

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH  
MEWASSIN UNITED CHURCH  
JANUARY 29, 2023**

**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**

**GATHERING SONG: MV #7 “Gather Us In” (x2)**

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.

**REPEAT**

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**CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive):**

ONE: We gather in this place

**ALL: that is our church home.**

ONE: We gather to hear the stories

**ALL: that remind us who we are as people of faith.**

ONE: We gather to discover a faith like that of the disciples

**ALL: who were called from their fishing boats to follow Jesus.**

ONE: Today let us gather together

**ALL: to worship the God who calls us all to be fishers of people!**

**OPENING HYMN: VU #563 “Jesus, You Have Come To The Lakeshore”**

**Verse 1**

Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore, looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;  
You only asked me to follow humbly.

**Refrain: O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,  
And while smiling, have spoken my name;  
Now my boat’s left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will seek other seas.**

**Verse 2:** You know so well my possessions, my boat carries no gold and no weapons;  
You will find there my nets and labour.

**Refrain**

**Verse 3:** You need my hands, full of caring through my labours to give others rest,  
And constant love that keeps on loving.

**Refrain**

**Verse 4:** You, who have fished other oceans, ever longed for by souls who are waiting,  
My loving friend, as thus you call me.

**Refrain: O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,  
And while smiling, have spoken my name;  
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will seek other seas.**

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**OPENING PRAYER: (Unison)**

**Holy One, as we gather today, may we discover a faith like that of Simon Peter and Andrew, of James and John, sons of Zebedee, who dropped their nets and left their fishing boats when Jesus called them to follow him. When we face the shadows and storms of life, may we too choose to follow Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (Responsive)**

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

**ALL: and also in you.**

**SING: VU #82 "A Light is Gleaming"**

**Refrain:**

**A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love is burning bright, living in the light.**

**Verse 1:** When light comes pouring into the darkest place, it hurts our eyes to see the glow.  
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears, our memories and tears.

**Refrain**

**Verse 2:** When night is round us and every shadow grows, a star is there to light our way.  
It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say: "God's light will ever stay."

**Refrain**

**Verse 3:** And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk. He showed us things we hadn't seen.  
Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine, and this will be a sign;

**Refrain**

**Verse 4:** So let us live in the brightness God has giv'n, and let us rise to see the dawn.  
We trust that God is here a-sparkle and ablaze, warming all our days.

**Refrain**

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<b>BRINGING ALL OF WHO WE ARE</b>
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**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

<b>AND LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES</b>
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**(SP ONLY) GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir "Old Irish Blessing"**

Words: Traditional Music: Denes Agay

**(SP ONLY) THEME TIME****(SP ONLY) SING: MV #113 "Fish With Me" Verses 1&3****Verse 1:**

Jesus saw them fishing by the shore of Galilee casting out their nets into the sea.  
Simon Peter, Andrew and the sons of Zebedee, waiting in their boats so patiently.

**Refrain: And Jesus said, "Oh, come and follow me.****Oh, leave behind your nets. I call you.****Oh, come and fish with me, and your life will never be the same again."****Verse 3:** If you want to follow me, deny your very self.

Take up your cross and walk the walk with me.

This might seem a hardship, an impossibility, but nothing is impossible with God.

**Refrain**

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS:****Isaiah 9.1-4**

The people have seen a great light

**Responsive Psalm 27 VU #754**

God is my light and my salvation

**Refrain: God is my light and saving health, I shall not be afraid.**

God is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear?

**God is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?**

When the wicked close in to devour me,

**It is they, my enemies and my foes, who stumble and fall.**

If an army should encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid;

**If war should arise against me, even then I will not be dismayed.****Refrain: God is my light and saving health, I shall not be afraid.**

One thing I have asked of God, for which I long: that I may dwell in God's house all the days of my life,

**To gaze on your beauty, O God, and to seek you in your temple.**

For in the time of trouble you will give me shelter;

**You will hide me under the cover of your tent, you will set me high upon a rock.**

And now you have raised my head above my enemies round about me.

**Therefore I will offer in your dwelling a sacrifice with great gladness.****Refrain: God is my light and saving health, I shall not be afraid.**

Hear my voice, O God, when I call; have mercy and answer me. Your face, O God, I seek.  
**Do not hide your face from me; do not reject your servant in anger, you who have been my helper.**

Do not cast me off, or forsake me, O God my saviour.

