

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
MEWASSIN UNITED CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 - SEASON OF CREATION 2
CREATION INVITES: "LISTEN TO MY WISDOM"
FLOWING RIVER**

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
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WELCOME to our service this morning!

Join **Zoom Meeting** via computer (with password) **DO NOT POST ON WEB OR FACEBOOK**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83364019239?pwd=TlEyd2c2aXUra1dDcHdvNlp4Y3Q4UT09>
Zoom teleconference Link info: Meeting ID: 833 6401 9239 Password: 4745
Via phone: +1 587 328 1099 Canada - dial in . +1 587 328 1099 , , 83364019239 - direct

*Thank-you to our Presiders this morning:
Terry Blois at Stony Plain and
The Leadership Group at Mewassin.*

STONY PLAIN: Please stay for lunch after the service today!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GATHER TOGETHER BEFORE GOD
on traditional territory of Treaty Six Peoples and of the Métis Nation

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

When Israel was delivered from Egypt
unbelievable things happened—
the sea fled, and the River Jordan turned back.

**The mountains seem to skip like rams,
and the hills to frolic like little lambs.**

What awesome power caused river and sea to change their course—
mountains and hills to jump and skip?

The whole earth was surely trembling in the presence of God .

Praise God who sets people free in unexpected ways
and sustains them through unexpected acts of grace.

~ Written by **Moira Laidlaw**, Posted on Liturgies Online. Used with permission.

GATHERING PRAYER

~ Written by **Thom Shuman**, posted on Lectionary Liturgies.. Used with permission.

NOTE: DIFFERENT GATHERING HYMNS FOR SP AND MEW**SP: HYMN: VU #165 “Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”**

Verse 1: Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness:
 God has brought forth Israel into joy from sadness,
 loosed from Pharaoh’s bitter yoke Jacob’s sons and daughters,
 led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.

Verse 2: ‘Tis the spring of souls today, Christ has burst his prison,
 and from three days’ sleep in death as a sun has risen;
 all the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
 from his light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.

Verse 3: Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendour,
 with the royal feast of feasts, comes its joy to render;
 comes to gladden faithful hearts, who with true affection
 welcome in unwearied strains Jesus’ resurrection!

Verse 4: Neither could the gates of death, nor the tomb’s dark portal,
 nor the watchers, nor the seal, hold him as a mortal:
 for today amid his own he now stands, bestowing
 God’s true peace which evermore passes human knowing.

Words: John of Damascus ca. 750. Trans. John M. Neale; Music: Johann Horn . adapt. J. Leisentritt Public Domain

MEW: MV #18 “Lord, Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary” (Sing 2x)

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.

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LIGHTING A CANDLE

~ Written by **Mary Grant. Gathering**, Pentecost 2 2023, page 29. Used with permission.

JOYS AND CONCERNS**PRAYERS OF JOYS AND CONCERNS****THE LORD’S PRAYER (Unison)**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

AND LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES
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SP: GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir "What God Can Do"
Words by Nancy Price & Don Besig; Music by Don Besig

MEW: THEME TIME

SP: BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

HYMN: VU #577 "I've Got Peace Like a River"

Verse 1

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.

Verse 2

I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.

Verse 3

I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul.
I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul.

Words and Music African-American spiritual. Public Domain.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Reading From The Psalms: Psalm 114 (God's wonders at the Exodus)

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:21-35 (Forgiveness. Parable of the Unforgiving Servant)

REFLECTION: "A Mighty River" Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra (Recorded)

HYMN: MV #144 "Like a Healing Stream"

Verse 1

Like a healing stream in a barren desert, Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth ... like a healing stream

Verse 2: Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden, Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation,
yearning for an end to want and need ... like a gentle rain.

Verse 3: Like a river strong with a restless current, Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,
calling for an end to hate and war ... like a river strong.

Verse 4: Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons, Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow: God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea, like a river strong, like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

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THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY: VU #227 “For the Fruit of All Creation” Verse 1 only

Verse 1

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.

For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,

Silent growth while we are sleeping,

Future needs in earth’s safekeeping, thanks be to God.

Words: Fred Pratt Green 1970; Music: Welsh folk melody ca. 1784. Words copyright © 1970 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License A-718663.

DEDICATION OF GIFTS (*Unison*)

We dedicate these gifts in the name of our great Creator, giving from our hearts to help make possible how God imagines the earth coming to life. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING and INTERCESSION

~ Posted on <https://seasonofcreation.org/resources/#liturgical> Used with permission.

AND WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

SENDING HYMN: VU #602 “Blest Be the Tie that Binds”

Verse 1

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;

the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.

Verse 2:

Before our Maker’s throne we pour our ardent prayers;

our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Verse 3:

We share each other’s woes, each other’s burdens bear;

and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

Verse 4:

The glorious hope revives our courage on the way;

that we shall live in perfect love in God’s eternal day.

