get preoccupied with ourselves
instead of watching for your work in our lives.
Grant us, O Lord, a heart that loves you,
a life that finds joy in you,
peace in waiting for you,
and a hope of finally embracing you.
Amen.

Hymn: *Lord Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary* MV #18 (seated)

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Prayer for Illumination

ALL: Holy God,

your Spirit is alive
whenever we gather in sacred community,
and we recognize that you are shaping us even now.
As we open our hearts
to the wisdom of our contemporaries
and to the words of scripture,
help us to feel your Spirit at work in our hearts.
Amen.

Hymn: *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus* VU#357 (v. 1) (seated)

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Congregational Theme/Story Time

Poetry Reading: God Is Calling (Ins Choi)

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 and Mark 13:24-37 (Donna Boyd-Stadelmann)

Message: Rev. Scott Reynolds

*Hymn: *In the Bleak Midwinter* VU #55

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Invitation for Offering

*Offering Hymn: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* VU#541

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Offering Prayer

Prayers of the Gathered Community

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Prayer of Self-Giving and the Lord's Prayer

Loving God, we rejoice in your gift of grace.
We remember Christ's life and death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we experience the gift of his Spirit even now,
and we wait in hope for his coming.
ALL: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.
In this moment, we offer our lives to you,
renewing the commitment made to you in our baptism.
And now, as siblings of Christ,
we pray just as Jesus taught us, saying:
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.

Breaking the Bread and Filling the Cup

The Bread we break is the Bread of Life.
The Cup we Share is the Cup of Blessing.
These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

Prayer After Communion

For the life we have received,
we give you thanks, O God.
May this meal so put its mark on us
that you will always remain first in our hearts.
Amen.

*Parting Hymn: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* VU #64

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*Commissioning and Benediction

*Threefold Amen (Unison) VU#967

Postlude