

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
MEWASSIN UNITED CHURCH
NOVEMBER 19, 2023**

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
Mailing Address: Box 3196, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1C2
Phone: 780 963-4745 Email: stonyuc@telus.net
Reverend Deborah M. Hoekstra Cell: 780 983-2148
WELCOME to our service this morning!

Join **Zoom Meeting** via computer (with password) **DO NOT POST ON WEB OR FACEBOOK**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83364019239?pwd=TEYd2c2aXUra1dDcHdvNlp4Y3Q4UT09>
Zoom teleconference Link info: Meeting ID: 833 6401 9239 Password: 4745
Via phone: +1 587 328 1099 Canada - dial in . +1 587 328 1099 , , 83364019239 - direct

*Thank-you very much to our Presiders today:
Karen and Ian Fitzgerald at Stony Plain and
Fran Scherlie and Sheri Donner Watson at Mewassin*

Stony Plain: Please stay for Lunch after Church today!
Mewassin: Please stay for Coffee after the service!

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GATHER TOGETHER BEFORE GOD
on traditional territory of Treaty Six Peoples and of the Métis Nation

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Beloved of God, we are called here today.

We are called at every age, from every corner, to gather.

Children of God, let us playfully worship together,

worshipping God who made each of us and loves all of us.

God be with you.

And also with you.

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GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)

God of All the Ages, we thank you for this day, for caring for us beautifully in this time.

We praise your name for the gift of children in our lives and in our community.

Forgive us for times when we discount their voices.

Help us share your story with one another that we may remember your love written on our hearts.

Remind us to follow children, as they lead us to living the kin-dom way.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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HYMN: VU #340 "Jesus, Friend of Little Children"

Verse 1

Jesus, friend of little children, let me be one too;
take my hand, and ever keep me close to you.

Verse 2: Teach me how to grow in goodness, daily as I grow.
You have been a child, and surely you must know.

Verse 3: Never leave me, nor forsake me; ever be my friend;
for I need you, from life's dawning to its end.

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LIGHTING A CANDLE

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Unison*)

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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

AND LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES

SP GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir "God Will Hear Your Prayer"

Words by Mabelle Stevens, Music by Jimbo Stevens

THEME TIME

HYMN: VU #357 "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

Verse 1

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear,
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea, stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

Verse 2: First let me hear how the children stood round his knee,

and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;
words full of kindness, deeds full of grace, all in the lovelight of Jesus' face.

Verse 3: Tell me, in accents of wonder, how rolled the sea
tossing the boat in a tempest on Galilee!
And how the Master, ready and kind, chided the billows and hushed the wind.

Verse 4: Into the city I'd follow the children's band,
waving a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;
one of his heralds, yes, I would sing loudest hosannas! Jesus is king!

Verse 5: Show me that scene in the garden of bitter pain;
and of the cross where my Saviour for me was slain.
Sad ones or bright ones, so that they be stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

Words: William H. Parker 1885; Music: Frederick Arthur Challinor, 1903. Public Domain

SCRIPTURE READINGS: SP Reader: Terry Blois

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READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Deuteronomy 11:18-21

READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Matthew 18:1–5, 19:13–15

REFLECTION: “Children: Past, Present, Future” Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra **(Recorded)**

HYMN: VU #644 “I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry”

Verse 1: I was there to hear your boring cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

Verse 2: I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

Verse 3: When you heard the wonder of the word, I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.

Verse 4: If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

Verse 5: In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.

Verse 6: When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

Verse 7: I was there to hear your boring cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

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THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY: VU #542 “We Give You but Your Own”

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

Words: William Walsham How 1858, Music: Johann Konig 1738, adapt William Havergal 1847. Public Domain.

DEDICATION OF GIFTS (*Unison*)

God of abundance, we thank you for the gifts that we present to you now. We ask that you receive them and bless them. May they enable us to serve the world in ways that inspire hope and make your love known. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

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AND WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

SENDING HYMN: MV #221 “I Am Walking a Path of Peace” 4x (of peace; of grace, of hope, with heart)

Verse 1: I am walking a path of peace, I am walking a path of peace, I am walking a path of peace, lead me home, lead me home.

