# STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
# NOVEMBER 30, 2025
# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**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!**

*Thank-you to our Presiders this morning.*
*We also thank Rev. Deborah for preparing today's service.*
*She is in person at Devon U. C. this morning.*

**Thank-you to the Men's Club for Breakfast this morning!**

**HYMN SING**

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY**

**CHOIR: "Light of Light"**
Words: Joel Raney; Music: Coventry Carol setting & additional Music by Joel Raney
*(Music Continues)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** ***(Responsive)***
Advent is a time of reflection and renewal.
**God of light, shine in our hearts and renew our hope.**
Advent is a time of self-examination.
**God of light, shine in our hearts and strengthen our resolve.**
Advent is a time of joyful expectation.
**God of light, shine in hearts and renew our faith.**
Advent is a time of service and searching.
**God of light, shine in our hearts and ignite our compassion.**

**THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE IS LIT –** ***THE CANDLE OF HOPE***

**CHORAL RESPONSE: Choir & Congregation "Light of Light"**
Voices cry out from a world in grief:
Prayers of those who seek relief.

End their darkness, hear their call
For peace on earth, good will for all.

~` Words & Setting by Joel Raney; © 2019 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

**OPENING PRAYER (Unison)**
**God, during this season of Advent, fill us with your Enduring Vision of a Peaceful Kin-dom. Help us celebrate the birth of the Christ child and the lives of all children as we commit to creating a place of peace and caring compassion for all people of the world. Open our hearts and minds in the weeks ahead to the joy and delight of a new heaven and a new earth that Jesus brings into our human reality. Amen.**

**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 "Until He Comes"**
Words: Jack Green based on Hosea 10:12; Music by Jim Ailor

**THEME TIME**

**HYMN: VU #253 "Sing Your Joy"**
**Verse 1:**
Sing your joy, proclaim God's glory!
Rise and sing, the morning has come!
Bless our God and praise all creation;
song of the earth, and light from heaven; God is alive! Hallelujah!

**Verse 2:** All the earth is filled with rejoicing,
light and life, the wonder of God!
Christ has triumphed! Risen for ever!
Joy of our hearts, and hope of our dreaming; God is alive! Hallelujah!

**Verse 3:** May we learn to become your kingdom,
may we be your kindness and truth!
Love is our calling, gift of your presence,
children of God, and spirit of Jesus: God is alive! Hallelujah!

**Verse 4:** Light our way, O God of the living,
may we learn to see with new eyes!
Jesus the Lord, our power and promise;
light for the blind, and food for the hungry. God is alive! Hallelujah!

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**SHARING THE PEACE**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**
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**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**
**FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 2:1-5**
**GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 24:36-44**

**REFLECTION: "Finding Hope Amidst Chaos"** by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra
*(Recorded)*

**HYMN: VU #713 "I See a New Heaven"**
**REFRAIN:**
**I see a new heaven. I see a new earth as the old one will pass away,**
**Where the fountain of life flows and without price goes**
**To all people who abide in the land.**

**Verse 1:** There, there on the banks of a river bright and free,
Yielding her fruit, firm in her root, the Tree of Life will be.

**REFRAIN: I see a new heaven. I see a new earth as the old one will pass away,**
**Where the fountain of life flows and without price goes**
**To all people who abide in the land.**

**Verse 2:** There, there where death dies and our lives are born again,
Body and soul, struggling but whole like flowers after the rain.

**REFRAIN:**
**I see a new heaven. I see a new earth as the old one will pass away,**
**Where the fountain of life flows and without price goes**
**To all people who abide in the land.**

**Verse 3:** There, there where the darkness brings visions from above.
There where the night, bearing new light, reveals the promise of love.

**REFRAIN: I see a new heaven. I see a new earth as the old one will pass away,**
**Where the fountain of life flows and without price goes**
**To all people who abide in the land.**

**Verse 4:** There, there where we work with love of healing hands.
Labour we must, true to our trust to build a promised new land.
**REFRAIN: I see a new heaven. I see a new earth as the old one will pass away,**
**Where the fountain of life flows and without price goes**
**To all people who abide in the land.**

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## THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

**MISSION AND SERVICE STORY**

**INVITATION TO GIVE**

**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)***
**Hope-filled God, we offer not only financial gifts, but our commitment to serve in your name. We long to use our skills and abilities in ways that glorify you. We seek to share words that tell the Good News. We dedicate to you the fullness of who we are, as we present our offering. Praise be to you, Gracious God. Amen.**
Written by Laura J. Turnbull. *Gathering*, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2022/2023, page 31. Used with permission.

## WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

**CLOSING HYMN: VU #5 "All Earth is Waiting"**
**Verse 1**
All earth is waiting to see the Promised One, and open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

**Verse 2:** Thus says the prophet to those of Israel, "A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel."
One whose name is "God with us," our Saviour shall be,
through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

**Verse 3:** Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,
open new highways, new highways for our God,
who is now coming closer, so come all and see, and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

**Verse 4:** In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.
Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now; again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

Words: Catalonian, Alberto Taulé 1972, English trans. Gertrude C. Suppe 1987, alt. Music Alberto Taulé 1972, harm. Skinner Chavez-Melo 1988. Words and music copyright © 1993 Centro de Pastoral Liturgica. Translation copyright ©1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

**CLOSING PRAYER** ***(Unison)***
**God of light, we pray today that you will fill us with hopeful expectation, and that you will cause us to become your children of light. Help us to spread your light into the world around us. Help to recognize our opportunities to brighten the lives of others. Help us to live each day as beacons of love filled with joy, peace, and hope. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

**SUNG RESPONSE: VU #507 "Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples" Verse 1**

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,
To help to set the captive free, make ploughshare out of sword,
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,
To serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

~Words H. Kenn Carmichael 1985. Music: English traditional melody arr. Arthur Seymour Sullivan 1874. Words Copyright © 1989 H. Kenn Carmichael All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

**MUSICAL POSTLUDE**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS NOVEMBER 30, 2025

**NEW OR REVISED**

**CARD RECREATORS TAKING A BREAK:** Thurs. Nov 27 was the last meeting of the Card Recreators until Jan. 8, 2026. They will not meet in December, but you can still buy cards!

**MEW: NOV 30, DEC 7:** We will be supporting the Wabamun Christmas Hamper program again this year. Please bring non-perishable food items or gift cards to the church on November 30 and December 7 if you wish to contribute.

**WED DEC 3 WHISPERING WATERS COMMUNION SERVICE:** We will be having our monthly service at Whispering Waters on Wed. Dec 3 at 7:15 pm. The Choir will be performing a few numbers from the Cantata. Cantata choir members are to go directly to Whispering Waters rather than the church. All are welcome – we enjoy visiting with our many friends there!

**MEW: SAT DEC 6 AT 5:00 PM:** Mark Sat. December 6 at 5:00 p.m. on your calendars for a special Family Christmas Gathering at the church. There will be a pizza supper, carolling, a movie and maybe some games and crafts. We sure hope you can join Sunday School. All are welcome. Please let Sunday School know if you are able to attend. We'd love to have you join us.

**SUN DEC 7 AT 2 PM AT DEVON UC:** Our Cantata Choir will be presenting our Cantata "Glory to the Newborn King!" at Devon United Church on Sunday, Dec 7 at 2 pm. All are welcome! For those of you who can't attend the Dec 14 Dinner and Cantata performance at Stony, here's your chance to enjoy the concert!

**SUN DEC 21 STONY PLAIN SUNDAY SCHOOL:** During church at Stony Plain on Sunday Dec 21, Sunday School will be doing its Christmas Presentation. There will be coffee after the service, thanks to our Sunday School group!

**MEWASSIN:** Sadly, there will be no formal Christmas concert this year due to lack of kids. Sunday School will be part of the Christmas Eve service though, so you will still see us telling the Christmas story in one way or another (we are still working on planning this).

## REMINDERS

**WHITE GIFT SUNDAYS NOV 30 AND DEC 7:** Stony Plain and Mewassin are having "White Gift Sundays" on the first 2 Sundays of Advent, Nov. 30 and Dec. 7. Stony Plain will be collecting warm weather clothing (Mitts, socks, toques, etc.) and Mewassin is collecting socks (any kind – kids', women's, men's). Donations will go to Parenting for the Future.

