

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH  
MEWASSIN UNITED CHURCH  
MAY 28, 2023**

**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/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*As you enter this space, please choose an item of nature on which to cast your worries and concerns, to be used later in the worship service.*

**GATHERING SONG: MV #2 “Come All You People” (x2)**

Come all you people, come and praise your Maker,  
come all you people, come and praise your Maker,  
come all you people, come and praise your Maker,  
Come now and worship the Lord.

**REPEAT**

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**CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsive)**

One: Friends, we come to praise our Maker.

**Many: Let us join together to worship our God, the God who walks with us in times of joy and of sorrow.**

One: Parent to orphans and champion of widows,

**Many: God makes homes for the homeless and leads the imprisoned into freedom.**

One: As God led the ancient Israelites into the wilderness and provided manna for them to eat,

**Many: we too find our place in God’s love.**

One: The God of all speaks through Creation,

**Many: in the growling of thunder and in the quiet sneezes of a butterfly.**

One: We gather to listen, to be renewed, to open ourselves to the love of God.

**Many: Awesome is the power and strength that God brings. Let us come now to worship our God!**

*~ Based on Psalm 68*

**OPENING PRAYER: (Unison)**

Parent God, you’ve blessed us with Jesus’ life to teach us what we need to grow as people of faith. As we enter this time together, we offer our brokenness and fears to you.

Comfort and heal us, O God, so that we are empowered to share your infinite love with the world. May the resurrection promise remind us that we are one with You, with Jesus and with each other. Amen.

**OPENING HYMN: VU #402 “We Are One”**

**Verse 1:** We are one as we come, as we come, joyful to be here,  
in the praise on our lips there’s a sense that God is near.

We are one as we sing, as we seek, we are found;  
and we come needful of God's grace as we meet, together in this place.

**Verse 2:** We are one as we share, as we share brokenness and fear,  
in the touch of a hand there's a sense that God is here.  
We are one as we care, as we heal, we are healed;  
and we share warmth in God's embrace as we pray together in this place.

**Verse 3:** We are one as we feast, as we feast, peace becomes the sign;  
in the bread and the wine there's a sense of love divine.  
We are one as we come, as we feed, we are fed;  
and we feel God's refreshing grace as we meet at table in this place.

**Verse 4:** We are one as we hear, as we hear, heart and hand unite;  
in the word we receive there's a sense that God is light.  
We are one as we leave, as we love, we are loved;  
and we seek justice in God's ways as we move together from this place.

Words: Doreen Lankshear-Smith 1988; Music: Jeeva Sam 1987 arr. David Kai 1995  
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### **LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE: (Responsive)**

One: ...And so may the light of Christ be in you,  
Many: and also in you

## **BRINGING ALL OF WHO WE ARE**

### **PRAYER FOR GRACE: (Unison)**

God, we admit that we rarely notice the Holy Spirit at work. Even worse, when we do recognize you, O God, we don't think to acknowledge your work in our lives and in the world. Forgive us for being inattentive, and remind us to pay attention to love and beauty whenever we encounter them. We long to hear the good news of the resurrecting love of Jesus. May our hearts and minds be still during this time together so that we are reminded that we are one with You. Amen.

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

### **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

### **PRAYER OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

## **AND LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES**

### **GIFT OF MUSIC:** Choir "Order My Steps (In Your Word)"

Words and Music by Glenn Burleigh; Arranged by Jack Schrader

### **THEME TIME**

### **HERITAGE HYMN: VU #664 "What A Friend We Have In Jesus"**

#### **Verse 1**

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!  
 O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,  
 all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

**Verse 2:** Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
 We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?  
 Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.

**Verse 3:** Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?  
 Christ the Saviour is our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Do our friends despise, forsake us? Are we tempted to despair?  
 Jesus' strength will shield our weakness, and we'll find new courage there.

