

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
MEWASSIN UNITED CHURCH
OCTOBER 01, 2023 - SEASON OF CREATION 4
Creation Implores: "Love Me!" – Humanity**

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

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsive*)

We lift up our souls to you, Holy God.

We trust God with our past, present, and future.

Teach us, God, that we may know your ways.

**Guide our every move, Holy One,
that we may walk in your paths of love and mercy.**

Let us worship the One who leads us in what is right.

Together, let us worship God!

~ Written by **Amy Loving**, and posted on **The Worship Closet: The Place for Creative Worship Ideas..**
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GATHERING PRAYER

~ Posted on Living Waters for the World. <http://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org/> Used with permission.

HYMN: VU #766 "As the Deer Pants for the Water"

Verse 1

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you;
you alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

REFRAIN:

**You alone are my strength, my shield, to you alone may my spirit yield;
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.**

Verse 2: I want you more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy;
you alone are the real joy-giver and the apple of my eye.

REFRAIN:

**You alone are my strength, my shield, to you alone may my spirit yield;
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.**

Verse 3: You're my friend and you are my brother, even though you are a king;

I love you more than any other, so much more than anything!

REFRAIN

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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

SP: GIFT OF MUSIC Choir "Sisi Gumbo We" (We Need You)

Words and Music by Patsy Ford Simms

THEME TIME

PRAYER FOR ORANGE SHIRT DAY

~ This prayer was inspired by Honarine Scott's Orange Shirt Day [blog](#).

HYMN: VU #371 "Open My Eyes that I May See"

Verse 1

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

REFRAIN: Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Verse 2: Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.

REFRAIN: Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my **ears**, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Verse 3: Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere,
open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.

REFRAIN: Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my **heart**, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Words and Music Clara H. Scott 1895. Public Domain

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READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES:

Exodus 17:1-7

GOSPEL LESSON:

Matthew 21:23-32

REFLECTION: “Like Drops of Water” Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra (Recorded)

HYMN: VU #213 “Rejoice, the Lord is King”

Verse 1: Rejoice the Lord is King! Your risen Lord adore!

Rejoice, give thanks and sing and triumph evermore.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice: rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

Verse 2: Jesus the Saviour reigns, the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our sins, he took his seat above.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice: rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

Verse 3: God’s kingdom cannot fail; Christ rules o’er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice: rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

Verse 4: Rejoice in glorious hope, for Christ, the judge, shall come
to glorify the saints for their eternal home.

We soon shall hear the archangel’s voice; the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

Words: Charles Wesley 1746, alt. Music: John Darwall 1770. Public Domain

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 P. Green; Music: Welsh. Words © Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved. One License A-718663.

DEDICATION OF GIFTS (*Unison*)

God of new life, out of the abundance of our lives we offer these gifts to you.

Through your blessing and our willingness to share, may these offerings become a source for hope and love in this church family, and in the community beyond us, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

~ Provided by *St Martins Presbyterian Church, Christchurch* posted on <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/>
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PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING and INTERCESSION

~ Written by **John**, posted on <https://sacredise.com/> Adapted. Used with permission.

AND WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

SENDING HYMN: VU #242 “Let All Things Now Living”

Verse 1

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
 who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days.
 God’s banners are o’er us, pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
 till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, as forward we travel from light into Light.

Verse 2: By law God enforces, the stars in their courses and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
 the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
 We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration a song let us raise;
 till all things now living unite in thanksgiving, to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

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CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US

COMMISSIONING and BLESSING (*Responsive*)

God is renewing and reshaping the church.

God is renewing the world through those who live as witnesses of hope.

Jesus, we will go out into the world to plant seeds of hope.

May the God of all peoples, languages and nations,
 guide you along the way of love, justice and hospitality.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the fresh winds of the Spirit move us in the new
 directions we need to take!

~ Author unknown. Posted on <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/>. Used with permission.

CHORAL AMEN:

MEW: Three-fold Amen

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 OCTOBER 01, 2023

NEW

CARE HOME SERVICES: Exciting news! We are resuming our services at Westview Health Care Centre and Whispering Waters starting on Wed. Oct 4 at 6:30 pm and 7:15 pm respectively.. Everyone is welcome to come to the services and perhaps visit with some friends who now reside in one of those homes. **CHOIR:** We will meet first at Whispering Waters at 7:15 instead of coming to the Church. After the service, we will come to the Church for the balance of our practice time.

CHOIR: CHRISTMAS CANTATA: We will start rehearsing for the Cantata on Wed. Oct 11. Practices will be every Wednesday from 7 pm to 8 pm. You don't have to be a regular choir member to sing in the Cantata. This is a short-term commitment (until Dec 17), so might appeal to those of you who like to sing, but don't want a long-term obligation. We will have practice CD's available so you don't have to be able to read music to sing with us. Everyone is welcome to join us. This year's Cantata is "Joy! A Gospel Christmas Celebration" by Joel Raney and looks like it will be lots of fun to learn and share with our congregations and community!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: The Congregational Care Committee will meet Thurs. October 12 at 2:00 pm at Stony Plain United Church.

REMINDERS

.SEPT 30 NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION": The Town of Stony Plain invites the community to come together in their "Walking Together for Truth and Reconciliation" event on Sat. Sept 30 from 9:30 – 12:30 at Heritage Park, with registration at 9 am. The 1.5 km walk will be followed by a free feast and a time of fellowship. Everyone is encouraged to wear orange shirts. Garry and Meredith plan to walk and invite others to join them. The United Church strongly supports our collective journey toward healing and reconciliation. Walking side by side with our Indigenous neighbours is a great way to demonstrate this commitment!

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS: Copies of the Board Highlights from the Official Board meeting on Sept 14 are on the table outside the Sanctuary

For up-coming meetings, please see the calendar below.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

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

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Wed. Oct 4 | 1:30 pm UCW Meeting |
| Wed. Oct 4 | Care Home Services: Westview 6:30 pm; Whispering Waters 7:15 pm |
| Thurs. Oct 12 | 2:00 pm Congregational Care Meeting |