

STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 01, 2024
LABOUR DAY

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
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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=TIEyd2c2aXUra1dDcHdvNlp4Y3Q4UT09>
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

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (Insp. by Romans 12:2, John 17:14-19) (Responsive)

We are called to be people of faith in the midst of the world,

and so we mix our worship and our work, our faith and our life.

We gather here as people who live in the world and yet,

we gather as people who have been called to see the world from a different viewpoint.

God has called us together, God has called us to be part of a community.

God challenges us to consider questions of priority as we engage with the world.

In this time together,

may God open our hearts, minds and eyes,

allowing us to see deeper, helping us to live in the world

while still offering a challenge to the ways of the world.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

~ Posted by Rev Gord on his blog, **Worship Offerings.** <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/> Used with permission.

GATHERING PRAYER

~ Posted on the **United Church of Christ** website. http://www.ucc.org/justice_worker-justice_labor-sunday_worship-resources#liturgy Used with permission.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

~ Written by Laura Turnbull. **Gathering** Pentecost 1 2024, page 42. Used with permission.

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**THEME TIME**

HYMN: VU #296 “This Is God’s Wondrous World”

Verse 1: This is God’s wondrous world, and to my listening ears
 All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
 This is God’s wondrous world; I rest me in the thought
 Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, God’s hand the wonders wrought.

Verse 2: This is God’s wondrous world: The birds their carols raise;
 The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker’s praise.
 This is God’s wondrous world: God shines in all that’s fair;
 In the rustling grass or mountain pass, God’s voice speaks everywhere.

Verse 3: This is God’s wondrous world: O let me ne’er forget
 That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
 This is God’s wondrous world: Why should my heart be sad?
 Let voices sing, let the heavens ring: God reigns, let earth be glad!

Words: Malthieu Davenport Babcock 1901, alt. Music: English traditional melody, adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard 1915, adap. Stanley Oliver 1929. Public Domain

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**SCRIPTURE READINGS Reader: Sharon McRann**

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A READING FROM THE EPISTLES: James 1:17-27

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

REFLECTION: “Labouring in Love” by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra

HYMN: VU #242 “Let All Things Now Living”**Verse 1**

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
 who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days.
 God’s banners are o’er us, pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
 till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, as forward we travel from light into Light.

Verse 2: By law God enforces, the stars in their courses and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
 the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
 We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration a song let us raise;
 till all things now living unite in thanksgiving, to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

Words: Katherine K. Davis 1939, Alt.; Music – Welsh folk melody. Words and descant copyright © 1939, 1966 E. Schirmer Music Co. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

LABOUR DAY PRAYER (Responsive)

Creator God, we give thanks this day for work:
 for work that sustains; for work that fulfills;
 for work which, however tiring, also satisfies and resonates with Your labour in creation.

As part of our thanks we also intercede for those who have no work, who have too much or too little work; who work at jobs that demean or destroy, work which profits the few at the expense of the many.

Blessed One, extend your redemptive purpose in the many and varied places of our work. In factory or field, in sheltered office or under open sky, using technical knowledge or physical strength, working with machines or with people or with the earth itself.

Together we promise:

To bring the full weight of our intelligence and strength to our work.

Together we promise:

To make our place of work a place of safety and respect for all with whom we labour.

Together we refuse:

To engage in work that harms another, that promotes injustice or violence, that damages the earth or otherwise betrays the common good; or to resign ourselves to economic arrangements which widen the gap between rich and poor.

Together we refuse:

To allow our work to infringe on time with our families and friends, with our community of faith, with the rhythm of Sabbath rest.

Together we affirm:

The rights of all to work that both fulfills and sustains: to just wages and to contentment.

Together we affirm:

That the redeeming and transforming power of the Gospel, with all its demands for justice and its promises of mercy, is as relevant to the workplace as to the sanctuaries of faith and family.

We make these promises, we speak these refusals and we offer these affirmations as offerings to You, O God— who labours with purpose and lingers in laughter— in response to your ever-present grace, as symbols of our ongoing repentance and transformation, and in hope that one day all the world shall eat and be satisfied.

Amen.

~ Copyright © Rev. Ken Sehested, co-pastor, Circle of Mercy Congregation, UCC, in Asheville, NC. Posted on [prayer&politiks. http://www.prayerandpolitiks.org/](http://www.prayerandpolitiks.org/) Used with permission.

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

INVITATION TO GIVE

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OFFERTORY: MV #171 “Christ Has No Body Now but Yours” (Refrain, Vs. 4, Refrain)

REFRAIN:

Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.

Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.

Verse 4: Through ev'ry gift, give back to those in need:

As Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,

With ev'ry gift a benediction, be to the people of God.

REFRAIN

~ Words: Adapted by Stephen C. Warner, 2003, from St. Teresa of Avila; Music: Rick Gunn, 2006; Words copyright © 2003 World Library Publications. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

DEDICATION OF GIFTS (inspired by Galatians 6:9) (Unison)

In the offering of our gifts, as well as the living of our days, may we not grow weary of doing what is right, but commit to speaking up for the voiceless, healing the broken, feeding the hungry, and all those mercies which are such a part of your heart and hopes for all your children. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

~ Written by Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>

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WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD
CLOSING HYMN: MV #138 "My Love Colours Outside The Lines"

Verse 1: My love colours outside the lines, exploring paths that few could ever find;
And takes me into places where I've never been before,
And opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

Verse 2: My Lord colours outside the lines, turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
And takes me into places where I've never been before
And opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

**BRIDGE: We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to drown,
Body and soul need a soaking from time to time.
And we'll never move the gravestones if we're not prepared to die,
And realize there are worlds outside the lines.**

Verse 3: My soul longs to colour outside the lines, tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries where I've never been before,
Throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

BRIDGE

Verse 4: My soul longs to colour outside the lines, tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries where I've never been before,
Throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

~Words and Music: Gordon Light, 1995: arr. Andrew Donaldson. Words and music copyright © 1995 Common Cup Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US**COMMISSIONING**

~ From the Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren website. <http://rockhay.tripod.com/> Used with permission.

