

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
OCTOBER 26, 2025
REFORMATION SUNDAY**

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
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Reverend Deborah M. Hoekstra Cell: 780 983-2148
WELCOME to our service this morning!

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsive*)

Be still!

We come to quiet ourselves in this haven of holiness.

Be still and know . . .

we come to discern the Word which can set us free.

Be still and know that God is

our Hope, our Help, our Refuge, and our Redeemer.

Written by Thom Shuman, and posted on **Lectionary Liturgies**. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>

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LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

GATHERING PRAYER

Written by the Rev. Dr. Letty Russell and posted on the Presbyterian Promise website. Used with permission.

HYMN: VU #374 “Come and Find the Quiet Centre”

Verse 1

Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed;
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Verse 2: Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, face to face,
Making space without our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
Raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

Verse 3: In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
In the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

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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: "As We Come Together" Words and Music by Stan Pethel

THEME TIME

HYMN: MV #30 "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker"

Verse 1

It's a song of praise to the Maker, the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker, the gray whale sings in the sea,

REFRAIN: And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
And sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

Verse 2: It's a call of life to the Giver when waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver when high tides break on the shore,

REFRAIN

Verse 3: It's a hymn of love to the Lover; the bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover; the summer breeze joins the song,

REFRAIN

Verse 4: It's the chorus of all creation; it's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation; a song the universe sings,

REFRAIN

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PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (*Unison*)

God, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Posted on <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/book-of-worship> Used with permission.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES:

Joel 2:23-32

GOSPEL LESSON:

John 8:31-36

REFLECTION: “Freedom for All” by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra

HYMN: VU #375 (seated) “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

Refrain:

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow thro’ the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, Wind, Wind on the sea.**

Verse 1: You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
Wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.

Verse 2: You swept thro’ the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with their idols and lies,
then you spoke thro’ your prophets to open their eyes.

Verse 3: You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

Verse 4: You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams,
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise.

Refrain:

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow thro’ the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, Wind, Wind on the sea.**

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THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Posted on <https://united-church.ca/worship-liturgical-season/reformation-sunday>. Written by Rev. Ryan Slifka. Used with permission.

INVITATION TO GIVE

Posted on <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning> Used with permission.

OFFERTORY: VU #538 “For the Gift of Creation”

For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

Words and Music by Steve Garnaas-Holmes 1991. Words and music copyright © 1991 Abingdon Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

DEDICATION of GIFTS: (Unison)

Generous God, through your Son, Jesus Christ, you have shown us what it means to love. And you call us to follow Your example— to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. Continue to write your law of love on our hearts. Give us an unwavering passion for justice, and a tenacious faith that will not rest until the hungry are fed, the oppressed find relief, and the outsider finds a welcome. Amen.

Written by Christine Longhurst, in *Hunger for Justice: World Food Day 2016*, posted on <http://foodgrainsbank.ca/product/world-food-day-2016-hunger-for-justice/> Used with permission.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD
SENDING HYMN: VU #422 “God Be With You Till We Meet Again”**Verse 1**

God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd’s care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.

REFRAIN:

**Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus’ feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.**

Verse 2: God be with you till we meet again; unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again.

REFRAIN

Verse 3: God be with you till we meet again; when life’s perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you; God be with you till we meet again.

REFRAIN

Verse 4: God be with you till we meet again; keep love’s banner floating o’er you,
smite death’s threatening wave before you; God be with you till we meet again.

REFRAIN

Words: Jeremiah E. Rankin 1880, alt. Music: William G. Tomer 1880. Public Domain

CARRYING THE CHRIST LIGHT WITH US**COMMISSIONING (Responsive)**

For all that God can do within us, for all that God can do without us,

Thanks be to God!

For all in whom Christ lived before us, for all in whom Christ lives beside us,

Thanks be to God!

For all the Spirit wants to bring us, for where the Spirit wants to send us,

Thanks be to God!

from *Common Prayer: From Conflict to Communion. Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017*. Written by the Liturgical Task Force of the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity. Posted on <https://re-worship.blogspot.com>. Used with permission.

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #646 “We Are Marching” (3X English, South African - Zulu, 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 20th century. Trans. And Arr. Anders Nyberg. Copyright © 1984 Walton Music Corporation. All rights reserved. Reprinted under one License #A-718663.

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS OCTOBER 26, 2025**NEW**

CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH: Take a moment before October ends to express appreciation for those who offer leadership in your community of faith!

“FALL BACK” TIME CHANGE NOV 2: **Not this weekend, but the one after!** The fall time change occurs at 2 am Sunday, Nov 2, so on Sat evening (Nov 1), please turn your clocks **back one hour**.

WED. NOV 5 1:30 PM: Rev. Sharon McRann will speak and show slides about Nicaragua: the country, schools, farming, and more, during her social ministry experience there. All ladies are welcome.

WED. NOV 5 7:15 PM: We will go to Whispering Waters on Wed Nov. 5 for our monthly Communion Service at 7:15 pm. If you can help, please contact the Church Office. Everyone is welcome and we always enjoy visiting with our friends there.

SUN NOV 16 LUNCH SUNDAY: We will have lunch on Sunday, Nov 16 after church at Stony. If you can help, please talk to Erna Brandon.

REMINDERS

REHOBOTH FALL CAMPAIGN:

Rehoboth's fall edition of *Flourish* has arrived, and **October** is Rehoboth's Annual Donation Drive to become a **Friend of Rehoboth!** While reading the newsletter at www.rcmflourish.ca (or picking up a hard copy at the church), we welcome your prayerful consideration to partner with our ministry in supporting persons with developmental disabilities. Donations of any size are appreciated and helps us grow our reach. Look for the **Friends of Rehoboth** envelope on the table in the Narthex.

Alternatively, a digital online submission is available through

<https://www.rcmflourish.ca/donate/donation-form/>

CANTATA PRACTICE: You can still join the Cantata Choir! Practices are Wednesdays from 7 to 8 pm. All are welcome.

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

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukuleles & Choir:

Ukes 6:15, Cantata 7 pm; Choir 8 pm

Card Recreators:

Thursdays, 10 am

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun. Nov 2

2 am Fall Time Change – back one hour

Wed. Nov. 5

1:30 pm UCW Meeting

Sun. Nov 16

Lunch Sunday at SP after church