

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
MEWASSIN UNITED CHURCH
DECEMBER 04, 2022
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT: PEACE**

**Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
Mailing Address: Box 3196, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1C2
Phone: 780 963-4745 Email: stonyuc@telus.net
WELCOME to our service this morning!**

MEWASSIN: Please stay for our Christmas Brunch today!

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: VU #366 "Like a Child"

Verse 1

Like a child love would send to reveal and to mend, like a child and a friend Jesus comes
like a child we may find claiming heart, soul and mind, like a child strong and kind Jesus comes.

Verse 2

Like a child we will meet, ragged clothes, dirty feet, like a child on the street Jesus comes
like a child we once knew coming back into view, like a child born anew Jesus comes.

Verse 3

Like a child born to pray and to show us the way, like a child here to stay Jesus comes
like a child we receive all that love can conceive, like a child we believe Jesus comes.

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CALL TO WORSHIP:

Advent summons us with the exuberant hopefulness of a child. Advent holds us spellbound with child-like wonder. Advent challenges us to care for the littlest child. Advent amazes us, for God was made known in a tiny child.
~ pg. 80 Celebrate God's Presence

OPENING PRAYER: (In unison)

**Holy God, we long for your peace, and trust in your promise; we hear your call to turn toward you, to change our lives and welcome you in. Meet us here and fill our minds with your wisdom and our hearts with your peace, that our worship together may open us to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all.
In the Name of the One who is coming, we pray. Amen!**

~ written by Rev. Susan A. Blain/Blogspot

OPENING HYMN: VU #7 "Hope Is a Star"

Verse 1: Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright.

Refrain: When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

Verse 2: Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth, giving a promise of safety and worth.

Refrain

Verse 3: Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world that the Saviour is born.

Refrain

Verse 4: Love is a flame that burns in our heart, Jesus has come and will never depart.

Refrain

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ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING (responsive)

Once more, we see the second candle of the Advent wreath lit.

It is a sign of peace that shines brightly into our hearts. It is a sign that God is present and that we are once more blessed.

Come let us worship and celebrate!

ADVENT PRAYER SONG:

Breathe into this moment of peace with courage to let go, daring to dream.

For the days are surely coming when we'll rise –
strong together once again in peace.

Words and Music by Nancy Chegus. Used with permission

BRINGING ALL OF WHO WE ARE**PRAYER FOR GRACE: (unison)**

Holy God, violence and hatred have so often overwhelmed our world. Today we remember and repent as we acknowledge that, even in our own lives, hatred sometimes obscures love, and violence sometimes overcomes peace. Heal us, O God, assist us as we work for peace in our homes, our community, our church, and our world. Call us again to live lives of love, caring, generosity, and concern. This we ask in the name the one who is called the Prince of Peace. AMEN.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsive)

Trust the God who longs for peace. We are forgiven, strengthened, empowered to be peacemakers in our world.

Thanks be to God. AMEN.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

AND LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES

THEME TIME

(SP) THE GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir "Noel Peace Canon"
Incorporating Dona Nobis Pacem and The First Noel, arranged by Ruth Elaine Schram

(SP) CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 11:1-10 (The peaceable reign of God)

Responsive Psalm 72, VU #790 Parts One & Three (1-8, 18-19) (A just ruler)

Refrain: Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.

PART ONE (1 – 8):

Give the ruler your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal heir,

For judging your people rightly and upholding the poor with justice;

That the mountains may bring forth peace for the people,

And the hills, prosperity with justice.

Refrain: Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.

May your anointed defend the cause of the poor among the people, save the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.

May your anointed live as long as the sun endures, as long as the moon from age to age.

May your anointed be like rain falling upon the grass, like showers that water the earth;

May your anointed be one in whose days justice shall flourish and peace abound till the moon is no more.

Refrain: Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.

PART THREE (18 – 19)

Blessed are you, O God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvellous things.

Blessed is your glorious name for ever. May the whole earth be filled with your glory.

Refrain: Hail to God's own anointed, who rules in equity.

Words and music (Refrain) by Johann Cruger 1640 Public Domain

REFLECTION "The Good Old Days"

HERITAGE HYMN: VU #8 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Verse 1: Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, as seers of old have sung.

It came a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Verse 2: Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.

To show God's love aright she bore for us a Saviour when half spent was the night.

Words German, 15th c. English. Theodore Baker; Music German melody, harm. M. Praetorius 1609 Public Domain.

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

INVITATION TO GIVE:

One: There are opportunities to give every day, certainly through gifts of dollars and cents, but also through courageous action, faithful service, and loving devotion. Let us share of ourselves and of what God has so graciously given.

DEDICATION OF GIFTS: (in unison)

Accept, O God, the money offered, the gifts given, the goodwill of our hearts, that disappointment may be turned to hope, and worry may be turned to anticipation, as we await with wonder the birth of Christ. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

AND LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

HYMN: MV #3 "River"

Verse 1:

River, rush-a-down to the ocean blue, River from a mountain high.
River, as you do what rivers do, River, draw the Spirit nigh.

Verse 2:

Spirit, come-a-down to the riverside, Spirit, spark of wondrous thought.
Spirit, I am free for you to guide, Spirit, pray that I be taught!

Verse 3:

Water, let me drink of your healing pow'r, Water, strength and life you give. Water, as I travel with each hour, Water, help my body live.

Verse 4:

River, flow-a-down where you ran before, River, source of clearer view.
River, as I walk your rocky shore, River, see my journey through.
See my journey through, See my journey through, See my journey through.

