

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
MARCH 24, 2024
PALM/PASSION SUNDAY**

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
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Reverend Deborah M. Hoekstra Cell: 780 983-2148
WELCOME to our service this morning!

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsive*)

Holy God, you have fed us all out of your own generous and gracious hands.
From them, we have received welcome, nourishment, hope, and consolation.

**May these things grow in us, alongside the gift of faith,
so that we may plant their seeds in the world around us.**

**Through the Holy Spirit, guide us in the week ahead
to re-member our place in your great and on-going story
of resurrection, redemption, and restoration through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Written by lutheranjulia, and posted on RevGalBlogPals. <http://revgalblogpals.org/2016/03/18/friday-prayer-something-is-coming/> Used with permission.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

HYMN: MV #194 "Bread of Life, Feed My Soul" verses 3, 4 & 5

Verse 3

Bread of life, help me live a life as pure and true as Jesus did.
Bread of life, help me see the boundless love of Christ for you and me.

Verse 4: I have heard your voice calling, "Come, my friend, and share
in the feast that is laid out for you to show how much I care."

Verse 5: Bread of life, feed my soul, as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.
Bread of life, fill my heart with the grace and mercy you impart.

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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
GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir "Blessed Is He Who Comes"

Words & Music by Becki Slagle Mayo

THEME TIME/ BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Written by Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor, First Congregational United Church of Christ in Manhattan, Kansas.
Posted on <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/> Used with permission.

HYMN: VU #122 "All Glory, Laud and Honour"**REFRAIN:**

All glory, laud and honour to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

Verse 1: You are the King of Israel, and David's royal son,
now in the Lord's name coming, our King and blessed one

REFRAIN

Verse 2: The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.

REFRAIN

Verse 3: To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

REFRAIN

Verse 4: Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring, great author of all goodness, O
good and gracious King.

REFRAIN

Words: Theodulph of Orleans 820, trans. John M. Neale 1851; Music Melchior Teschner 1615. Public Domain

INVITATION TO PRAYER**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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WORDS OF ASSURANCE: Lamentations 3: 22-23**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

RESPONSIVE PSALM SELECTION: VU #758 Psalm 31 Parts 2 & 3
Part Two (9 -14)

Refrain: I trust in you, you are my God.

Have mercy on me, God, for I am in trouble; my eyes are wasted with grief, my soul and my body also.

My life is worn out with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me in my misery, my bones are wasted away.

I am the scorn of my enemies, yes, even of my neighbours.

My acquaintances shudder at the sight of me; when they see me in the street, they shrink away.

I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.

I hear the whispering of many; fear is on every side, while they conspire against me, and plot to take my life.

Refrain: I trust in you, you are my God.

Part Three (15 - 16)

My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me.

Let your face shine on your servant, and save me, for your mercy's sake.

Refrain: I trust in you, you are my God.

Words: Public Domain; Music: La Scala Santa, Ireland 1681, arr. Erik Routley 1985. Arrangement copyright © Hope Publishing Company

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 11:1-11 Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

**REFLECTION: "Hopefulness and Promise" by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra
(Recorded)**

HYMN: VU #123 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

Verse 1

Hosanna, loud hosanna the happy children sang;
through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang;
to Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

Verse 2: From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,
the victory palm branch waving, and singing clear and loud;
the Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
content that little children should on his bidding wait.

Verse 3: "Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer; earth, let your anthems ring.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
and in his humble presence eternally rejoice!

Words: Jennette Threlfall 1873. Music: trad. 18th-century German tune, adap. Xavier L. Hartig 1868. Public Domain

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Pastoral Prayer for the End of Lent (*inspired by Hebrews 12:1-3*)

Written by John W. Vest, and posted on **John Vest**. <http://johnvest.com/> Used with permission.

MISSION AND SERVICE STORY

INVITATION TO GIVE

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OFFERTORY: VU #581 “When We Are Living” Verse 2

Through all our living, we our fruits must give. Good works of service are for offering.

When we are giving, or when receiving, we belong to God, we belong to God.

~Translated by Elise S. Eslinger and George Lockwood. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

DEDICATION OF GIFTS

Written by Beth W. Johnston. Gathering Lent/Easter 2021 (Year B), page 39. Used with permission.

AND WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

SENDING HYMN: VU #127 “Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!” (Tune VU #20)

Verse 1: Ride on! Ride on in majesty! Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
O Saviour meek, pursues thy road with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Verse 2: Ride on! Ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die;
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Verse 3: Ride on! Ride on in majesty! The wingèd squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes to see the approaching sacrifice.

Verse 4: Ride on! Ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow thy meek head to mortal pain, then take, O God, thy power, and reign.
~Words: Henry Hart Milman 1821; Music Graham George 1939; Words Public Domain.

CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US

COMMISSIONING

BLESSING

SUNG RESPONSE: MV #115 “Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New” (2x)

Behold, behold, I make all things new, beginning with you and starting from today.

Behold, behold, I make all things new, my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.

REPEAT

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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS MARCH 24, 2024

CHURCH DIRECTORIES HAVE ARRIVED: Our Church Directories are here. If you had your photo taken at one of the sessions last fall, or asked to use your photo from the previous directory, there is a booklet for you.

