

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
FEBRUARY 02, 2025
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

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!

Please stay for Lunch today!!!

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

CALL TO WORSHIP and GATHERING PRAYER (*Responsive*)

God whose love is vast and measureless, wider than the universe, unlimited and infinite:

In wonder

we worship you.

God whose love will never run dry, will never fall short, will never fail:

In wonder

we worship you.

God whose love knows nothing of our distinctions, our notions of 'deserving' and 'undeserving', and which encompasses everyone:

In wonder

we worship you.

We praise you that your love reaches us, in our struggles and our joys, in our hidden place of fear and shame, in our sorrow and disappointment.

We praise you that in your love you meet us as we are, where we are, sweeping aside any sense of inadequacy, overturning misplaced dependencies, and opening a window of light and hope, until we see in you our one true home.

We praise you that your love comes gently, a warm scented breeze in the winter hurricane, a creeping tide smoothing rough sand, a depth of stillness to a heart in turmoil.

God your love is beyond all we can tell, yet we know that you are here with us, and that you care for every detail of our lives. We offer you hearts filled with gratitude.

In wonder

we worship you. Amen.

~ Written by Louise Gough. Posted on **Worship Words**. <http://worshipwords.co.uk/> Used with permission.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

~ Written by Karen Boivin Gathering A/C/E 2024/25 (Year C) page 43. Used with permission.

HYMN: VU #256 "O God beyond All Praising"
Verse 1

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honour and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Verse 2: The flower of earthly splendour in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you our God most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown,
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.

Verse 3: Then, hear O gracious Saviour, this song of praise we sing.
May we, who know your favour, our humble service bring;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

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SHARING THE PEACE

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

SP: GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir "A Communion Contemplation"

Words: Mary Martin; Music: Douglas Nolan

THEME TIME

HYMN: VU #675 "Will Your Anchor Hold"

Verse 1: Will your anchor hold in the storms of life? When the clouds unfold their wings of strife,
when the strong tides lift and the cables strain, will your anchor drift or firm remain?

REFRAIN:

**We have an anchor that keeps the soul steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move, grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!**

Verse 2: It will surely hold in the straits of fear, when the breakers tell that the reef is near;

though the tempest rave and the wild winds blow, not an angry wave shall our bark o'erflow.

REFRAIN

Verse 3: It will surely hold in the floods of death, when the waters cold chill our latest breath;
on the rising tide it can never fail while our hopes abide within the veil.

REFRAIN

Verse 4: When our eyes behold, through the gathering night, the city of gold, our harbour bright,
we shall anchor fast by the heavenly shore, with the storms all past for evermore.

REFRAIN

~ Words: Priscilla Jane Owens 1882; Music: William James Kirkpatrick 1882. Public Domain

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (inspired by Philemon 4-7)

~ from a collection of prayers posted on the **Worship@North** website. <https://northchurchindy.wordpress.com/>
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SCRIPTURE READINGS:

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READING FROM THE EPISTLES:

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

GOSPEL LESSON:

Luke 4:21-30

REFLECTION: "Good News is Sometimes Difficult to Accept"

by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra

HYMN: VU #670 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Verse 1

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Verse 2: When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,

hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Verse 3: When the darkness appears, and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,

at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

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SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE (*Responsive*)

Here at this table and in this sanctuary, let the Divine Spark enter our lives.

Let the Holy Light aid us in seeing the Christ in our midst.

The Brightness of Jesus the Christ will illuminate our way.

The Radiance of the Christ will warm our hearts.

God is shining upon you!

And God's light streams upon you!

~ Posted on <https://michelleorigian.com/> Adapted. Used with permission.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER (*Responsive*)

The Holy One be with you

And also with you

Open your hearts to the One who is Love

We open our hearts to you, O God

Let us give thanks to God, who welcomes the stranger

To the One who reaches across every border, we give thanks and praise

The prayer continues in one voice

We join in unison, saying together

Holy, Holy, Holy One

God of justice and love

Heaven and earth are full of your wonder

Hosanna among us

The prayer continues in one voice

We join in unison, saying together

Christ was birthed among us.