Verse 2: I am walking a path of grace, I am walking a path of grace, I am walking a path of grace, lead me home, lead me home.

Verse 3: I am walking a path of hope, I am walking a path of hope, I am walking a path of hope, lead me home, lead me home.

Verse 4: I am walking a path with heart, I am walking a path with heart, I am walking a path with heart, lead me home, lead me home

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CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US

COMMISSIONING

BENEDICTION

MEW: Three-Fold Amen

SP: “Hallelujah, Amen” (VU #974)

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen! Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

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MUSICAL POSTLUDE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we come together, we respectfully acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 territory of Alberta, Regions 2, 3 and 4 within the historical Northwest Métis Homeland. .

We honour all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries. We recognize that many have come throughout the years to make this place their home. As treaty People, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, we share the responsibility of finding authentic ways to ensure that the spirit of Reconciliation and Treaty 6 is honoured and respected.

LOTS OF ANNOUNCEMENTS NOVEMBER 19, 2023

MEWASSIN NEWS

COFFEE SUNDAYS: We will have coffee after Church November 19 and December 17

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING STARTING DEC 3: Our Sunday School will again be doing the lighting of the Advent Candles.

SUN DEC 3 CHRISTMAS BRUNCH: Our annual Christmas Brunch will take place on Sun. Dec. 3 immediately following the Communion Service. Rev. Deborah will be staying with us for the morning. Please contribute by bringing a pot-luck food item.

WHITE GIFT SUNDAYS DEC 3 & 10: Our clothesline will be hanging up for collection of socks for Parenting for the Future. Socks of any kind are needed – kids', women's and men's.

DEC 10 SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITY: On Sunday, Dec 10, our Sunday School will be making Kids' Christmas bags for Parenting for the Future.

CHRISTMAS FOOD HAMPER (Deadline Dec 10): Please bring good quality non-perishable food items. An envelope will be provided for gift cards. The hamper will be donated to the Wabamun Christmas Hamper Program. Please have all items in by December 10.

SUN DEC 24: Our Christmas Service is Sunday, December 24 at 4:30 pm

SUN DEC 31: No Service at Mewassin. You are welcome to come to Stony for the 10:30 service.

NOTE: Folks from Stony are always welcome to participate in our events!!!

MON. NOV 20 MEN'S CLUB 5:30: Dinner at 5:30 followed by meeting at 7 pm

TUES. NOV 21 SPUC COUNCIL 7 PM: The Stony Plain Council will meet next Tues. Nov 22 at 7 pm in the Board Room at the Church or by Zoom.

SAT NOV 25 CHOIR RETREAT: On Sat. Nov 25, the choir will have a retreat (extra practice!) from 10 am to about noon. We will run through the entire cantata. All choir members are strongly encouraged to attend.

SUN. NOV 26 BREAKFAST: The Men's Club will be cooking breakfast for us next Sunday, Nov 26 starting at 8:45 am. Come get a good start to your day!

STONY WHITE GIFT SUNDAYS DEC 3 & 10: We are collecting Warm Clothing – socks, mitts, toques, etc. to give to FCSS (Family & Community Support Services).

WED DEC 6 CANTATA CHOIR AT WHISPERING WATERS: We will be presenting a portion of the Cantata at Whispering Waters for our friends there. Cantata choir members are asked to be at Whispering Waters at 7 pm (don't come to the church first). The service starts at 7:15..

HELP WANTED WITH CATERING THURS DEC 7: The Catering Committee has a booking for a Christmas dinner for 40 on Thursday, Dec 7 between 4 and 8 pm. Anyone able to volunteer would be greatly appreciated. We need 1 or 2 kitchen helpers, 4 servers, 2 skilled carvers for the turkeys, and function host/hostess who can also take photos throughout the evening. If you are interested in helping or just want to get out of the house, all are welcome. Please contact Darren at 587-926-8898 or email darren_snopek@hotmail.com Thanking you in advance , Darren.