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CARRYING CHRIST'S LIGHT WITH US

It is the calling and privilege of every Christian to carry Christ's light, that is, his presence, in us. Jesus said, as He is the Light, His followers also will not walk in darkness, but they will carry in them the Light of Life (John 8:12). May it be so!

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION:

Return now to our world with its pain and wonder, remembering the words of the prophets, the faithfulness of Mary, and the longing of all who yearn for a sign of hope. And may the blessing of God who is ever faithful, the blessing of Christ who still comes to us, and the

blessing of the Holy Spirit who moves within us and throughout our world, rest upon us and abide with us, this day and forevermore. Amen.

(MEW) THREE FOLD AMEN

(SP) POSTLUDE: MV # 173 “Put Peace Into Each Other’s Hands” vs. 1 & 5

Verse 1:

Put peace into each other’s hands and like a treasure hold it,
protect it like a candle flame, with tenderness enfold it.

Verse 5: Reach out in friendship, stay with faith in touch with those around you.
Put peace into each other’s hands, the Peace that sought and found you.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS DECEMBER 04, 2022

READERS NEED FOR STONY PLAIN’S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: If you would like to read at Stony’s Christmas Eve Service – Dec. 24 at 7 pm – please contact the office.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: At our Council meeting I was elected to be chair of Nominations and to gather a couple more people to serve on this committee. Nominations recommend people to serve on the church committees to support church initiatives.

Consider our church and the value it brings to our community. Come help. The yoke is easy. If you can help Nominations or another committee, please contact by email.

nominations@stonyplainunitedchurch.com or through the church office.

Yours in Faith, Jon Blois, Chair Nominations

WELCOMING CHILDREN: If you are interested in helping with simple crafts and other activities for children who come to our church, for part of a service, contact the office (780 963-4745) or email stonyuc@telus.net). No planning required – just a little time occasionally, to help out.

MEWASSIN CHRISTMAS BRUNCH SUNDAY DEC. 4: Please bring a pot-luck item and plan on staying after the service for a meal and visit.

WHITE GIFT/WINTER WARMTH SUNDAYS DEC 4 & DEC 11: Both congregations are welcoming donations which will go to Parenting for the Future. **Mewassin is collecting socks - men’s, women’s or children’s. Stony is collecting Mitts and Toques** for all ages. Mewassin Sunday School will also be giving Gift Bags to Parenting for the Future on Dec. 11. Collection dates are Dec 4 and Dec 11. If you have any questions, contact Terry Blois at Stony and Sandra McNab at Mewassin.

UCW MEETING WED. DEC 7, 11:30 am: The UCW invites all ladies to join us for a pot luck lunch Wed. Dec. 7. Dessert will be provided. If you would like to contribute to a variety program, contact Evelyn Scheideman. Following the program, there will be a short UCW business meeting to deal with allocations and the disbursement of funds.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MEETING THURS. DEC 8, 9:30 am: The Congregational Care Committee will meet at the church on Thursday, Dec 8 at 9:30.

ADVENT DINNER & CHOIR CANTATA DECEMBER 11: The Advent Dinner – Ham, Scalloped Potatoes and all the trimmings – is at 5 pm. We will have carolling at 6:30, then the Cantata at 7 pm .”Afterglow” to follow Cantata – Dessert, Coffee, Cookies. Dinner tickets are now available from Choir Members or the Office: \$25.00 General Admission, \$10. for Children 6 – 11 and free for children 5 and under.

“BLUE CHRISTMAS” DEC 18 AT ST. ANDREW’S: St. Andrew’s United in Spruce Grove will be presenting “Blue Christmas”, a service of remembrance and hope on Sunday, Dec 18 at 7 pm.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: Mewassin 4:30 pm Sunday School will be presenting the Christmas Eve Service at Mewassin, at 4:30 pm. It will be a special service incorporating a mini-concert within the service. **NOTE: If you can help out with the singing at Mewassin, please let Terry Blois or Sandra McNab know.**
Stony Plain’s Christmas Eve service is at 7:00 pm.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR’S: There will be **no services** at either church **Christmas Day**. Mewassin will not have a service Jan 1, but are welcome to come to Stony at 10:30.

WORSHIP LEADERS: THANK-You! to all who continue to lead worship :
Dec 4 Sharon McRann Dec 11 Sheila Christensen

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

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukulele Practice: Wednesdays, 6:15 pm
Cantata Practice: Wednesdays, 7:00 to 8:00 pm
‘Regular’ Choir Practice: Wednesdays, 8:00 to 9:00 pm
Card Recreators: **Not meeting until January 5, 2023**

MEETINGS/SPECIAL EVENTS

Sat Dec 3 2 pm Choir Cantata Practice
Sun Dec 4 and Dec 11 White Gift Sunday – donate Socks (Mew); Mitts, Hats (SP)
Sun Dec 4 Mewassin Christmas Brunch at Mewassin after Church
Wed. Dec 7 11:30 am UCW Pot Luck Lunch and Meeting
Thurs Dec 8 9:30 am Congregational Care Meeting
Sunday, Dec. 11 Advent Dinner and Choir Cantata
Sat. Dec 24 Christmas Eve **Mewassin Service 4:30 pm; Stony Plain 7:00 pm**
Sun Dec 25 **No Services**
Sun Jan 1, 2023 Stony Plain Service 10:30; **Mewassin No Service**