Words: Joseph Medlicott Scriven ca. 1855; Music: Charles Crozat Converse 1868. Public Domain

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

1 Peter 4.12-14; 5.6-11  
 John 17.1-11

Cast your cares on God, be alert  
 Jesus prays that "all may be one"

**REFLECTION:** Trust the Process

### **SING: MV #165 "There Is A Time"**

**Verse 1:** There is a time that we must rise, there is a time that we must stand  
 there is a time that we must come together  
 for blessed are our lives blessed our love  
 and blessed the promise gathered now.

**Verse 2:** There is a time that we must leave, go from the place where hatreds breed  
 and, turning, feel the spirit breathe us together  
 for blessed are our lives blessed our love  
 and blessed the promise gathered now.

**Verse 3:** There is a time we know the way, there is a time we watch and pray  
 in living faith we make our way together  
 for blessed are our lives blessed our love  
 and blessed the promise gathered now.

**Verse 4:** Upon the dry a cloud will rise and truth will shine among the lies  
 and wisdom sing as we arise together  
 for blessed are our lives blessed our love  
 and blessed the promise gathered now.

**Verse 5:** There is a bow within the rain and it will come and bend again  
 and colours shine where we have been together  
 for blessed are our lives blessed our love  
 and blessed the promise gathered now.

Words and Music: Carolyn McDade. Arrangement: Lydia Pedersen, 2006  
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**THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:** Sending People to School <https://united-church.ca/stories/sending-people-school-together-patti-talbots-work>

## OFFERING INVITATION

### DEDICATION OF GIFTS: (Responsive)

One: Our faith has brought us to church. Our faith sustains us in the testing times.

**Many: These gifts sustain our family of faith.**

One: Our faith sustains us in church. Our faith gives us purpose and a vision.

**Many: These gifts enliven our faith community.**

One: Our faith calls us to look beyond this local church. Our faith calls us to partner with churches and agencies in many nations.

**Many: These gifts strengthen many communities.**

One: Our faith rejoices in the Easter hallelujahs. Our faith finds focus in the risen Jesus Christ.

**Many: These gifts will be blessed as the Way of Jesus is followed. Amen.**

~ Written by **David Sparks**. Gathering, Lent/Easter 2023, page 50. Used with permission.

### SUNG RESPONSE MV #182 “Grateful” (chorus only)

**Refrain:** Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy Son,

Joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of Love.

Grateful for the Bread of Heaven, thankful for your Holy Word.

Joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.

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## PASTORAL PRAYER WORDS OF INTRODUCTION

### SING: MV #172 “God Says” (vs. 1-2)

**Verse 1:** God says, “Be still so you may hear the words I whisper in your ear.

If you will listen, you will know I’m with you always where you go.”

**Verse 2:** God says, “Look up and see the prize I’ve placed here right before your eyes.

Find beauty in the things of earth, a cause for wonder and rebirth.”

## PASTORAL PRAYER

*At conclusion of Pastoral Prayer, please bring your item from nature forward as we*

**SING: the closing verses (3-4) of MV #172 “God Says”.**

**Verse 3:** God says, “Come here! I need your voice. Please teach my people to rejoice.

In who you are, in what you do, your life will show my love for you.”

**Verse 4:** God says, “Reach out! The world’s in need and wants a word, a song, a deed.

I send you forth to speak, to sing, to act for Christ in everything.”

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## CLOSING PRAYER (unison)

**Loving God, grant us the peace of knowing that in all our anxieties, challenges, and responsibilities, we are not alone. We live in Your world. May our trust in your care expand so that we turn to You rather than to ourselves. Reorient our lives so that in difficult times**

**we move towards joy as we remember all you have done, are doing, and will do for us, your resurrection people. Amen.**

~ Inspired by **Dr. Lisa Hancock**, Discipleship Ministries, October, 2022. Used with permission.

