

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH**  
**APRIL 28, 2024**

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!**

*A Big THANK-YOU to the Men's Club  
for Breakfast at Stony today!*

**HYMN SING**

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)**

We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

**We come because we seek to abide in Christ.**

The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

**We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.**

If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

**We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.**

We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God:

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

***May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.***

~ Written by Joanna Harader and posted on Spacious Faith. <https://spaciousfaith.com/> Used with permission.

**GATHERING PRAYER**

~ Adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012*, © 2011 Abingdon Press. Posted on the Worship Elements page of the [Ministry Matters](http://MinistryMatters.com) website. Used with permission.

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

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**HYMN: MV #1 "Let Us Build a House"**

**Verse 1**

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;

here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

**Verse 2:** Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;

here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

**Verse 3:** Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;  
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;

as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

**Verse 4:** Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.

Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;

let us bring an end to fear and danger:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

**Verse 5:** Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;

let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

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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.**

## **LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES**

#### **GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir "Go Into the World"**

Text Adapted from Matthew 29:19-20 by Natalie Sleeth; Music by Natalie Sleeth

#### **THEME TIME**

#### **HYMN: MV #145 "Draw the Circle Wide"**

##### **REFRAIN:**

**Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.**

**Let this be our song, no one stands alone,**

**Standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

**Verse 1:** God the still-point of the circle, 'round whom all creation turns;  
Nothing lost, but held forever, in God's gracious arms.

**REFRAIN**

**Verse 2:** Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;  
Let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call.

**REFRAIN**

**Verse 3:** Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we've ever dreamed before;  
Let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door.

**REFRAIN**

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## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

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**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS:** **Acts 8:26-40**

**GOSPEL LESSON:** **John 15:1-8**

**REFLECTION:** **"Unexpected People and Places"**

**HYMN: VU #498 "God, Who Has Caused to Be Written" (Tune VU #220)**

**Verse 1**

God, who has caused to be written your word for our learning,  
grant us that, hearing, our hearts may be inwardly burning.  
Give to us grace, that in your Son we embrace life, all its glory discerning.

**Verse 2:** Now may our God give us joy, give us peace in believing  
all things were written in truth for our thankful receiving.  
As Christ did preach, o'er all the world love must reach: grant every day love's achieving.

**Verse 3:** God, should the powers of the earth and the heavens be shaken,  
grant us to see you in all things, our vision awaken.  
Help us to see, though all the earth cease to be, your truth shall never be shaken.

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<b>THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION</b>
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**INVITATION TO GIVE**

**OFFERTORY: VU #539 “God of All Good” Verse 3 (Tune VU #501)**

Maker, whose bounty all creation shows, Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live,  
Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows, to you with grateful hearts ourselves we give.

~Words: Albert F. Bayly 1962 alt. Music (VU #501) Mary A. Lathbury 1877 By permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License A-718663

**DEDICATION OF GIFTS (Unison)**

**God, you are the giver of every good gift. Accept these offerings we pray, that through them we may do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with you, our Guide, and our God. Amen.**

**WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD****SENDING HYMN: VU #187 “The Spring Has Come”**

**Verse 1:** The spring has come, let all the church be part of it!

The world has changed, and God is at the heart of it!

New light, new day, new colour after winter grey.

New light, new day, the spring has come, let all the church be part of it!

**Verse 2:** The sun is warm, let all God’s children play in it!

The world expands, let’s spread the Gospel way in it!

New leaf, new thrust, new greening for the love of Christ.

New leaf, new thrust, the sun is warm, let all God’s children play in it!

**Verse 3:** The spring has come, new people are the flowers of it.

Through wind and rain, new life is in the showers of it.

New bud, new shoot, new hope will bear the Spirit’s fruit.

New bud, new shoot, the spring has come, new people are the flowers of it!

~ Words: Shirley Erena Murray 1990; Music: Colin Gibson 1990. Copyright © 1992, 1993 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

**CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US****COMMISSIONING**

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**BLESSING****SUNG RESPONSE: VU #556 “Would You Bless Our Homes and Families” Verse 3**

From the homes in which we’re nurtured, with the love that shapes us there,  
teach us, God, to claim as family every one whose life we share.

