

STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
APRIL 13, 2025
PALM SUNDAY

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
Mailing Address: Box 3196, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1C2
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Reverend Deborah M. Hoekstra Cell: 780 983-2148
WELCOME to our service this morning!

Please stay for Lunch today, provided by our UCW
Thanks very much!!!

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

INTROIT: MV #7 “Gather Us In”

Gather us in, ground us in you. Gather us in, ground us in you.

Gather us in, gather us in, Ground us, ground us in you.

~ Words and Music: David Hann, 2005 Words and music copyright © 2005 David Hann

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsive*)

We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.

We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips;

we will travel through betrayal and death, cradling hope deep in our hearts

Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow,

for he is the life we long for, he is the Word who sustains us.

We wave palm branches in anticipation,

we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk

Setting aside all power, glory, and might, he comes:

modeling humility and obedience for all of us.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

Blessed is the One who brings us

the kingdom of God.

Written by Thom Shuman, and posted on his excellent Lectionary Liturgies blog.

<http://www.lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/> Used with permission.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

HYMN: “In the Garden”

Verse 1: I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses;

and the voice I hear, falling on my ear; the Son of God discloses.

REFRAIN: And He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own, and the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.

Verse 2: He speaks, and the sound of His voice is so sweet the birds hush their singing, and the melody that He gave to me, within my heart is ringing.

REFRAIN

Verse 3: I'd stay in the garden with Him tho' the night around me be falling, but He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe, His voice to me is calling.

REFRAIN

Words and Music by C. Austin Miles. Public Domain

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (*Responsive*)

As we journey through Holy Week, as we move towards the darkness of the cross, we light a candle to remind us of the Light that can not be put out.

May its light remind us that we are not alone, in the good and the bad of life, we are not alone.

Written by Gord Waldie and posted on <https://worshipofferings.blogspot.com/> Used with permission,

GATHERING PRAYER and CONFESSION (*Responsive*)

Holy God,

Source, Saviour and Spirit of all life, Holy Three and Holy One,

In you, we confront the mystery of mercy and the courage of compassion.

As we face the Cross on which Christ gave himself,

we confront your willingness to die for us so that we might find new life.

As the Spirit speaks to us through the story of your amazing love,

spilled out in the blood of Christ, our hearts are moved to praise you.

Words cannot express our awe,

the grief and the gratitude stirring within us, for all you have given us,

and for all you will give us through such unspeakable love.

We fall silent in wonder and praise, Holy God.

Moment of Silence

Merciful God,

Filled with wonder and praise,

we acknowledge to you how often we fall short of your purposes for us.

We confess it is easier for us to follow the crowd than follow Christ;

we prefer to avoid conflict rather than stand up for your mercy and understanding.

We allow strident voices in our times to drown out your wisdom and truth.

Forgive us, O God.

Fill us with the courage to take up our cross and follow Jesus,

even when the cost to follow is high and reputations are at stake,

for we pray in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

~ Written by **Wendy MacLean**, Brockville, Ont. Posted on <https://gatheringworship.ca/> Used with permission.

Moment of Silence

ASSURANCE OF GRACE ~ Posted on <https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/category/worship/lent/> Used with permission.

JOYS AND CONCERNS:

(Welcome to the baby who was baptized yesterday)

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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

(The Scripture quotation contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.)

PALM SUNDAY GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 21: 1-3, 6-9

ALL: **“Hosanna to the Son of David!”**
 “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”
 “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

HYMN: VU #123 “Hosanna, Load 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-c. German tune, adap. Xavier L. Hartig 1868. Public Domain

SHARING THE PEACE

...and also with you.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES
GIFT OF MUSIC Choir Anthem “Hosanna! Sing, Praises!”

Words and Music by Dave Moody and Choral Setting by Jack Schrader

THEME TIME: WELCOMING A NEW MEMBER**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE****PRESENTATION****COMMITMENT OF NEW MEMBER (*Minister and New Member*)**

Will you join us as together we celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, love and serve others, seek justice and resist evil?

I will, with God's help.

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT (*Responsive*)

Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge our support and care.

As your siblings in Christ, we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us.

