

STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
MAY 05, 2024

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

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsive*)

We gather to worship the One who crafted creation out of chaos,
our cries of joy join the anthems of the universe.

We gather to lift our praise to the God who gives us voice,
we bring the songs which have echoed in our hearts all week long.

We gather as the children of God, our joy unbroken in God's love.

young and old, tone deaf and perfect-pitched, lift the new, new songs of faith.

~Written by Thom Shuman, and posted on his [Lectionary Liturgies](#) Used with permission.

GATHERING PRAYER

From *Friends of God: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday of Easter*, written by the Rev. Susan A. Blain. Posted on the United Church of Christ's [Worship Ways](#) archive. Used with permission.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Posted on cloudfront.net. Used with permission.

HYMN: VU #688 "O Day of God, Draw Nigh"

Verse 1

O day of God, draw nigh in beauty and in power,
come with your timeless judgement now to match our present hour.

Verse 2: Bring to our troubled minds, uncertain and afraid,
the quiet of a steadfast faith, calm of a call obeyed.

Verse 3: Bring justice to our land, that all may dwell secure,
and finely build for days to come foundations that endure.

Verse 4: Bring to our world of strife your sovereign word of peace,
that war may haunt the earth no more and desolation cease.

Verse 5: O day of God, draw nigh as at creation's birth,
let there be light again, and set your judgements in the earth.

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.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES

GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir "Walk in the Light"

Words: J. Paul Williams; Music: Joseph M. Martin

THEME TIME

HYMN: VU #376 "Spirit of the Living God"

Verse 1:

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Verse 2: Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

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PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

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A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS: Acts 10:44-48

GOSPEL LESSON: John 15: 9 - 17

REFLECTION: "Taking It One Step Further" Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra (Recorded)

MISSION AND SERVICE STORY: DECLARATION OF RED DRESS DAY – Observed yearly on May 5th ~ Written by Rev. Susan Luckey. High River United Church. Used with permission.

PRAYER TO END RACISM

~ From the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia. Posted on the **Social Justice Resource Center** website. <https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/prayers/racism/> Used with permission.

HYMN: VU #194 “Filled with the Spirit’s Power”**Verse 1**

Filled with the Spirit’s power, with one accord
 The infant church confessed its risen Lord.
 O Holy Spirit, in the church today
 No less your power of fellowship display.

Verse 2: Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire,
 That unity may be our great desire.
 Give joy and peace; give faith to hear your call,
 And readiness in each to work for all.

Verse 3: Widen our love, good Spirit, to embrace
 With your compassion all the human race.
 Like wind and fire with life among us move,
 Till we are known as Christ’s, and Christian prove.

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THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION**INVITATION TO GIVE****OFFERTORY: VU #539 “God of All Good” Verse 3 (Tune VU #501)**

Maker, whose bounty all creation shows,
 Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live,
 Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows,
 to you with grateful hearts ourselves we give.

~Words: Albert F. Bayly 1962 alt. Music (VU #501) Mary A. Lathbury 1877 By permission of Oxford University Press.
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DEDICATION OF GIFTS (*Unison*)

**God, you are the giver of every good gift. Accept these offerings we pray,
 that through them we may do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with you,
 our Guide, and our God. Amen.**

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 (*Responsive*)

We have sung, we have prayed, we have worshiped together.

Now we go back out into the world.

We came together to build relationships,

relationships with each other, and our relationship with Jesus.

We go out as people who are strengthened by our connections

Ready to love and to serve. Ready to carry God's love to the world.

As you journey through the ups and the downs of the coming week,

let us remember that God, who has invited us into relationship, is always with us.

Go with God, as the people of God.

So be it! Amen!

~ Posted by Rev Gord on his blog, Worship Offerings. <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/> Used with permission.

BLESSING

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #556 "Would You Bless Our Homes and Families" Verse 3

From the homes in which we're nurtured, with the love that shapes us there,
teach us, God, to claim as family every one whose life we share.

And through all that life may offer, may we in your love remain;

may the love we share in families be alive to praise your name.

~ Words by Walter Farquharson 1974; Music by Ron Klusmeier 1974. Words © 1977 Walter Farquharson;
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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 MAY 05, 2024

NEW

BIBLE STUDY: Currently Bible Study is on sabbatical. Another 3 week study will commence on May 30th, 2024 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Keep your eyes and ears open for further information regarding the study. For those of you who have participated in previous Bible studies, the Zoom link remains the same. If you are interested in joining please contact the church office for the Zoom link and study materials closer to the start date.

SUNDAY MAY 12 BBQ AT STONY: The Men's club will be having a "Mother's Day BBQ" after church on Sunday May 12. Please plan to stay for lunch! Burgers, Beans and more!!!

MAY 14, 15: HELPERS WANTED FOR CLEAN-UP: The catering committee is having a deep clean, scrub and inventory of the commercial kitchen, pantry and sub-storage room on Tuesday May 14, and Wednesday May 15. Starting at 9 am, any volunteers, help or company would be appreciated. A delicious hot lunch will be served to the team! Contact the Church Office. Thank you!

MAY 21 CONGREGATIONAL CARE MEETING: The Congregational Care Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 21 at 10:30 am at the Church.

SUNDAY JUNE 9 PICNIC SERVICE AT DEVON: Devon United Church is hosting a picnic service at 10:00 am on June 9, 2024, in Devon at the Lyons' park. Stony Plain and Mewassin United Churches are invited. There will be an informal service in Stony Plain on that day, for those who will not be at the picnic. More details will follow later.

REMINDERS

PASSING ON YOUR CONCERNS: If you know of anyone who would like a visit or needs a card, please call the Church Office (780 963-4745) or email stonyuc@telus.net.

COMMUNITY AND UNITED CHURCH EVENTS

FROM THE TOWN OF STONY PLAIN: We wanted to share some of the exciting upcoming events we have in recognition of Mental Health Week. The Canadian Mental Health Association reminds us of the power of compassion to make a real difference in our lives. Join us for these upcoming events, as we recognize the importance of compassion for ourselves, and the world around us. If you or someone you know is struggling, help is available at. [Supports - Town of Stony Plain](#)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8: 7 – 8:30 PM "Compassion Connects Poetry Reading" at Stony Plain Starbucks, 3011 43 Ave, Stony Plain, AB

FRI DAY, MAY 10: 11:15 am to 12:15 pm "Every Brilliant Thing" A special Mental Health Week Performance at Memorial Composite High School, 50 Westerra Center, Stony Plain, AB

THURSDAY MAY 23 & FRIDAY MAY 24: ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at Spruce Grove Community and Social Development, 414 King Street, Spruce Grove, AB. Information/Registration: sprucegrove.org/CSDPrograms or call 780 962-7618.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukulele Group	Wednesdays, 6:15 pm
Choir	Wednesdays, 7 pm
Card Recreators:	Thursdays, 10 am
Bible Study:	Restart May 30: Thursdays 7 pm on Zoom

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun May 12	SP: BBQ after church
Tues, Wed May 14, 15	SP: Commercial Kitchen Clean Up
Tues. May 21	10:30 am Congregational Care Meeting
Sun. June 9	DEVON – Picnic service 10 am – our churches are invited!