

STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
JUNE 16, 2024
INDIGENOUS 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

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Written by Bill Steadman *Gathering Summer-Autumn 2002*. Gathering Pentecost 1 2024 page 31. Used with permission.

GATHERING PRAYER

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LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

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**HYMN: "A Strand in the Web of Life Let Me Be" from "Then Let Us Sing" p. 6
(Sing Twice)**

A strand in the web of life let me be,
a string on the harp that the Spirit plays,
at one with the sky and earth and the sea,
in the web of life let me be, let me be,
in the web of life let me be.

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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 "Spirit of God"

Words: Nancy Price and Don Besig; Music Don Besig

THEME TIME: "Fathers and Father-figures"

HYMN: VU #605 "Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold"

Verse 1

Jesus, teacher, brave and bold, let us serve you, young and old.

Let us faith-filled workers be, all around, your wisdom see.

Let us play and dance and sing, your goodness find in everything.

Verse 2: Jesus, friend, so strong and true, show us good, brave work to do.

Show us those who need a friend, all things broken help us mend.

Free our minds and stretch our care, teach us to serve you everywhere.

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PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

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A READING FROM THE EPISTLES:

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

GOSPEL LESSON:

Mark 4:26-34

REFLECTION: "Small Acts, Big Changes" by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra

PRAYER FOR INDIGENOUS DAY (*Responsive*)

Great Spirit, Creator of all, we come before you in gratitude and reverence, lifting up the prayers of our hearts. We join our voices in this sacred space with humility and love, seeking your guidance, wisdom, and strength.

For the healing of the land and the renewal of our relationship with Mother Earth, we pray:

All: Great Spirit, receive our prayer.

For the wisdom of Indigenous leaders and Elders, that their teachings may inspire us to travel together in unity and respect, we pray:

All: Great Spirit, receive our prayer.

For the survivors of residential schools and their families, that they may find healing, comfort, and justice, we pray:

All: Great Spirit, receive our prayer.

For the ongoing work of reconciliation and the building of strong, respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, we pray:

All: Great Spirit, receive our prayer.

For the courage to confront and dismantle systemic racism, colonialism, and injustice, and for the wisdom to create a more equitable and compassionate society, we pray:

All: Great Spirit, hear our prayer.

For the Sacred Drum, that its rhythm may continue to unite us in harmony with the heartbeat of Mother Earth and the voices of our ancestors, we pray:

All: Great Spirit, receive our prayer.

For the churches and faith communities seeking to be instruments of peace, justice, and reconciliation, that they may be guided by your Spirit and sustained by your grace, we pray:

All: Great Spirit, receive our prayer.

In the silence of our hearts, we lift up our personal prayers and petitions, trusting in your loving presence and care

(a moment of silence is observed)

Great Spirit, hear the prayers of your people, spoken and unspoken. May we be bearers of your love, justice, and compassion as we travel together on this journey of healing and reconciliation. In your holy name, we pray.

All: Amen.

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HYMN: VU #703 "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

Verse 1

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Verse 2:

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Verse 3: In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

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THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

MISSION AND SERVICE STORY:

INVITATION TO GIVE

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OFFERTORY: VU #227 “For the Fruit of All Creation” Verse 2

**In the just reward of labour, God’s will be done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God’s will be done.
In our world-wide task of caring for hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God’s will be done.**

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DEDICATION OF GIFTS (*Unison*)

May the offerings brought this day be used as seeds, planted faithfully and nurtured lovingly so that God’s way may be realized anew in this world. Grant us the humility we need to plant and then tend your precious garden. Amen.

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WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

CLOSING HYMN: VU #601 “The Church of Christ in Every Age”

Verse 1

The church of Christ in every age, beset by change but Spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.

Verse 2: Across the world, across the street the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat, and never live until they die.

Verse 3: Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ’s sacrifice, and clothed in Christ’s humanity.

Verse 4: For Christ alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread and feed the starving multitude.

Verse 5: We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord: to care for all without
reserve and spread Christ’s liberating word.

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CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US (*Responsive*)

As we extinguish this candle,

**may its light remain with us, may its lingering flicker be a reminder that the light of God
shines through us and brightens the world.**

COMMISSIONING

Written by Aaron Palmer. **Gathering** Pentecost 1 2024 page 38. **Adapted.** Used with permission.

BLESSING**SUNG RESPONSE: MV #214 “May God’s Sheltering Wings”**

May God’s sheltering wings, her gathering wings protect you.

May God’s nurturing arms, his cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love, and hold you in his love.

~ Words & music Judith Snowdon, 2004. © Judith Snowdon. All rights reserved. One License #A-718663

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 JUNE 16, 2024

CHOIR & UKULELES: June 12 was the last practice for both groups. There will be no more practices until September. Anyone who wishes to share a Gift of Music over the summer is very welcome to do so, whether it’s a solo, duet or ensemble. Please contact the Church Office if you are interested.

BIBLE STUDY: There will be no Bible Study until the fall. Watch for news in September!

STONY PLAIN STREET MARKET JUNE 15 FROM 9 am to 3pm: . If you have donations or wish to help on Sat., please contact the Church Office... Please tell your friends and plan to attend!

TUES. JUNE 18: 7 PM SP COUNCIL: Meeting in the Board Room in person and Zoom..

MEWASSIN: Sunday, June 23, Sunday School Wind-Up, 12 Noon: Please join us at the McNab cabin on Jackfish Lake (2424 Township Road 521, Parkland County) for the Sunday School year end wind-up, BBQ and short campfire service at noon. There will be a sign at the gate. **Please note there is no morning church service.** Sunday School will provide burgers, hotdogs, buns, condiments, dishes, and drinks. Please contribute with a salad or dessert, fruit, veggies, etc. Please bring a lawn chair for yourself (there are a few chairs there if you forget).

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.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukulele Group On Summer Break until September
 Choir On Summer Break until September
 Card Recreators: Thursdays, 10 am

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Sat. June 15 SP Street Market 9 am – 3 pm – SPUC will have a table!
 Tues. June 18 7 pm SP Council Meeting
 Sun June 23 MEW – No 9 am service – BBQ/Windup at McNab Cabin at Noon
 Sat. Sept 14 All Day – UCW Rally at SPUC
 Sat. Oct 5 MEW Bottle Drive

**NO SERVICES AT MEWASSIN June 30, July 7, 14, 21, or 28. RESUME Aug 4
 (June 23 is the Sunday School Windup at the McNab Cabin at Noon.**

No 9 am service at the church!)

You are very welcome to attend the 10:30 am Service at Stony Plain United