CANTATA PERFORMANCE AT DEVON DEC 10: We will be presenting the Cantata (no dinner!) at Devon United Church on Sunday Dec 10 at 2 pm. If you are unable to attend in Stony on the 17th, you can see us in Devon!

CHRISTMAS CANTATA AND ADVENT SUPPER SUN DEC 17 AT 5 PM: We are having our annual Advent Dinner and Cantata on Sun. Dec 17. Dinner, featuring Ham and Scalloped Potatoes, will start at 5 pm. Caroling begins at 6:15, followed by some Special Music. The Cantata, "Joy! – A Choral Gospel Celebration" by Joel Raney, will start at 7 pm and we will have Dessert, Coffee and Cookies afterward. Tickets are \$25.00 for Adults, and \$10 for Children ages 6 -12. Children 5 and under eat free! Tickets are available in advance at the office.

REMINDERS

SUNDAY, NOV 19: Thank-you very much for helping with Lunch Sunday today: Darrold Quartly, Susan Oleskiw, Cathy Yamada Swan, Darlene Nelson, Darlene Rolph and Erna Brandon.

SUNDAY NOV 19 AFTER CHURCH: There will be a Cantata and Advent Supper Kick-Off Meeting downstairs after church Nov 19. All those interested in helping are invited!

PURDY'S CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATES FUNDRAISER: Purdy's Chocolates makes gift giving fun in time for Christmas and supports our church. Join on-line at Welcome to the Purdy Fundraiser: Christmas Chocolates for Stony Plain United Church by placing your order at <https://fundraising.purdys.com/1373249-109184> or submit a paper form to Cathy Yamada-Swan or the church office, with cheques addressed to Catherine Yamada. **Place Orders & Pay By: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at the latest.** Pickup: December 15, 2023 or earlier
Questions: Call Cathy at 780-963-5021 or email cymada70@gmail.com

CARE HOME SERVICES: Worship services at our Senior Care Centres have started again!! This is a heartwarming opportunity that is open to all! **Can you help on Wednesday, December 6 at Westview Continuing Care at 6:15pm and Whispering Waters at 7:15pm.** Please contact Lorraine Stewart by phone or text at 780-886-2472 or email lmstew7@outlook.com. Thank-you!

Calendar of Activities on next page ...

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukulele Group Wednesdays, 6:15 pm
 Choir Wednesdays, 7 pm – 8 pm Cantata; 8 – 9 Regular Choir
 Card Recreators: Thursdays, 10 am

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun Nov 19 Mewassin – Coffee after the service
 Stony Plain – Lunch Sunday right after Church
 SP - Advent Dinner Planning Meeting right after Church

Mon. Nov 20 5:30 pm – Men's Club – Dinner at 5:30, Meeting at 7
 Tues. Nov 21 7 pm SPUC Council Meeting

Sat . Nov. 25 10 am to about noon – Choir Retreat (Practice!)
 Sun Nov. 26 8:45 am SP Breakfast put on the Men's Club
 Wed. Nov 29 Deadline to order your Purdy's chocolates!

Sun Dec 3 Mew – Christmas Brunch right after the Communion Service
 Starting Dec 3 Advent – Mew. Sunday School will be lighting the Advent Candles
 Dec. 3 & 10 White Gift Sundays at both churches – Collecting Socks at Mewassin and warm clothing at Stony

Wed Dec 6 Whispering Waters 7 pm Cantata choir will present Cantata selections
 Thurs Dec 7 4 – 8 pm Volunteers needed for a Catering function
 Until Dec 10 Mew – bring in food items/gift cards for the Christmas Food Hamper
 Sun Dec 10 2 pm Devon United Church – our choir will present the Cantata
 Sun Dec 17 5 pm Advent Supper followed by the Cantata program.
 Sun Dec 24 4:30 pm Mewassin Christmas Eve Service
 8:30 pm Stony Plain Christmas Eve Service

Sun Dec 31 NO SERVICE AT MEWASSIN. Regular 10:30 am service at Stony Plain