

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
MEWASSIN UNITED CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 18, 2022**

**Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
Mailing Address: Box 3196, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1C2
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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: HYMN: VU #642 "Be Thou My Vision" vs. 1, 2 & 5
Verse 1**

Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart; naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping thy presence my light.

Verse 2: Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife; I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be, thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Verse 5: Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Words: Irish ca. 8th century, trans. Mary E. Byrne 1905, Music: Irish Traditional melody. Public Domain

CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive)

We gather here this morning
seeking to ground our lives in your love.

We gather here this morning
knowing that you sustain all life on earth.

We gather here this morning
to praise and worship God, the Creator.

- Written by Fern Gibbard, Penticton U.C., Penticton, BC Gathering Pentecost 2 2022 Pg. 24 Used with permission.

OPENING PRAYER: (unison)

There are so many things we take for granted. May we not ignore them today. Just for today, help us, God, to remember that our life is a gift, that our health is a blessing, that this new day is filled with awesome potential, that we have the capacity to bring something wholly new and unique and good into this world. Just for today, help us, God, to remember to be kind and patient to the people who love us, and to those who work with us too. Teach us to see all the beauty that we so often ignore, and to listen to the silent longing of our own souls. Just for today, help us, God, to remember You. Let this be a good day, God, full of joy and love. AMEN.

OPENING HYMN: MV #135 “Called By Earth and Sky”

Refrain: Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.

This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified, called by earth and sky.

Verse 1: Precious these waters, endless seas, deep ocean’s dream,
water of healing, rivers of rain, the wash of love again.

Refrain

Verse 2: Precious this gift, the air we breathe; wind born and free.
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place, our gathering and our grace.

Refrain

Verse 3: Precious these mountains, ancient sands; vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong, Creation’s faithful song.

Refrain:

Verse 4: Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone, our faith and justice one.

**Refrain: Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky, called by earth and sky.**

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LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (responsive)

We light the Christ candle, knowing that Christ is our light and is present with us in everything we do. And so may the light of Christ shine in and through you.
...and also through you.

BRINGING ALL OF WHO WE ARE

PRAYER FOR GRACE: (unison)

God help us to change. To change ourselves and to change our world. To know the need for it. To deal with the pain of it. To feel the joy of it. To undertake the journey without understanding the destination. The art of gentle revolution. AMEN.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsive)

Reach out! Stretch your Spirits! God’s love frees us from oppression and fear!
We are made whole in God’s eternal love. AMEN.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

AND LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES

THEME TIME

THE GIFT OF MUSIC "Take Off Your Shoes" Jubilant Singers

Words and Music by Jim Manley. Arranged by Jim Strathdee

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 8:18—9:1

(Is there no balm in Gilead?)

Responsive Psalm 79:1-9 VU #793

(Mocked by neighbours.)

Refrain: Help us, God of our salvation, for the glory of your name.

O God, the nations have entered your domain, defiled your holy temple and laid Jerusalem in ruins.

They have left your servants' bodies for scavenging birds, the flesh of your faithful ones for wild beasts. Their blood was shed like water around Jerusalem, with none to bury them.

We have become the taunt of our neighbours, mocked and scorned by those around us.

How long, O God? Will you be angry forever? Will your jealous wrath burn like fire?

Refrain: Help us, God of our salvation, for the glory of your name.

Pour out your rage on the nations that do not acknowledge you, on the realms that will not call on your name.

For they have devoured Jacob and desolated Israel's home.

Do not hold the sins of past generations against us;

Let your compassion come swiftly to meet us, for we are sunk very low.

Help us, O God our Saviour, for the glory of your name.

Deliver us and forgive our sin, for the honour of your name.

Refrain: Help us, God of our salvation, for the glory of your name.

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Luke 16:1-13

(The dishonest manager.)

REFLECTION "Reclamation"

HERITAGE HYMN: VU #612 "There Is a Balm in Gilead"

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.

There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul

Verse 1:

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

Refrain

Verse 2: If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all."

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.

There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul

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THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

MINUTE FOR MISSION

DEDICATION OF GIFTS: (unison)

Gracious God, bless the gifts that we give, and the gifts that we are. May each step of our journey lead us closer to you and your kingdom, and may our lives reveal your love to the world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

AND LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

HYMN: VU #307 "Touch the Earth Lightly"

Verse 1

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care;
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

Verse 2: We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Verse 3: Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

Verse 4: God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.

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CARRYING CHRIST'S LIGHT WITH US

We receive our light from God. Sometimes it comes through the witness of others. Thank you, God, for light shared with us today. Now we go forth letting our light shine.

(Extinguish Candle)

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION (responsive)

God bless the earth that is beneath us, the sky that is above us, the day that lies before us, and your image deep within us. Go now with the love of God, the compassion of Christ and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

POSTLUDE: MV #41 "O Beautiful Gaia"

Refrain: O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia, calling us home. O beautiful Gaia, calling us on.

Verse 1: Soil yielding its harvest, O Gaia, calling us home.

Soil yielding its harvest, calling us on.

Refrain

Verse 2: Waves crashing on granite, O Gaia, calling us home.

Waves crashing on granite, calling us on.

Refrain

Verse 3: Pine bending in windstorm, O Gaia, calling us home.

Pine bending in windstorm, calling us on.

Refrain

Verse 4: Loon nesting in marshland, O Gaia, calling us home.

Loon nesting in marshland, calling us on.

Refrain: O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia, calling us home.

O beautiful Gaia, calling us on.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

NEW

SUNDAY SEPT 25 – ORANGE SHIRT DAY: On September 25 we will be recognizing the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day. On this day we encourage everyone to wear an orange shirt to remember and honour Indigenous children who were taken from their homes.

TUESDAY, SEPT 27 STONY PLAIN COUNCIL: Stony Plain United Church Council will meet Tues. Sept 27 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. Please submit committee reports in advance, if possible to Cathy Yamada-Swan.

REMINDERS

LUNCH SUNDAY OCTOBER 16: We would like to have Lunch Sundays again, starting with October 16. If you can help, please contact Erna Brandon.

MEWASSIN: No service Sept 18, but will meet again Sept 25. Service starts at 9 am.

MINISTER COVERAGE: If you need to speak to a Minister, please contact Reverend Sharon McRann at 780-823-9794.

PHOTO CONTEST: Contest closes September 22, so get your entries in! Please send your photos in .jpg format to photos@stonyplainunitedchurch.com Include your name, email, year taken, and location.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukulele Practice:	Wednesdays, 6:15 pm
Choir Practice:	Wednesdays, 7:15 pm
Card Recreators:	Thursday, 10:00 am