**Though my father and mother forsake me, my God will take me up.**

**Refrain: God is my light and saving health, I shall not be afraid.**

Teach me your way, O God,

**Lead me on a level path, safe from those who lie in wait for me.**

Do not give me up to the will of my enemies,

**For liars and false witnesses arise against me.**

I believe that I shall see God's goodness in the land of the living.

**Wait for God; be strong, and take courage; yes, wait for God!**

**Refrain: God is my light and saving health, I shall not be afraid.**

Refrain by Jeremiah Clarke Public Domain

### **Matthew 4.12-23**

Jesus begins his ministry

**SONG OF ILLUMINATION: MV #96 "And When You Call For Me" (x2) (based on Psalm 91)**

And when you call for me, I have already answered.

And when you call for me, I am already there.

**REPEAT**

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**REFLECTION:** Where does your loyalty lie?

*(Reflection inspired by Rev. Kathy Donley, adapted by Lesley Janke)*

**SING: MV #171 "Christ Has No Body Now But Yours"**

**Refrain: Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.**

**Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.**

**Verse 1:** No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,  
 no hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,  
 no touch but yours to bind the broken hope of the people of God.

**Refrain**

**Verse 2:** No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,  
 to find the lost, to gaze with compassion;  
 no eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy of the city of God.

**Refrain: Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.**

**Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.**

**Verse 3:** No feet but yours to journey with the poor,  
 To walk this world with mercy and justice.  
 Yours are the steps to build a lasting peace for the children of God.

**Refrain**

**Verse 4:** Through ev'ry gift, give back to those in need:  
As Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,  
With ev'ry gift a benediction, be to the people of God.

**Refrain: Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.  
Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.**

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## THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

### PRAYER FOR GRACE (Unison)

**God, through your Son you shine a light in the midst of shadows. Yet, we confess there are times when we fear this light as it reveals the brokenness within us. And so we try to hide our brokenness, fearful of how you will react to its revelation. God, forgive us when we forget that you already know our innermost being.**

**Receive now our brokenness:** *(time of silent prayer)*

**Amen**

*(Source: modified from Gathering A/C/E 2022/23 Sandy Ferguson. Used with permission)*

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:** Learning Racism at a Young Age

### INVITATION TO GIVE

### OFFERING HYMN: VU #537 "Your Work O God Needs Many Hands"

**Verse 1:** Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere, and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.

**Verse 2:** Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make: be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.

Words: Calvin Weiss Laufer 1927, alt. Music Neil Dougall ca. 1831. Public Domain

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

**We offer our whole lives to you, O God. Like Simon Peter and Andrew, like James and John the sons of Zebedee, we want to follow Jesus and discover what you are doing through him. Accept these gifts of time, talent and treasure that we offer today to support the discipleship of this congregation beyond these walls.**

**We pray in the name of the One we follow, Jesus our Messiah. Amen.**

## AND LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

### CLOSING HYMN: VU #567 "Will You Come and Follow Me"

**Verse 1:** Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

**Verse 2:** Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
 Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
 Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
 Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

**Verse 3:** Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
 Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
 Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
 and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

**Verse 4:** Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name?  
 Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
 Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,  
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

**Verse 5:** Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
 Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
 In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.  
 Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Words: The Iona Community 1987; Music: Scottish traditional, arr. The Iona Community 1987. © 1987 WGRG, the Iona Community, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

## **CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

### **BLESSING/BENEDICTION**

#### **MEWASSIN: Three Fold Amen**

#### **(SP) POSTLUDE: VU #646 “Siyahamba”**

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.  
 We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. (the light of God.)  
 We are marching, (marching, we are marching,) oo-oo, (marching,)  
 We are marching in the light of God. (the light of God.)  
 We are marching, (marching, we are marching,) oo-oo, (marching,)  
 We are marching in the light of God.

Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen, kwenkhos’, Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos’.  
 Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen, kwenkhos’, Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos’. (khanyen’ kwenkhos’.)  
 Siyahamba, (hamba siyahamba,) oo-oo, (hamba,)  
 Siyahamb’, ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos’. (khanyen’kwenkhos’.)  
 Siyahamba, (hamba siyahamba,) oo-oo, (hamba,) Siyahamb’, ekukhanyen’kwenkhos’.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.  
 We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. (the light of God.)  
 We are marching, (marching, we are marching,) oo-oo, (marching,)  
 We are marching in the light of God. (the light of God.)  
 We are marching, (marching, we are marching,) oo-oo, (marching,)  
 We are marching in the light of God.

