

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
MEWASSIN UNITED CHURCH
18 OCTOBER, 2020
WORLD FOOD SUNDAY**

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
Mailing Address: Box 3196, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1C2
Phone: 780 963-4745 Email: stonyuc@telus.net
Minister: Rev. Heather Koots Cell: 306-850-1511
WELCOME to our service this morning!

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

WELCOME AND GREETING (please mute your microphone)

TOGETHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE: MV #115 'Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New' (2x)
Behold, behold, I make all things new, beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold, behold, I make all things new, my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.

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CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive)

God waits for us as we gather.

Love is seated with justice.

Peace awaits with hope.

Fill us with good things, Holy One, that we may live your way forever.

(Written by Robin Wardlaw, Gathering, Pentecost 2, 2017, pg.44. Used with permission)

OPENING PRAYER: (unison)

O God who offered bread to desert wanderers; O Christ who offered bread on the night he was betrayed; O Spirit who feeds all who hunger, join with us here, we pray.

Let the wounded and lost find hope.

Let us recognize Christ in one another.

Let the world satisfy its hunger for bread and for peace, until all have enough to live and to share.

Come sit with us now, so that we may know your comfort and strength. In your Son's name we pray. Amen.

HYMN: VU# 295 ‘The Earth and All Who Breathe’

Verse 1: The earth and all who breathe exist through love divine,
Who formed the sea, the flowering tree, the wren, the fragrant pine.
Each woman, man, and child created from the dust
Is called to share creation’s care, a sacred, living trust.

Verse 2: The good, abundant earth is ours to tend and keep;
Yet land lies waste, consumed in haste, and hungry children weep.
The nations proudly build new Babels to the sky.
Their bombs destroy creation’s joy, their missiles terrify!

Verse 3: Creation now awaits humanity’s rebirth
At last to claim one common aim to nurture life on earth.
Awake, all humankind, the challenge now embrace;
Apply your strength, your voice, your means, as stewards of God’s grace.

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BRINGING ALL OF WHO WE ARE

CANDLELIGHTING: (responsive)

And so may the light of Christ be in you.
...and also in you.

PRAYER FOR GRACE: (responsive)

O God, we confess that some things are very hard for us to look at and listen to.
Help us hold a steady gaze until we can see with the eyes of compassion.
Help us to listen with the intent to understand.
Help us to act in ways that reflect this new way of seeing and hearing. **(Silence)**
Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: (responsive)

With forgiving eyes...this is how God looks at us.
Listening to our soul’s desire...this is how God hears our words.
If we are truly open to receiving God’s Grace, God will be truly open to offering it.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

HERITAGE HYMN: VU # 343 ‘I Love to Tell the Story’

Verse 1: I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know ‘tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

**Refrain: I love to tell the story, ‘twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

Verse 2: I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

Refrain: **I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

Verse 3: I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

Refrain: **I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.**

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AND LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES

THE GIFT OF MUSIC (Stony Plain) 'Holy and Mighty'

Words by Pepper Choplin, verses by Reginald Huber; Music by Pepper Choplin

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE:

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

'We always give thanks to God for you'
'Give to God the things that are God's.'

REFLECTION

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.

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SO WE MIGHT RESPOND WITH INTENTION

A PRAYER FOR WORLD FOOD SUNDAY AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR GIFTS GIVEN

AND LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

HYMN: MV #178 ‘Who Is My Mother?’

Verse 1: Who is my mother, who is my brother? All those who gather round Jesus Christ:
Spirit blown people born from the Gospel sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.

Verse 2: Differently abled, differently labelled, widen the circle round Jesus Christ:
crutches and stigmas, culture's enigmas, all come together round Jesus Christ.

Verse 3: Love will relate us colour or status, can't segregate us round Jesus Christ:
family failings, human derailings, all are accepted round Jesus Christ

Verse 4: Bound by one vision, met for one mission, we claim each other, round Jesus Christ:
here is my mother, here is my brother, kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ.

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EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLE (Mewassin)

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION: (responsive)

And now let us go out with passionate hearts.

To build relationships of justice and love.

God's Grace will bless us and keep us.

So that we might proclaim the blessing of the Good News, sharing Jesus' story in word and in deed.

SUNG BENEDICTION (STONY PLAIN): ‘Benediction’ by Carolyn Joyce

Jesus, our close companion,
attend to our longing and lodge within our hearts.
Strengthen our insight, strengthen our caring
Give us God's blessing now as we depart.

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WORLD FOOD SUNDAY: Don't forget to bring your donations to the Church. Items will be given to the Parkland Food Bank.