CARD RECREATORS: The Card Recreators will **NOT** meet next Thursday, March 28.

BREAKFAST MAR 31: The Men's club will be serving breakfast next Sunday.

UCW APRIL 3, 1:30 PM. We will begin in the council room on the second floor where we will see slides about the history of Palestine from the World Day of Prayer resources. UCW is a member of the Women's Inter Church Council of Canada which prepares W D of Prayer materials and manages the grants. You can find the link on the United Church web page under UCW. All ladies welcome.

UPDATE ON LENTEN PROJECT: You may still bring donations for the Parkland Food Bank up to and including Easter Sunday (Mar 31). **This week's recipe** Lesley's Hot Cross Buns.

UPDATE: LIVE MUSIC & CHOCOLATE FRIDAY, APRIL 19: CATERING SERVICES at SPUC presents...An EVENING of LIVE MUSIC and CHOCOLATE! Friday, April 19 2024 at SPUC will be an enchanting evening of more than 8 performances by talented, local musicians entertaining with a variety of musical genres, while you enjoy an array of treats and desserts from a chocolate buffet in your '**dress to impress**' finery! (Yes, you are encouraged to wear formal/semi-formal attire!) Tickets are available online on eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/an-evening-of-live-music-and-chocolate-tickets-854832766817?aff=oddtcreator> or from the SPUC office during the week. **Only 75 tickets will be available.** Doors Open 5:30 Pm; Music Starts 6:00 Pm; Chocolate Buffet Opens 6:15 Pm. **This is a 13+ Event. Tickets 16 + are \$35; 13-15 are \$**

PRINTS AVAILABLE: Vic Morrison prints of Stony Plain United Church are available: a few of the original church and lots of the new church. There are framed ones for \$25 and unframed prints for \$5.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukulele Group	Wednesdays, 6:15 pm
Choir	Wednesdays, 7 pm
Card Recreators:	Thursdays, 10 am <u>NOT MARCH 28</u>

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, Mar 31	8:45 am SP Breakfast, thanks to the Men's Club
Wed. Apr 3	1:30 pm UCW Meeting
Friday April 19	Live Music & Chocolate Night
Sunday Apr 21	Stony Plain AGM after church

2024 LENTEN JOURNEY – Nourishing our Soul

Palm Sunday Let Us Break Bread Together

As we continue this Lenten journey together, let us humbly gather as we get ready to share all that we have prepared. We have transformed each ingredient into something more desirable, something special. We know that beyond this day, as we continue to nourish our souls, we are reminded that God enriches our lives. When we discover something that nourishes our souls, and with it brings us peace, love, and hope, let's open our hearts and make room for it; let's make room for Christ in our lives.

Lesley's Hot Cross Buns

- cups (1#) mixed dried fruit (eg raisins, cranberries, chopped apricots, currants)
- 1 tsp sugar
- 2 tsp yeast
- water
- 6 cups all purpose flour
- 2 tsp salt
- 2 eggs
- 3 Tbsp honey
- ¼ cup butter

Spice Mixture:

- 1 Tbsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp nutmeg
- ½ tsp ginger
- ¼ tsp cloves

Glaze:

3 Tbsp honey, 1 Tbsp butter, ½ tsp cinnamon

Directions:

1. Steam dried fruit in boiling water to soften (set aside fruity water)
2. In ½ c warm water, dissolve sugar and yeast. Sit until fluffy.
3. Combine flour and salt in large mixing bowl, making a well in the centre.
4. In separate bowl, combine fruity water with warm water to make 2 cups total, add honey.
5. Slightly beat eggs, setting aside 3 Tbsp for egg wash. Add eggs to water/honey mixture.
6. Pour water/honey/eggs and yeast mixture into the flour bowl and stir vigorously. Keep your hands wet as you knead the stiff, sticky dough, adding enough water to make the dough silky and elastic.
7. Smear butter on work surface and knead until incorporated.
8. Add rehydrated fruit one handful at a time.
9. Form the dough into a ball, placing it smooth side up in the bowl.
10. Cover, let rise in a warm location until doubled in size (at least 1 ½ hours). Poke the centre of the dough ½" deep with your finger; if it doesn't fill in, it is ready to deflate. Re-form into ball, rise again until doubled (approx. half the time).
11. While the dough is rising, plan your baking pans. You may need to get creative! I like to use 12x18" cookie sheets with a lip, and large buns will fill two of these (3 across and 5 down). Or make them half this size (6 across x 10 down) for dainty buns.
12. Grease the baking pans and sprinkle with spice mixture.
13. Shape dough into smooth balls. Arrange in straight rows on the pans. Let rest ~10 min until dough relaxes, then flatten slightly with palm of hand. Let rise another ½ hour.
14. Set oven to 375°F. Make egg wash (reserved egg plus 1 ½ Tbsp water). Immediately before baking, press ½ way thru each bun with a spatula to form a cross. Brush with egg wash, let dough recover, and place in hot oven.
15. While buns are baking, make glaze by heating honey, butter and cinnamon together, brushing buns immediately after removing from oven.
16. Once cool, you may want to add either cream cheese/honey mixture OR a simple white icing to highlight the crosses. Enjoy with hard cooked eggs for Easter breakfast!