**WED. DEC 3: UCW CHRISTMAS MEETING.** On Dec 3 at 12:00 noon we will share Chinese food. All ladies are welcome. If you plan to attend, let the church office know.

**ADVENT DINNER AND CHOIR CANTATA SUNDAY, DEC 14:** Tickets are now available at the Church Office for this year's Christmas Cantata and Advent Supper on Sunday, Dec. 14. General admission: $27.00; Children 6 to 11: $13.00 and Children 5 & under: Free. Dinner starts at 5:00 pm (doors open at 4:30) and will include Ham, Scalloped Potatoes and all the trimmings. The musical portion of the evening starts with Carol Singing and Special Music at 6:30 followed by the Cantata, "Glory to the Newborn King!" by Lloyd Larson.at 7:00 pm. Plan to stay afterward for fellowship, coffee and dessert As always, we depend on volunteers to make the dinner a success –there will be Sign Up sheets in the atrium for donations of grocery items and/or your time.

**GIFTS WITH VISION, LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE:** There are brochures on the table outside the sanctuary for "Gifts with Vision" (United Church of Canada) and the annual "Light Up Your Life" campaign (supporting local Palliative Care, Hospice, and Continuing Care)

**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.

## NEWS FROM MEWASSIN

- **Sunday School** will again be doing the **Advent candle lightings**. Advent starts on November 30, 2025.
- **White Gift Sundays will be November 30 and December 7**. Our clothesline will be hanging up for collection of socks for Parenting for the Future. Socks of any kind are needed – kids, women and men
- **Nov 30, Dec 7 for Wabamun**: Please bring non-perishable food items or gift cards to contribute to the Wabamun Christmas Hamper.
- **Sat Dec 6 at 5 pm:** Family Christmas Gathering (see details under "New or Revised")
- The annual **Christmas Brunch** will take place on **December 7** (2nd Sunday in Advent ) immediately following the service. Rev. Deborah will be staying with us for the morning. Please contribute by bringing a pot-luck food item.
- Next **Coffee Sunday is December 21.**
- Our **Christmas Eve Service is Sunday, December 24 at 4:30 p.m**.
- There will be **no service at Mewassin on December 28**. All are welcome to join in Stony's service at 10:30 a.m.
- Next **Communion date is January 11/26**

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

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| **Ukuleles & Choir:** | **Ukes 6:15, Cantata 7 pm; Choir 8 pm** |
| **Card Recreators:** | **Thursdays, 10 am (Thurs. Nov 27 last meeting this year! Will resume Jan 8, 2026)** |

## MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

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|---|---|
| **Sun Nov 30, Dec 7** | **SP & MEW: White Gift Sundays** |
| **Sun Nov 30, Dec 7** | **MEW: collecting non-perishable food/gift cards for Wabamun Food Hamper** |
| **Wed Dec 3** | **SP: 12 Noon UCW Christmas Lunch/Meeting** |
| **Wed Dec 3** | **7:15 PM Whispering Waters Communion Service** |
| **Sat Dec 6** | **MEW: 5:00 pm - Family Christmas Gathering** |
| **Sun Dec 7** | **MEW: Annual Christmas Brunch after church** |
| **Sun Dec 7** | **2 pm at Devon United Church – Our Choir will present the Cantata** |
| **Sun Dec 14** | **Advent Dinner & Choir Cantata (at SPUC) - Doors open 4:30 pm** |
| **Sun Dec 21** | **MEW: Coffee Sunday** |
| **Sun Dec 21** | **SP: Sunday School Christmas Presentation during church – coffee to follow** |

**EVENTS AT OTHER NORTHERN SPIRIT REGION CHURCHES:** (see posters on bulletin board)

- **Fri. Dec 5, Sat. Dec 6 Pilgrim United Church** 9008 15 Ave. Edmonton **Christmas Market** Fri 10 am to 6 pm; Sat 10 am to 4 pm
- **Sat. Dec 6 St. Andrew's United Church:** 1A Fieldstone Drive, Spruce Grove, **Christmas Market** 10 am to 2 pm. 25 vendors on site including holiday baking, second hand books and unique one-of-a-kind gifts.