

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
MEWASSIN UNITED CHURCH
09 JANUARY, 2022
BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
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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 # 115 'Behold, Behold, I Make all Things New' (sung twice)

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.
(REPEAT)

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CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive)

God calls us and we listen. God calls us and we respond. God calls us and we call back to God. We call seeking a faith that is renewed and fresh. God calls us to be open to growing in the way we follow the path of faith. So, with calls ringing in our ears, let us gather as community, from wherever we are, to share our hopes, dreams and gifts.

Let us gather together before God.

OPENING PRAYER: (unison)

Loving Holy One, you touch our lives in ways we cannot even begin to imagine. Where we are confused you bring us calm. Where we are worried about anything that may seem new or different, you encourage us to risk. Where we are doubtful, you welcome our questions and where we are empty in places, you fill us with your love. May we open ourselves to you so that we might feel the depth of your love, the breadth of your Grace and the strength of your power. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

HYMN: VU # 374 'Come and Find the Quiet Centre'

Verse 1: Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed;
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simple be.

Verse 2: Silence is a friend we claim us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, face to face, Making pace without our
thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
Raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

Verse 3: In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
In the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

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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)

Gracious and always forgiving God, your Son came to live amongst us because you
chose to understand deeply our human lives. Jesus ate with sinners, healed outcasts
and taught compassion and peace. We say we have chosen to follow his ways...but
oh it can be so difficult! We like to be comfortable and worry that if we change we will
no longer belong. We like to know 'how things are', rather than 'how things could be'
and make choices accordingly. Push us, lead us, prompt us, that we will shake off
our hesitations and take a step forward to create more peace, more justice and more
acceptance. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: (responsive)

We do not earn God's love, it is given freely. We are invited to respond in faith because we
have been forgiven in faith. Our Creator comes to us again and again saying, "Come find
grace"

Thanks be to God. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

AND LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES

THE GIFT OF MUSIC: Jubilant Singers

READING FROM SCRIPTURE:

Acts 8:14-17

'John and Peter travel to Samaria'

Luke 3:15-17;21-22

'Jesus is Baptized'

REFLECTION

HERITAGE HYMN: VU # 337 'Blessed Assurance'

Verse 1: Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story, this my song, praising my Saviour all the day long.

Verse 2: Perfect submission, perfect delight! Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain

Verse 3: Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love.

Refrain

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SO WE MIGHT RESPOND WITH INTENTION

MINUTE FOR MISSION

DEDICATION OF GIFTS: VU # 542 'We Give You But Your Own'

We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

AND LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

HYMN: MV # 161 'I Have Called You By Your Name'

Verse 1: I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.

I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.

You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

Verse 2: I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.

Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.

Verse 3: I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

Verse 4: I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.

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BRINGING CHRIST'S LIGHT WITH US

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION: (responsive)

We return to our day to day lives refreshed, renewed, held up and encouraged by God who loves us. Let us go filled with promise that God is walking alongside us, helping us on our way.

Let us go with hearts and hands ready to share the Love and Grace we have received, wherever we may be. Amen.

MEW: Three-Fold Amen

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS JANUARY 9, 2022

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: The Worship Committee is scheduled to meet Wed. Jan 12 at 11:00 am. Terry will send out the Zoom link.

STONY PLAIN COUNCIL: The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 18 at 7:00 pm.