Words and Music: South African traditional song 20<sup>th</sup> century. Trans. And Arr. Anders Nyberg. Copyright © 1984 Walton Music Corporation. All rights reserved. Reprinted under one License #A-718663.

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*Please join us today (Sun. Jan 29) at 3 pm for the  
“Endings and Beginnings” service at Stony Plain U. C.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS JANUARY 29, 2023

### **COMMUNITY OF FAITH MEETING SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12 , 11:30 AM**

Announcing... a meeting of the Stony Plain/Mewassin Community of Faith at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday Feb 12, 2023 at Stony Plain United Church! The purpose is for the Search Team to present a recommendation regarding the approval of a new pastoral relationship between the Stony Plain/Mewassin and Devon Communities of Faith AND a minister with the United Church of Canada.

All members and adherents of the community of faith are encouraged to attend. Full members of the community of faith are eligible to vote on pastoral relations matters, including calls, and can extend voting privileges to adherents of the community of faith.

**WEDNESDAY, FEB 1 UCW MEETING 1:30 PM.** There is a slight change in the program. We will discuss the role of funerals using the article "Why Funerals Still Matter" pages 12 - 14, Broadview January/February 2023. If you do not subscribe to the magazine, you can pick up a copy of the article at the church office or on Sunday. Everyone is welcome.

**LUNCH SUNDAYS:** We would like to have Lunch Sundays on the following dates and are asking Church groups/committees to volunteer to be in charge of at least one! Feb. 12, Mar 12, April 16, May 14 and June 18. Please let the Office know which Lunch Sunday (starting in March) your group would like to host

**Please note that we will still have Lunch Sunday February 12 (after the Congregational Meeting) and need workers, so let Erna know if you can help.**

**NEW MEMBERS/TRANSFERS:** Stony Plain United Church welcomes all people to our church and will be holding a service to receive new or transferred members. For more information, please contact Sue at the church office..

**JAN 29 PANCAKE BREAKFAST:** Thanks to the Men's Club for breakfast this morning.

**ANTIRACISM AND THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA:** There is a 2 session workshop about Antiracism being offered. The first session is "Antiracism Workshop" with Selam Debs on Tuesday Feb 7 from 10 to 11:30 am. The second sessions, "Antiracism, You and The UCC" with Rev. Alcris Limongi will be held Tuesday, Mar 7 from 10 am to 11:30 am. For more information and to register, go to [https://regionalcouncil789.formstack.com/forms/antiracism\\_in\\_2023](https://regionalcouncil789.formstack.com/forms/antiracism_in_2023)

**UCW – WOW LAUNCHES HEALING FUND SUPPORT:** The Healing Fund supports Indigenous women, children and families and is the UCW's fundraising focus. The virtual event is Saturday, Feb 11 at 1:00 pm (link open at 12:45). No Registration required. Link is <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/89314142952> For more information email [UCW.WOW@gmail.com](mailto:UCW.WOW@gmail.com)

**ANNUAL REPORT:** Please have your **Committee Reports in to the Office by Friday, February 10, 2023.** If you have any questions, please ask Sue. Thank-you.

**WORSHIP LEADERS:** Thank-You! to all who continue to lead worship :

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

### **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

<b>Ukulele Practice:</b>	Wednesdays, 6:15 pm
<b>Choir Practice:</b>	Wednesdays, 7:00 pm
<b>Card Recreators:</b>	Thursdays, 10 am

### **MEETINGS/SPECIAL EVENTS**

<b>Sunday, Jan 29, 2023</b>	8:45 am Breakfast (Men's Group)
<b>Sunday, Jan 29, 2023</b>	3 pm Endings and Beginnings Service
<b>Friday, Feb 10, 2023</b>	<b>Deadline for submission of Committee Reports</b>
<b>Sunday, Feb 12, 2023</b>	<b>Community of Faith Meeting (SPUC &amp; MUC) 11:30 am</b>
<b>Sunday, Feb 12, 2023</b>	Lunch Sunday (Stony Plain after meeting)