

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
MEWASSIN UNITED CHURCH
25 JULY, 2021**

**Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
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Minister: Rev. Heather Koots Cell: 1-306-850-1511
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 ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOGETHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE: MV #7 'Gather Us In' (sung twice)

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.

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)

Let us gather now as disciples of God, part of a community that seeks to bring God's visions to life.
Let us gather eager to learn, to understand, to listen and to celebrate the deep love our Lord has for each of us.

**We gather with the simplest of gifts, assured of God's abundance and rich in God's love.
Let us worship the One who is generous, gracious and ever loving.**

OPENING PRAYER: (unison)

Gentle and compassionate God, be present with us as we worship today. In our gathering, hold us in your love, steady us and remind us that you are above, beside and all around us. You desire that we be channels of your peace, and hope and healing. We need your guidance Holy One, so that our faith may be true, our actions just and our prayers sincere. We pray now in Jesus' name. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: MV # 30 'It's a Song of Praise to the Maker'

Verse 1: It's a song of praise to the Maker, the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker, the gray whale sings in the sea,

**Refrain: And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
And sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.**

Verse 2: It's a call of life to the Giver when waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver when high tides break on the shore,

**Refrain: And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
And sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.**

Verse 3: It's a hymn of love to the Lover; the bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover; the summer breeze joins the song,

Refrain: **And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
And sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.**

Verse 4: It's the chorus of all creation; it's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation; a song the universe sings,

Refrain: **And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
And sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.**

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LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (responsive)

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

BRINGING ALL OF WHO WE ARE

PRAYER FOR GRACE: (unison)

**Sometimes, Gracious God, we are the ones whose trust is broken.
Sometimes, God of justice, we are the ones who act unfaithfully.
Sometimes, God of love, we are the ones who harm others.
Yet always, you are the One who offers us love and forgiveness.
Help us reach out and accept what you offer, that we may live as your people. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsive)

Even when we cannot see past our wants to our needs, God's sight remains ever focused.
**God offers forgiveness, healing and a love that will never end.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

AND HEARING GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES

THE GIFT OF MUSIC (SP) Jubilant Singers 'Come Sing a Song With Me'
By Carolyn McDade

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

John 6:1-21 'Jesus feeds the multitude and walks on water'

REFLECTION

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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SO WE MIGHT RESPOND WITH INTENTION

MINUTE FOR MISSION

DEDICATION OF GIFTS: (one)

God of justice and grace, we pray that through these gifts your realm might come closer to reality.
We pray that you will receive them and use them to grow the peace and compassion so needed in
our world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

AND LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

HYMN: MV # 213 'Take Up His Song'

Verse 1: Take up his song of peace and go into the world.
Take up his song of peace in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives;
Lay them down, in peace, lay them down, and take up his song.

Verse 2: Take up his song of hope and go into the world.
Take up his song of hope in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives;
Lay them down, in hope, lay them down, and take up his song.

Verse 3: Take up his song of faith and go into the world.
Take up his song of faith in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives;
Lay them down, in faith, lay them down, and take up his song.

Verse 4: Take up his song of love and go into the world.
Take up his song of love in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives;
Lay them down, in love, lay them down, and take up his song.

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CARRYING CHRIST'S LIGHT WITH US

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION (responsive)

Let us now go from here believing that God in Christ can show us how to be the people we hope to be. Let us go from here, following this Sacred calling.

Let us go now into the world encouraged and strengthened by God's love. Amen.

THREE FOLD AMEN (Mewassin)

POSTLUDE (SP)

Announcements July 25, 2021

JULY PHOTO CONTEST

Be sure to send in your photos for July's contest! photos@stonyplainunitedchurch.com

REVEREND HEATHER ON VACATION: Heather will be away starting Monday, July 26 and will return Tuesday, August 10. Our Worship Leaders will be Susan Oleskiw on August 1 and Neville Smith on August 8. If you need to speak to a Minister while Heather is away, please call the Church Office (780-963-4745) and you can get the contact information from Sue.