

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
MEWASSIN UNITED CHURCH
16 JANUARY, 2022
2nd SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
AND SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

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: 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

*NOTE: This service of worship is based on a Communion liturgy of the Iona Community.
As such, the order and headings have been changed.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TOGETHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE: MV #18 'Lord, Prepare Me To Be a Sanctuary'
(sung twice)**

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy tried and true;
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy tried and true;
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Words and music: John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs. Words and music copyright © 1982 by Whole Armour and Full Armor Publishing Companies. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY: (responsive)

Not an easy peace, not an insignificant peace, not a half hearted peace, but the peace of
God in Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

OPENING RESPONSES (responsive)

Thanks be to you, O God, that we have risen this day.

To the rising of this life itself.

Be the purpose of God between us and each purpose.

The hand of God between us and each hand.

The pain of Christ between us and each pain,

The love of Christ between us and each love.

O God, who brought us to the bright light of this new day

Bring us to the guiding light of eternity. Amen

HYMN: VU # 459 'Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face'

Verse 1

Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face, here would I touch and handle things unseen,
Here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace, and all my weariness upon you lean.

Verse 2:

Here would I feed upon the bread of God, here drink with you the royal wine of heaven,
Here would I lay aside each earthly load, here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

Verse 3

This is the hour of banquet and of song, this is the heavenly table for me spread,
Here let me feast, and feasting, still prolong the fellowship of living wine and bread.

Verse 4

Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear. The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
The bread and wine remove, but you are here, nearer than ever, still my shield and sun.

Verse 5

Feast after feast thus comes and passes by, yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy, the Lamb's great bridal feast of bliss and love.

Words: Horatius Bonar 1855, alt. Music: James Langram 1861. Public Domain

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (responsive)

And so may the light of Christ be in you.

...and also in you

PRAYER FOR GRACE AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsive)

We gather in God's name.

We claim Christ's promised presence.

Not out of dread or fear but believing that God is faithful to forgive, let us rid ourselves of what we need to carry no longer.

Eternal God, maker of the skies above, lowly Christ, born amidst the growing earth, Spirit of life, wind over the flowing waters, in earth and sky, you are there. O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns, souls behind all souls, in everything we touch, in everyone we meet, your presence is around us, and we give you thanks. But when we have not touched but trampled you in creation, when we have not met but missed you in one another, when we have not received but rejected you in the poor, forgive us, and hear now our call for forgiveness.

Hear now the words of Jesus for all who seek to renew our lives: your sins are forgiven. Go in peace; come and follow me.

Lead us now, O God to acknowledge your costly generosity by living as forgiven people, until heaven and earth rejoice and the whole earth cries Glory! Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN: MV # 12 'Come Touch Our Hearts'

Verse 1

Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
From failing embers build a blazing fire;
Love strong enough to overturn injustice,
To seek a world more gracious,
Come touch and bless our hearts.

Verse 2: Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,
Your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
Create a space for spirit to grow in us,
Let life and beauty fill us,
Come touch and bless our souls.

Verse 3: Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,
Set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;
Help us to open doors of understanding,
To welcome truth and wisdom,
Come touch and bless our minds.

Verse 4: Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,
And in our weakness your great strength reveal;
That we may rise to follow and to serve,
Steady now our nerve,
Come touch and bless our wills.

Verse 5: Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,
To break the bread and share the cup of peace;
That we may love you with our heart, our soul,
Our mind, our strength, our all,
Come touch us with your grace.

Words & music: Gordon Light. © 2002. Common Cup Company. All rights reserved. One License #A-718663

THE READING OF THE WORD

Isaiah 62: 1-5 'You shall be called by a new name'
John 2:1-11 'The Wedding at Cana'

THE GIFT OF MUSIC: (SP) "Are You Dressed for the Wedding" Jubilant Singers
Words & Music by Joseph M. Martin & David Angerman

REFLECTION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready.

So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a while.

You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have stumbled.

Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here. Let us pray.

Loving God, through your goodness we have this bread and cup to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread, so that we may know your touch in all bread, all matter.

We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now.

Made one in Christ, and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We offer you praise, Creator, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ. Therefore with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea, and sky, we sing to you.

With the angels of light who envelop us, with all the saints before and beside us, with brothers and sisters, east and west, we sing to you.

And with your loved ones, separate from us now, who yet in this mystery are close to us, we join in the song of your unending greatness.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our world's suffering, and who is known to us in the breaking of bread.

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread and having blessed it he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, "This is my body, given to you."

In the same way he took wine and having given thanks for it, he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples saying, "This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my sacrifice. Take this and share it."

Hear us, O Christ, and breathe your Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup. May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing, and make us whole. And as the bread and cup which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed again into you, bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world.

Amen.

FRACTION AND DISTRIBUTION

He whose table was open to all is now present in this bread. He whose word welcomed friend and stranger offers friendship through this cup.

With people everywhere we affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong.

The gifts of God for the people of God...

Thanks be to God

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Living God, in this sacrament we have shared in your eternal kingdom. May we who taste this mystery forever serve you in faith, hope, and love. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord who taught to pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church and Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN: VU # 422 'God Be With You Till We Meet Again'

Verse 1:

God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.

**Refrain: Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.**

Verse 2: God be with you till we meet again; unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again.

**Refrain: Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.**

Verse 3: God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you; God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain

Verse 4: God be with you till we meet again; keep love's banner floating o'er you, smite death's threatening wave before you; God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain: Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

Words: Jeremiah E. Rankin 1880, alt. Music: William G. Tomer 1880. Public Domain

BRINGING CHRIST'S LIGHT WITH US

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION (responsive)

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever we may go.

May God guide us through wilderness,
and protect us from the storm.

May God bring us home rejoicing
at the wonders he has shown to us.

And may he bring us home rejoicing; until we meet again.

THREEFOLD AMEN (MEW)

POSTLUDE (SP) MV #199 'When at This Table' Vs 1 & 5

ANNOUNCEMENTS JANUARY 16, 2022

2022 UNITED CHURCH CALENDARS: The 2022 Church Calendars have arrived! They are on the table outside the Sanctuary. Suggested donation is \$5.