Words: John Fawcett 1782, alt. Music attrib. Johann G. Nagell 1728, arr. Lowell Mason 1845 Public Domain.

CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US

COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION (*Responsive*)

May we be blessed to open our hearts to receive “the living waters of God’s justice and peace” within us:

Amen.

May we be blessed to share “the living waters of God’s justice and peace” with our suffering brothers and sisters and all creatures around us:

Amen.

May we be blessed to walk together with all people of good will so that the many streams of “the living waters of God’s justice and peace” may become a mighty river all over the Earth:

Amen.

And may God bless us on this journey, Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

~ Written by **Fr Joshtrom Kureethadam**, Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. Adapted. Used with permission.

CHORAL AMEN:

MEW: Threefold Amen (VU #967)

SP: “Hallelujah, Amen” (VU #974)

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

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MUSICAL POSTLUDE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we come together, we respectfully acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 territory of Alberta, Regions 2, 3 and 4 within the historical Northwest Métis Homeland. We honour all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries. We recognize that many have come throughout the years to make this place their home. As treaty People, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, we share the responsibility of finding authentic ways to ensure that the spirit of Reconciliation and Treaty 6 is honoured and respected.

ANNOUNCEMENTS SEPTEMBER 17, 2023**NEW**

MEWASSIN BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS: All of you returning to school are invited to bring your backpacks to Church **next Sunday, Sept 24** for the “Blessing of the Backpacks”.

REMINDERS

If you’re reading this before Sun. Sept 17:

SAT. SEPT 16: “INFINITELY MORE” WORKSHOP & CONCERT: From 3 to 5 pm, we will have a workshop with “Infinitely More”. Gerald and Allison Flemming (“Infinitely More”) will work with us on some songs with them during the workshop and then sing these in the evening concert. Bring your voices and/or instruments! This workshop is open to. The concert is at 7 pm with refreshments to follow. Tickets are \$20.00 per person.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS: SUNDAY, SEPT. 17, all those returning to school are encouraged to bring their Backpacks to receive a special blessing during the Service.

.SUNDAY SEPT 17 STONY PLAIN LUNCH SUNDAY: Please join us for lunch after the service in Stony Plain. Thanks to the Choir for preparing lunch.

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CHANGE OF TIME FOR CHOIR: Choir practice will start at 7:00 pm (not 7:15).

CHOIR AND UKULELE: Practices started Sept 6, but you can still join either group (or both!!!): 6:15 pm for Ukuleles, 7:00 pm for Choir. New members are welcome! No experience necessary.

DATE CHANGE FOR BOTTLE DRIVE: New date is Saturday, Sept 30. Mewassin is having a church only bottle drive (not going door to door) starting at 10:00 am Sat. Sept 30. If anyone has bottles to donate, please bring them between 10 & 11 am to Krause's. Call Sandra at 587 785-0628 for directions or to make arrangements for pick up. Sorters – please bring your own lunch, lawn chairs and drinks

FALL COMMERCIAL KITCHEN EQUIPMENT TRAINING: Training sessions (about 45 minutes long) are scheduled for **Thurs. Sept 28 and Fri Oct. 6 at 5:00 pm** in the Commercial Kitchen. Kitchen equipment operators may take either of these sessions. A trained person is required to be present whenever the commercial kitchen is used and this course must be taken every year.

PHOTO CONTEST 2023 – DEADLINE IS SEPT 22: Surely many of you have some wonderful summer pictures you'd like to share! Email your photos to photos@StonyPlainUnitedChurch.com (.jpg format please) with your name, email, date taken, location and optional title.

SUN SEPT 24 MEW: Mewassin is having a Congregational Meeting and Pancake Breakfast after the service on Sunday, Sept 24. Deborah will be at Mewassin all morning. The meeting will follow the church service, and then Sunday School will provide a pancake breakfast after the meeting.

SUN SEPT 24 SP: Stony Plain will have coffee after the service, and we'll say our farewells to Mable Hunter, who is moving to St. Albert.

For up-coming meetings, please see the calendar at the end.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

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

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Sat Sept 16	3 pm to 5 pm Workshop for Musicians with "Infinitely More"
Sat Sept 16	7 pm "Infinitely More" Concert at SPUC
Sun Sept 17	Stony Plain Lunch Sunday
Mon Sept 18	5 pm Men's Group Dinner and meeting
Fri. Sept 22	Last day for Photo Contest entries
Sun Sept 24	MEW Cong. Meeting, Pancake breakfast after the service
Sun Sept 24	SP Coffee Sunday & Farewell to Mable Hunter after Church
Thurs. Sept 28	5 pm Commercial Kitchen Equipment Training
Fri Sept 29	SP 9 am Prep for Harvest Feast (Beets, etc)

Sat Sept 30
Fri. Oct 6

10 am Mewassin Bottle Drive
5 pm Commercial Kitchen Equipment Training