

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
JANUARY 11, 2026
BAPTISM OF JESUS SUNDAY**

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church

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WELCOME to our service this morning!

Please stay for lunch after the service today!

A United Church of Canada Historical Moment

: "In 1941, Wilbur Howard became the first black to be ordained by the United Church of Canada. Unlike others, he was not settled in a congregation until 1965, instead working in other church positions. In 1974, Wilbur Howard was elected as the first black Moderator of the national church."

- Gayle Simonson

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WE GATHER TOGETHER BEFORE GOD

on traditional territory of Treaty Six Peoples and of the Métis Nation

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

The heavens open. The Spirit descends.

Jesus emerges from the water.

And a voice echoes through the blue expanse.

"This is my child, the Beloved, with whom I am well-pleased."

Jesus is named. Claimed.

We come to the water. We remember we are named. Claimed.

Can it be so? What a thing to be named. Claimed.

Let us worship the one who names and claims us still.

Written by Caela Wood, Pastor, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Manhattan, Kansas. Used with permission.

GATHERING PRAYER

Posted on <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/baptism-of-christ-a-january-11> Adapted. Used with permission.

HYMN: MV #6 "Holy Spirit, Come into Our Lives"

REFRAIN: Holy Spirit, come into our lives. Holy Spirit, make us truly wise.

Verse 1: Give us a spirit of wisdom, an understanding heart.

Give us a spirit of knowledge, and lead us to the truth.

REFRAIN: Holy Spirit, come into our lives. Holy Spirit, make us truly wise.

Verse 2: Give us a spirit of courage, and judgement that is wise.

Give us a spirit of rev'rence, of wonder and of awe.

REFRAIN: **Holy Spirit, come into our lives. Holy Spirit, make us truly wise.**

Verse 3: Spirit of love and compassion, give hope to all the poor.

Spirit of justice and mercy, come open ev'ry door.

REFRAIN: **Holy Spirit, come into our lives. Holy Spirit, make us truly wise.**

Verse 4: Spirit of all consolation, O lift our hearts this day.

Spirit of all understanding, O help us know your way.

REFRAIN: **Holy Spirit, come into our lives. Holy Spirit, make us truly wise.**

Verse 5: Spirit of light and of wisdom, O lift us from our sorrow.

Spirit of peace and forgiveness, O help us face tomorrow.

REFRAIN: **Holy Spirit, come into our lives. Holy Spirit, make us truly wise.**

Verse 6: Spirit of strength and of healing, bend stubborn hearts and will.

Spirit of trust and of caring, O melt us, warm our chill.

REFRAIN: **Holy Spirit, come into our lives. Holy Spirit, make us truly wise.**

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LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (*Responsive*)

In this season of Light, we light this candle to remind us of God's light shining in the darkness

May we carry this light of hope, peace, and justice to the world around us everyday.

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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: "In the Bread Broken"

Words & Music by Mary Kay Beall

THEME TIME

HYMN: VU #644 "I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"

Verse 1

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

Verse 2: I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

Verse 3: When you heard the wonder of the word, I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.

Verse 4: If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

Verse 5: In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.

Verse 6: When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

Verse 7: I was there to hear your burning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

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SCRIPTURE READINGS

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READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: **Isaiah 42:1-9**

READING FROM THE GOSPELS: **Matthew 3:13-17**

REFLECTION: “Ready to Serve God” by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra

HYMN: MV #135 (seated) “Called by Earth and Sky”

REFRAIN:

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.

This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified, called by earth and sky.

Verse 1: Precious these waters, endless seas, deep ocean's dream,
water of healing, rivers of rain, the wash of love again.

REFRAIN

Verse 2: Precious this gift, the air we breathe; wind born and free.

Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place, our gathering and our grace.

REFRAIN: Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.

This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified, called by earth and sky.

Verse 3: Precious these mountains, ancient sands; vast fragile land.

Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong, Creation's faithful song.

REFRAIN

Verse 4: Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone, our faith and justice one.

LAST REFRAIN: Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky, called by earth and sky

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THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

INVITATION TO GIVE

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OFFERTORY: VU #537 “Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands”

Verse 1: Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.