Christ was killed among us.

Christ rises again among us.

The prayer concludes in one voice

~ Posted on <https://resistharm.com/worship/epiphany-communion-prayer/> Used with permission.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE COMMUNION ELEMENTS

(Hymns during distribution: MV #194 "Bread of Life, Feed My Soul"; MV #195 Long Ago and Far Away"; VU #471 "Eat This Bread and Never Hunger")

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING: (*Unison*)

God, this meal we shared together is a remembrance of your radical embrace of the outcast and oppressed. May it strengthen us as we open our minds and hearts to new ways of recognizing your presence among us. Amen.

~ Posted on <https://resistharm.com/worship/epiphany-communion-prayer/> Used with permission.

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

INVITATION TO GIVE

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OFFERTORY VU #507 "Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples" Verse 4

May we in service to our God act out the living Word,

And walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.

As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

~ Words H. Kenn Carmichael 1985. Music: English traditional melody arr. Arthur Seymour Sullivan 1874. Words
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DEDICATION OF GIFTS (*Unison*)

**God, thank you for our church, for the ways we are called to be church to a world in
pain. Help us to continue to share with those in need and with each other through these gifts
and those already given for ministries of this church and those of Mission and Service. Amen.**

~ January-June 2025 Offering Invitations and Prayers © 2024 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du
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WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

CLOSING HYMN: VU #595 “We Are Pilgrims”

Verse 1: We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

Verse 2: Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

Verse 3: I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

Verse 4: I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.

Verse 5: When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Verse 6: Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

~ Words: Richard Gillard, 1977; Music: Richard Gillard 1977, arr. Betty Pulkingham. Words and music copyright
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CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US

COMMISSIONING

~ Written by Jan L. Richardson, and posted on **The Painted Prayerbook**. <http://paintedprayerbook.com/> Used
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BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #97 “When a Star Is Shining” Verse 3

Lead us on, O Daystar, in the quiet night, guide us through the shadow with your gentle light.
show us in a manger our redemption's sign; bring us to a morning where the promise shines.

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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 FEBRUARY 02, 2025

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Please submit your Committee reports to the Church Office as soon as you can. Thank-you!

SUNDAY FEB. 2 - 100TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING MEETING: Anyone interested in helping to plan our celebration for the 100th Anniversary of the United Church is invited to attend a meeting during Lunch Sunday, Feb. 2.

WED FEB 5: 1:30 PM UCW MEETING: The UCW will meet at 1:30 pm on Wed Feb 5. Lynda Greiner will prepare a short program. All ladies are welcome!

WED FEB 5: 7:15 PM WHISPERING WATERS: Everyone is invited to our monthly Communion Service at Whispering Waters Care Home at 7:15 pm. The Choir will sing at the service and then return to the Church for the remainder of our practice time. If anyone would like to help serve communion, please contact the Church Office.

COMMUNION DATES: February 2, March 9 (Lent 1), April 20 (Easter)

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS - SUNDAY MAR 15: "One Church" (representatives from 9 churches in our area) is hosting "The Grand Banquet" for Grandparents, Seniors or anyone pondering their legacy at Beach Corner Church from 4:30 to 8:30 on Sunday, Mar. 15. The evening includes 2 information sessions, special music and a meal. Tickets are \$25 per person and are available on line or from Roc Weigl (Minister of the S.P. Baptist Church). See poster on the bulletin board for more info.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukuleles & Choir Wednesdays: Ukuleles 6:15 pm; Choir 7:00 pm
Card Recreators: Thursdays, 10 am

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun Feb 2	Communion at both churches; SP Lunch Sunday after Church
Sun Feb 2	During Lunch – 100 th Anniversary Planning meeting
Wed Feb 5	1:30 pm UCW Meeting
Wed Feb 5	7:15 pm Communion Service at Whispering Waters