## AND LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

### **CLOSING HYMN: VU #420 “Go to the World”**

#### **Verse 1:**

Go to the world! Go into all the earth.  
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life’s worth,  
baptising as the sign of our rebirth. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

#### **Verse 2:** Go to the world! Go into every place.

Go live the Word of God’s redeeming grace.  
Go seek God’s presence in each time and space. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

#### **Verse 3:** Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray; the nights of tears give way to joyous day.

As servant Church, you follow Christ’s own way. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

#### **Verse 4:** Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,

for I am with you ‘til the age shall end,  
when all the hosts of glory cry “Amen!” Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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### **CARRYING CHRIST’S LIGHT WITH US**

#### **BLESSING**

#### **MEW: Three Fold Amen**

#### **SP: POSTLUDE: VU #646 “We Are Marching” (3x – English, Swahili, English)**

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  
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS MAY 28, 2023

**UCW MEETING/PICNIC WED. June 7:** The UCW June 7th meeting will be in the form of a "Picnic in the Park". We will gather at 11:30 AM at the Rotary Park entrance. Bring your own bag lunch and a lawn chair (if you have one). We will be having potluck dessert so please bring a few pieces (not a whole recipe) of a favorite dessert to be shared. All women of the congregation are invited to join us for a time of outdoor fun and fellowship. Should the weather be too wet or too smoky we will meet at the church instead of the park.

**MEN'S CLUB:** The Men's Club will **not** be serving breakfast until September (so no breakfast this month or June.) Thanks to the Men for cooking for us so many times this year!

**PHOTO CONTEST 2023:** Email your photos (.jpg format please) to [photos@StonyPlainUnitedChurch.com](mailto:photos@StonyPlainUnitedChurch.com) with your name, email, date taken, location and optional title. **Please note that photos must have been taken this year (2023) and cannot have an identifiable face in them.** Please see the poster for complete rules.

**MEWASSIN NEWS:** Mewassin will not have Worship Services during the month of July (July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30). Sunday School wind-up will most likely be Sunday, June 11.

**BROADVIEW MAGAZINE – RENEWAL AND NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS:** May 28 is the last day to get your Broadview subscription. Cost is \$25.00 per year, cash, or a cheque made out to Stony Plain United Church with Broadview written in the memo line. Consider subscribing to this award winning magazine.

**CATERING FUNDRAISER:** The Catering Committee will be relaunching with a fundraiser, by having a table (maybe 2) in the **Stony Plain Street Market on Saturday, June 17** from 9am to 3pm. The table will have a combination of gently used house and yard type items and a small range of baked goods. You can help out in several ways:

**Donations:** We are asking that if you are downsizing or cleaning out the attic/basement/garage, you might consider donating items to the market table. **Items can be dropped off at the church beginning Tuesday, May 23rd until Friday, June 16.** If you have donations, but are not able to get them to the church, we may be able to arrange pickup in Stony Plain and Spruce Grove.

**Baking:** As we will also be promoting the commercial kitchen, we will be using it **June 6, 7 and 8th** from 10am to 3pm to do all the baking. If anyone would care to join us on those days, all are welcome. If you want to donate ingredients for the baking, a list will be available shortly.

**Help at the Tables:** We will also have a sign-up sheet for the day before the sale and sale day, **June 16 & 17**, keeping the shifts to a short, 2 hours each. The sale is all around town hall with over 100 vendors. The committee also wants to let everyone know that coming to a meeting or helping does not mean you have to be on the committee. This fundraising event is also about community engagement, bringing church groups together, getting outside and having some fun!  
 For more information or to volunteer, please contact the church office (780 963-4745)

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

**MINISTER COVERAGE:** Please contact Reverend Sharon McRann at 780-823-9794.

### **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

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

### **MEETINGS/SPECIAL EVENTS**

Saturday, May 27           1 pm Celebration of Life for Myrtle Wallis-Forbes at St. Andrew's  
 Deadline May 28         Subscribe to Broadview Magazine! (Stony)  
 May 23 – June 16         Bring in donations for Street Market  
 Wed. June 7               11:30 am UCW Meeting/Picnic at Rotary Park  
 June 6, 7, 8               10 am to 3 pm Come bake for the Street Market  
 June 16, 17               Prepare for and/or work at Street Market