We pledge to you our love and our support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF FAITH (*Unison*)

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

WELCOME

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

PSALM SELECTION: VU page 837 Parts 1, 3 & 4 Psalm 118:1-4, 19-29

Refrain: Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Part One (1 – 4)

Let Israel now say:

“God's love endures for ever.”

Let the house of Aaron say:

“God's love endures for ever.”

Let those who fear God say:

“God's love endures for ever.”

Refrain: Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Part Three (19 – 24)

Open to me the gates of the temple, that I may enter and give thanks to God.

This is the gate of God; through it the righteous shall enter.

I thank you for you have answered me; you have become my salvation.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is God's doing, marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day that God has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Refrain: Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Part Four (25-29)

Save us, O god, we pray;

God, we pray, give us success.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

We bless you from the house of God.

God, our God, has given us light;
with palm branches in hand let us march to the altar.
 You are my God, and I will thank you.
You are my God, and I will extol you.

Refrain: Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Music: Albert Ham ca. 1900 Public Domain

REFLECTION: “Triumph” by Rev. Deborah Hoekstra

HYMN: VU #409 (please remain seated) “Morning Has Broken”

Verse 1

Morning has broken like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
 Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Verse 2

Sweet the rain’s new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass.
 Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where God’s feet pass.

Verse 3

Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play!
 Praise with elation, praise every morning, God’s recreation of the new day!

Words: Eleanor Farjean 1931; Music: Gaelic melody, arr. Cat Stevens Words used by permission of David Higham Associates All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License A-718663.

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

PASTORAL PRAYER FOR PALM SUNDAY

~ [Posted on Christine Jerrett website.](#)

INVITATION TO GIVE

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OFFERTORY VU #544 “In Gratitude and Humble Trust” (Tune VU #530)

In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today
 to serve your cause and share your love with all along life’s way.
 O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son,
 teach us to give ourselves each day until life’s work is done.

~ Words by Frank von Christierson 1960, alt. Music: English Trad. Melody, harm Ralph V.1905 Words © 1965 The Hymn Society. By permission of Hope Publishing Co.. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

DEDICATION OF GIFTS (Unison)

Gracious and welcoming God, today we recognize that not all offerings are money. May all our offerings be used to joyfully proclaim your vision and hope for our world. Amen.

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.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, pursue 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

Posted on <https://processandfaith.org/lenten-candle-liturg/> **Adapted.** Used with permission.

COMMISSIONING

Written by Cheryl Lawrie and posted on <http://holdthisspace.org.au/> Used with permission.

BENEDICTION

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 and music Judith Snowdon, 2004. Copyright © 2004 by Judith Snowdon. 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 13, 2025

SUNDAY, APRIL 27: SPECIAL UCW ANNIVERSARY SERVICE: The UCW invites you to attend our special anniversary service in Stony Plain during the regular worship time. The service is adapted from the service prepared by the National UCW to recognize the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada. The theme is "Here I Am". Please join us.

EASTER SEASON SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 17: 7 pm at Stony Plain
GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 18: Mewassin: 9 am; Stony Plain 10:30 am
EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 20: Mewassin: 9 am; Stony Plain 10:30 am

SUNDAY, APRIL 13 SP LUNCH SUNDAY: We will have lunch on Sunday, April 13 after church at Stony Plain. Please plan on staying, if you can! Thank-you to the UCW!

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE: Maundy Thursday Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on April 17, hosted by Stony Plain United Church and Mewassin United Church. St. Andrews United Church and Devon United Church are being invited.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY 2025: Please continue to bring your donations up until Palm Sunday (April 13). Thank-you for your generosity. If you haven't saved your list, there are copies on the table outside the Sanctuary.

COMMUNION DATES: April 20 (Easter), June 15

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

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

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|-------------------------|--|
| Mar 9 to Apr 13 | Collection for Parkland Food Bank (Both churches) |
| Sunday, April 13 | SP Lunch Sunday |
| Thurs. April 17 | SP 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service |
| Fri. April 18 | Good Friday Services: Mew 9 am; SP 10:30 am. |
| Sun. April 20 | Easter Sunday Services: Mew 9 am; SP 10:30 am. |