BENEDICTION**SUNG RESPONSE: VU # 420 "Go to the World" Verse 4**

Go to the world! Go as the ones I send, for I am with you 'til the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!" Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

~Words: Sylvia Dunstan 1985; Music: Ralph V. Williams 1906. Words copyright © 1994 G.I.A. Publications Inc. Music by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under 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 SEPTEMBER 01, 2024

NEW

THURSDAY, SEPT 5 – WORSHIP COMMITTEE: The Worship Committee will meet Thurs Sept 5 at 2 pm at the church or on Zoom.

THURSDAY, SEPT 5 – OFFICIAL BOARD: There will be an Official Board Meeting Thursday, Sept 5 from 7:05 pm to 8:30 pm in the Board Room at Stony Plain United or by zoom.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 11 CHOIR & UKULELE: Practices will start Wed. Sept 11 for the Ukulele Group and Choir on Wed. Sept 11 at 6:15 and 7:00 pm respectively. New members are very welcome! – no experience necessary!

UNITED CHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS: SPIRIT OF HOPE UNITED – JAZZ & REFLECTIONS STARTING SEPT 8: Spirit of Hope is hosting a series of “Jazz & spiritual reflection” gatherings on Sunday Afternoons from 3:30 to 5 pm. **Dates are Sept 8, 15, 29 and Oct 6 & 20.** There is a poster listing the names of the featured musicians. Admission is by donation at the door and refreshments will be served.

REMINDERS

UPDATE ON MEWASSIN CAMPING WEEKEND AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 2, 2024

There will be NO service at Mewassin on September 1. We’re having the annual church campout at Entwistle RV Campground (53230 Range Road 74A, Entwistle, AB). All are welcome. Friday afternoon to Monday afternoon. Come with your tent/trailer and stay or come for a visit any time. **There will be a church service Saturday, August 31 at 4:30 pm followed by a potluck supper.** Bring a potluck item, lawn chairs, drinks and cutlery. Paper plates will be provided.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 4 – UCW MEETING 1:30 PM: Speaker, Pamela Geddes, Executive Director of Alberta Parenting for the Future. This is an opportunity to learn about the organization and how our donations are used. Everyone is welcome. The meeting will follow the speaker.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 4 – WHISPERING WATERS SERVICE 7:15 PM: Everyone is welcome to join us as we share a communion service with our friends at Whispering Waters. If you’d like to help with communion, contact Linda Maki. Singers are encouraged to come and help lead the hymns.

TUESDAY, SEPT 10 – SP COUNCIL MEETING 7:00 PM: Council will meet in person in the Board Room at the church or on Zoom on Tues Sept 10, 7 pm.

SATURDAY, SEPT 14 - UCW FALL RALLY: Stony Plain UCW is hosting the Fall Rally here, **Saturday, September 14, 2024.** Downstairs, 0900 - 9:45 meet and greet, coffee and muffins. Registration 9:15 AM. **Cost \$10. Bring a bag lunch.** Singing, worship, memorial service, entertainment and speaker will be in the sanctuary. The theme is **“Living with Respect in Creation.”** Theme speaker, **Tracey Smith “Ecology of Bees”**. With a background in bee keeping, she is now researching bees at U of A. All ladies welcome but we need to know numbers.

SUNDAY SEPT 15 STONY LUNCH SUNDAY: We would like to have a Lunch Sunday on Sept. 15 and are looking for helpers! Please contact Erna Brandon if you can lend a hand.

FRIDAY, SEPT 20 – SASKIA DELARONDE AND NATHAN TINKHAM CONCERT: Stony Plain United Church is pleased to be hosting a folk concert on Friday, September 20, 2024 at 7:00pm. We are welcoming back Saskia Delaronde (formerly of The Great Plains) who will be performing with Nathan Tinkham, both from Vancouver Island. Advance tickets are \$20 or at the door. For more information, contact Cathy at 825-966-8562. (Bring your friends and take a poster to help advertise)! There are posters and a Bio of Saskia and Nathan on the table outside the Sanctuary.

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

Ukuleles & Choir **Start up Wed. Sept 11 – 6:15 and 7:00 pm**
Card Recreators: **Thursdays, 10 am**

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Fri. Aug 30-Mon Sept 2	Mewassin Camping Weekend (No service Sun Sept 1)
Wed Sept 4	1:30 pm UCW Meeting
Wed Sept 4	7:15 pm Whispering Waters Care Home Service
Thurs. Sept 5	2:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting
Thurs. Sept 5	7:05 pm. Official Board Meeting
Tues. Sept 10	7:00 pm SP Council Meeting
Wed Sept 11	Practices resume! Ukuleles 6:15 pm, Choir 7 pm
Sat. Sept 14	All Day – UCW Rally at SPUC
Sun. Sept 15	SP Lunch Sunday (after the service)
Fri Sept 20	7:00 pm SP – Folk Concert – Saskia Delaronde & Nathan Tinkham
Sat. Oct 5	MEW Bottle Drive