

STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
MARCH 17, 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
Mailing Address: Box 3196, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1C2
Phone: 780 963-4745 Email: stonyuc@telus.net
Reverend Deborah M. Hoekstra Cell: 780 983-2148
WELCOME to our service this morning!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS
FOR BOTH MEWASSIN AND THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH
WILL BE HELD TODAY AFTER CHURCH

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Written by Nancy C. Townley, and posted on the Ministry Matters website. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/> Adapted.
Used with permission.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

HYMN: MV #194 "Bread of Life, Feed My Soul" verses 3, 4 & 5

Verse 3

Bread of life, help me live a life as pure and true as Jesus did.
Bread of life, help me see the boundless love of Christ for you and me.

Verse 4: I have heard your voice calling, "Come, my friend, and share
in the feast that is laid out for you to show how much I care."

Verse 5: Bread of life, feed my soul, as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.
Bread of life, fill my heart with the grace and mercy you impart.

Words and Music: Stephen Spencer, 2005; Arrangement: Rick Gunn, 2005 Words and music copyright © 2005 by Stephen Spencer. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

GATHERING PRAYER

Written by Christine Longhurst. Posted on re:Worship 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.

<h2>AND LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES</h2>
--

GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir "Here at This Table"

Words by Nancy Price and Don Besig; Music by Don Besig

THEME TIME

HYMN: VU #341 "Fairest Lord Jesus"

Verse 1: Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down:
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honour, Thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Verse 2: Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, who makes the troubled heart to sing.

Verse 3: Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and fair the twinkling, starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels heaven can boast.

Verse 4: All fairest beauty heavenly and earthly, wondrously, Jesus, is found in thee;
None can be nearer, fairer or dearer than thou, my Saviour, art to me.

Words: from the German 1677, Music: Silesian folk melody in Schlesische Volkslieder 1842. Public Domain.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Written by Cheryl Dillon. **Gathering** Lent/Easter 2024 (*Year B*) page 35. Adapted. Used with permission.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and are used by permission. All rights reserved

RESPONSIVE PSALM: VU page 776 Refrain 2 Psalm 51:1-12

Refrain 2: In the abundance of your compassion, wash my sins away.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your kindness,
in the fullness of your mercy blot out my offences.

Wash away all my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is always before me.

Refrain: In the abundance of your compassion, wash my sins away.

Against you, you only, have I sinned, and done evil in your sight,

So that you are justified in your sentence, and blameless in your judgement.

Guilty I have been from my birth, a sinner from the time of my conception.

But you desire truth in our inward being,

therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean,
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.
 Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness,
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
 Turn away your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

Refrain: In the abundance of your compassion, wash my sins away.

Put a new heart in me, O God,
and give me again a constant spirit.
 Do not cast me away from your presence,
do not take your holy spirit from me.
 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and strengthen me with a willing spirit.
Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
 O God, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Refrain: In the abundance of your compassion, wash my sins away.

You desire no sacrifice, or I would give it;
You take no delight in burnt offerings.
 The sacrifice you accept, O God, is a broken spirit;
A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Refrain: In the abundance of your compassion, wash my sins away.

Words: Public Domain; Music Mount Angel Abbey 1976. Music copyright © Benedictine Fathers, Mount Angel Abbey

READING FROM THE GOSPELS: John 12: 20-33

REFLECTION by Rev. Deborah Hoekstra “Such a Tiny Thing”

HYMN: VU #660 “How Firm a Foundation”

Verse 1

How firm a foundation, you servants of God, is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
 What more can be said than to you has been said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Verse 2

“Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed! For I am your God and will still give you aid;
 I'll strengthen and help you and cause you to stand, upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.

Verse 3

“When through the deep waters I call you to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
 for I will be with you, your troubles to bless, and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

Verse 4:

“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:
 the flame shall not hurt you; I only design your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.

Verse 5

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose I will not – I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake, I’ll never – no, never – no, never forsake!”

Words: “K” in John Rippon’s “A Selection of Hymns” 1787, alt. Music: Welsh folk melody, arr. John Roberts (Henllan) in Caniadau Y Cyssegr 1839. Public Domain.

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

MISSION AND SERVICE STORY

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY: VU #581 “When We Are Living” Verse 2

Through all our living, we our fruits must give. Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving, we belong to God, we belong to God.

Translated by Elise S. Eslinger and George Lockwood. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

DEDICATION OF GIFTS

Written by Rev. Mary Austin and posted on *RevGalBlogPals*. <https://revgalblogpals.org/> Used with permission.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Written by Terri. Posted on RevGalBlogPals **A Place for Prayer**. <http://revgalprayerpals.blogspot.ca/>
Used with permission.

AND WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

SENDING HYMN: VU #580 “Faith of Our Fathers”

Verse 1

Faith of our fathers, living still in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy, whene’er we hear that glorious word:
faith our fathers, holy faith, we will be true to you till death.

Verse 2: Faith of our mothers, daring faith, your work for Christ is love revealed,
spreading God’s word from pole to pole, making love known and freedom real:
faith of our mothers, holy faith, we will be true to you till death.

Verse 3: Faith of our sisters, brothers too, who still must bear oppression’s might,
raising on high, in prisons dark, the cross of Christ still burning bright:
faith for today, O living faith, we will be true to you till death.

Verse 4: Faith born of God, O call us yet; bind us with all who follow you,
sharing the struggle of your cross until the world is made anew.
Faith born of God, O living faith, we will be true to you till death.

Words V1 Frederick W. Faber 1849, VV 2-4 Joseph R. Alfred 1981 alt.; Music Henri Fredick Henry 1864. Words v. 1 Public Domain. Words vv.2-4 @1981 Joseph R. Alfred. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663.

CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US

COMMISSIONING

Written by Tim Graves and posted on **LiturgyBits**. <https://liturgybits.wordpress.com> Used with permission.

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE:**MV #115 “Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New” (2x)**

Behold, behold, I make all things new, beginning with you and starting from today.

Behold, behold, I make all things new, my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.

REPEAT

Words and Music: John L. Bell 1995. Words and Music copyright © 1995 by WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland.
Admin GIA Publications Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS:

Community of Faith: Sunday, March 17, right after Church

Mewassin U. C.: Sunday, March 17 after Mewassin’s service

Stony Plain U. C.: April 21, right after Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS MARCH 17, 2024

UPDATE: LIVE MUSIC & CHOCOLATE FRIDAY, APRIL 19: CATERING SERVICES at SPUC presents...An EVENING of LIVE MUSIC and CHOCOLATE! Friday, April 19 2024 at SPUC will be an enchanting evening of more than 8 performances by talented, local musicians entertaining with a variety of musical genres, while you enjoy an array of treats and desserts from a chocolate buffet in your ‘dress to impress’ finery! Tickets are available online on eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/an-evening-of-live-music-and-chocolate-tickets-854832766817?aff=oddtcreator>
or from the SPUC office during the week. **Only 75 tickets will be available.** Doors Open 5:30 Pm; Music Starts 6:00 Pm; Chocolate Buffet Opens 6:15 Pm. **This is a 13+ Event. Tickets 16 + are \$35; 13-15 are \$20** We look forward to seeing you!!!

UPDATE ON LENTEN PROJECT: Reminder that both churches are collecting food items for the Parkland Food Bank during Lent. Copies of the collection information are on the table outside the Sanctuary. Thank-you for your generosity. **This week’s recipe: Deborah’s Boston Brown Bread. This week’s Food Bank Donation: Snacks – cookies, muffin mixes, etc. NOTE: Although this is the last “official” Sunday for donations, you may still bring items in until Easter Sunday (March 31).**

BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES: Thursday night Bible Study on Zoom continues with the Study “The Final Week/Holy Week”. Dates: Feb 8, 15, 22, March 7, 14 & 21.

PRINTS AVAILABLE: Vic Morrison prints of Stony Plain United Church are available: a few of the original church and lots of the new church. There are framed ones for \$25 and unframed prints for \$5. Talk to Ian or Karen Fitzgerald (or Sue in the office).

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukulele Group **Wednesdays, 6:15 pm**
Choir **Wednesdays, 7 pm**
Card Recreators: **Thursdays, 10 am**
Bible Study: **Thursdays, 7 – 8 pm on Zoom until Mar 21.**

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Fri. Mar 15 **Deadline to order Purdy's Chocolates for Easter!**
Sun. Mar 17 **Mewassin AGM after their Service**
 Community of Faith AGM after Stony Service
Friday April 19 **Live Music & Chocolate Night**
Sunday Apr 21 **Stony Plain AGM after church**

2024 LENTEN JOURNEY – Nourishing our Soul **Week 5 Recognizing Hunger**

"When the soul is starved for nourishment, it lets us know with feelings of emptiness, anxiety, or yearning". It is during these times that we need to remember that Christ is near. Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." (John 6:35) Our souls crave to be nourished, not just an occasional taste of peace, but we need to remember to feed our souls on a regular basis; it's the only way to deepen our spiritual life.

DEBORAH'S BOSTON BROWN BREAD

Ingredients

3/4 cup (78g) pumpernickel flour* *Also known as whole rye flour

- 3/4 cup (106g) yellow cornmeal
- 3/4 cup (85g) white whole wheat flour
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 teaspoon table salt
- 3/4 cup (106g) currants or raisins
- 1 1/2 cups (340g) buttermilk
- 1/2 cup (170g) molasses

Directions

1. If baking the bread, preheat the oven to 325°F; no need to preheat the oven if you choose to steam the bread on the stovetop.
2. Lightly grease an 8 1/2" x 4 1/2" loaf pan or a 10-cup Bundt pan.
3. **To make the bread:** In a medium-size bowl, whisk together the pumpernickel flour, cornmeal, whole wheat flour, baking soda, salt, and currants or raisins.
4. In a separate small bowl, beat together the buttermilk and molasses until smooth.
5. Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and mix until just combined; there's no need to beat the batter.

6. Spoon the batter into your chosen pan, and cover the pan with buttered aluminum foil, fastening the foil tight to the edges of the pan (so the bread will steam a bit), but ballooning it in the center, so the bread has room to expand without hitting the foil.

7. **To bake in the oven:** Bake the bread in the preheated oven for 1 hour. Remove the foil (the middle of the loaf may be slightly sunken; that's OK), and bake for an additional 10 minutes. The bread is done when a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, or with a few moist crumbs clinging to it.

8. **To steam the bread:** Secure the foil cover with a rubber band. Place a steamer insert (or some crumpled aluminum foil) in the bottom of a deep kettle; you want to shield your Bundt or loaf pan from resting on the bottom of the kettle. Place the pan into the kettle, atop the insert or foil. The kettle should be deep enough so its lid can cover the pan with a bit of room to spare.

Fill the kettle with boiling water two-thirds of the way up the pan. Bring the water back to a boil, lower it to a simmer, then place the lid on the kettle. Steam for about 2 hours, adding water if necessary. The bread is done when a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, or with a few moist crumbs clinging to it.

9. Remove the bread from the kettle or the oven, and let it cool in the pan for about 10 minutes before turning it out of the pan onto a rack to cool completely.

(Storage instructions: Store leftover bread, well wrapped, in the refrigerator for up to five days; freeze for longer storage.)