And through all that life may offer, may we in your love remain;

may the love we share in families be alive to praise your name.

~ Words by Walter Farquharson 1974; Music by Ron Klusmeier 1974. Words © 1977 Walter Farquharson; Music © 1977 Ron Klusmeier. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

**MUSICAL POSTLUDE**

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### 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 APRIL 28, 2024**

### NEW

**THANK-YOU!!!** The Catering Committee (and its shadow members :D ) are so extremely grateful to everyone who volunteered, loaned service pieces, photographed, PERFORMED, won a door prize, bought a ticket for, did tech support, attended, emceed, made a LOT of whipped cream, DRESSED UP, (everyone looked great!) CLEANED UP, or even told a friend about it, to make the Live Music and Chocolate Evening a great success! It was exactly as I had pictured it to be, and everyone I mentioned was a part of that. I thank you all again. Just wait 'till next year! - Darren

**WHISPERING WATERS WED. MAY 1 AT 7:15 PM:** We will go to Whispering Waters for their 7:15 pm service on Wed. May 1. The choir should be at Whispering Waters (instead of the church) around 7 pm. All are welcome to attend and say "hello" to our friends there.

### REMINDERS

**SUNDAY APRIL 28 STONY PLAIN:** The Men's Club will be serving breakfast Sunday morning, April 28, starting around 8:45 am. Thank-you very much!

**UCW WED MAY 1, 2024 1:30 PM – FOR EVERYONE!:** The guest speaker will be from the town of Stony Plain. The topic is the proposed Stony Plain Cemetery. Every interested person is welcome. Our business meeting will follow the presentation.

### **CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR TIA BISSOONDATT SAT MAY 4 AT HERITAGE PARK:**

Many of you may remember Tia, who attended our church with her Grandmother before Covid. We were very sorry to hear that she passed away after a lengthy illness at age 15. Tia's life will be celebrated through sharing memories, snacks, crafts, playing games and time with loved ones on Sat May 4 at Heritage Park, 5100 41 Ave. Stony Plain in the Spruce Grove hall from 6 pm to 11 pm.

**PASSING ON YOUR CONCERNS:** If you know of anyone who would like a visit or needs a card, please call the Church Office (780 963-4745) or email [stonyuc@telus.net](mailto:stonyuc@telus.net).

### **COMMUNITY AND UNITED CHURCH EVENTS**

**PARKLAND BELLS MAY 4:** Parkland Bells, the Handbell Choir of St. Andrew's UC, is presenting 2 concerts on **Sat. May 4: 3:30 pm and 7:00 pm** at St. Andrew's United Church (1A Fieldstone Drive, Spruce Grove). Free tickets are available from their Church Office at 780 962-0488.

**CHALMERS –CASTLE DOWNS UNITED CHURCH:** **Sat. May 11:** Bluegrass and Dessert, featuring Prairie Sky Band. 2 to 4 pm. Tickets \$25 or 3 for \$60, Children 12 and under, free. For tickets, call 780 455-3664 or get them at the door. 12315 – 132 Ave. NW, Edmonton, AB

**BRIDGE TO CARE OPEN HOUSE FRI. MAY 31:** This non-profit Healthcare and Community Service group has recently moved its corporate office back to Stony Plain. You are invited for a blessing of their new space, a delicious meal, games, activities and fun on Fri. May 31 from 3 pm to 6 pm at 4902 50<sup>th</sup> Ave., Stony Plain. RSVP to Aysha Patterson at 780 591-1000 Ext 8 or [alysha@bridgetocare.org](mailto:alysha@bridgetocare.org).

### **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

**Ukulele Group**      **Wednesdays, 6:15 pm**  
**Choir**              **Wednesdays, 7 pm**  
**Card Recreators:** **Thursdays, 10 am**

### **MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Sunday Apr 28**      **SP 8:45 am Breakfast**  
**Wed. May 1**        **1:30 pm UCW Meeting open to all**  
**Wed. May 1**        **7:15 pm Service at Whispering Waters (Care Home)**