Verse 2: Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make:
be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.

~ Words: Calvin Weiss Laufer 1927, alt. Music Neil Dougall ca. 1831. Public Domain

DEDICATION OF GIFTS (*Unison*)

We give these gifts freely, We receive these gifts gratefully,
We dedicate these gifts to the work of our congregation:
serving human wholeness, caring for our planet, upholding religious freedom, welcoming the
stranger, loving one another. Amen.

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SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Responsive)

May the God of glory be with you!

And also with you!

People of God, offer your hearts to God.

We give them to the One who comes to redeem us.

Sing songs of praise and joy, Children of God.

We lift our voices to the One who journeys with us through the waters of baptism,
and who feeds us at the Table of hope.

With the water of baptism reminding us of your love for us, (*one voice continues*)

..... we lift our voices in joy and hope:

Holy, holy, holy, Awesome Voice of life and hope.

All creation resounds with your wondrous love.

Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes to be baptized
with water and the Spirit.

Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, (*one voice continues*)

..... God in Community, Holy in One.

Amen.

Posted on <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2024/12/liturgy-wcommunion-for-january-12-2025.html> Used with permission.

BREAKING, POURING, SHARING

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(Hymns during distribution: MV #162 “Christ Within Us Hidden”, VU #466 “Eat This Bread”)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*Unison*)

God who took on flesh in Jesus, we offer thanks for meeting us at this table.

We pray that this encounter with you would feed us in body, mind and soul. May every time we encounter you, you push us to grow into who you would have us be. May we leave this table ready to carry your light and love into the world around us. Amen.

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WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

SENDING HYMN: VU #563 “Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

Verse 1: Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
You only asked me to follow humbly.

REFRAIN: O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
And while smiling, have spoken my name;
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me; By your side I will seek other seas.

Verse 2: You know so well my possessions, my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
You will find there my nets and labour.

REFRAIN

Verse 3: You need my hands, full of caring through my labours to give others rest,
And constant love that keeps on loving.

REFRAIN

Verse 4: You, who have fished other oceans, Ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
My loving friend, as thus you call me.

REFRAIN

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CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

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SUNG RESPONSE: MV #211 “Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light”

Go now in peace, guided by the light of Christ, so you may be nourished by the Word of Life.

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MUSICAL POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS JANUARY 11, 2026

NEW OR REVISED

SERVICE FOR GEORGE McRANN SAT. JAN 31, 2 PM: As most of you know, we were deeply saddened by the passing of George McRann early in December. There will be a Celebration of Life service for George at Stony Plain United Church on Saturday, January 31, at 2 pm. Please continue to keep Sharon and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

REMINDERS

SUNDAY, JAN. 25, 2026 3:30 PM: ENDINGS & BEGINNINGS SERVICE: 'Endings and Beginnings' is a special Worship Service to help people in our congregations and the community who have experienced grief or loss. Through lighting candles, silence, prayers, music and caring, we hope to help each other move from 'Endings' to new 'Beginnings'. If you would like the name of a loved one included in our service this year, please contact the Care Committee, Rev. Deborah or the Church Office at 780-963-4745 or email stonyuc@telus.net before January 23rd.

ANNUAL REPORTS: Yes, it's time to start thinking about the Annual Report and Annual General Meetings (Community of Faith March 9, Stony Plain March 16, Mewassin TBA). All Chairpersons are asked to email their reports to the office, stonyuc@telus.net, by the end of January, 2026, please. Thank-you!

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.

REV DEBORAH'S SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS:

Sun Jan 11, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW. <u>COMMUNION</u>
Sun Jan 18, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW
Sun Jan 25, 2026	Rev. Deborah in Devon – recorded service for us. Mew Presider Lisa Furry; SP Presider Cheryl Watson.
Sun Feb 1, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukuleles & Choir:	Wednesdays: Ukes 6:15, Choir 7:15 pm
Card Recreators:	Thursdays, 10 am

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun. Jan 11	Communion at both churches; SP Lunch Sunday
Sun. Jan 25	3:30 pm Endings and Beginnings Service at Stony Plain UC
Sat. Jan 31	2:00 pm Celebration of Life for George McRann