

STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

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!

*We thank Rev. Sharon McCrann
for preparing and presenting today's Worship Service!*

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*)

Look at the birds of the air;
they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns
and yet God provides for the basic sustenance of life.

May our hearts be open to trust you.

Look at the birds of the air;
they neither study nor plan nor plot their course
and yet God writes the instinct for migration into their hearts.

May our eyes be open to see you.

Look at the birds of the air;
they neither talk nor vote nor debate their responsibility
yet God weaves them into communities which nurture and defend.

May our hands be open to serve you.

~ written by Katherine Hawker

GATHERING PRAYER: (*unison*)

God, Our loads are heavy, with worry, with regret, with fatigue, with illness, with despair for all in the world that is hurting, in danger, in bondage and more. God, lead us to the top of the mountain, where we might be dazzled by your Light, where we will see you, and know you and put our faith in you so as to find hope anew. Amen.

HYMN: VU #291 "All Things Bright and Beautiful" " (Refrain, all verses, Refrain)

REFRAIN:

**All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: in love, God made them all.**

Verse 1: Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours, God made their tiny wings.

Verse 2: The purple-headed mountains, the river running by,
the sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky;

Verse 3: The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden: God made them every one.

Verse 4: The rocky mountain splendour, the lone wolf's haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies, the forest in the fall;

Verse 5: God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God our maker, who has made all things well.

**REFRAIN: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: in love, God made them all**

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander 1848. Music: 17th c. English melody, arr. Martin Shaw 1915. Arr. © 1921 K. Carwen & Sons Ltd. All rights Reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (*Responsive*)

Holy and loving God, As we light the Christ Candle, we remember that Christ is our light in every season.

Light in moments of clarity, and light in moments of confusion.

Light that shines not to blind us, but to guide us.

May this light remind us that no darkness is too deep, no question too big, and no journey walked alone. Amen.

(Light the Christ candle)

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**SP GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir "Dance on the Water"**

Words: Roger Thornhill and David Angerman; Music: David Angerman

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

Words by Ruth Duck, 1992; Music by Ron Klusmeier, 1992. Words copyright © 1992 by GIA Publications Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License A-718663

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (*in unison*)

Living God, help us to hear your Word so that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe; and believing, we may follow your way in all faithfulness, seeking your honour and glory in all that we do. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

From the Gospels: **Matthew 6:24-34**

From the Gospels: **Matthew 17:1-9**

SPECIAL MUSIC: Ensemble “Don’t Worry About Tomorrow”

Words & Music by Pepper Choplin

REFLECTION: “Don’t Worry About Tomorrow” By Rev. Sharon McRann

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!

Words by Shirley Erena Murray. Words copyright © 1992 Hope Publishing Company
 All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

PRAYER FOR GRACE: *(responsive)*

O God, we know that Jesus sent out his disciples without purse, luggage, or sandals. All too often, we find ourselves clinging to possessions we don't need, looking for safety by avoiding risk, worrying and bearing heavy burdens that slow us down. Forgive us for our reluctance to change; and to leave our burdens with you.

Forgive us and heal us, O God.

O God, we confess that we sometimes think you only perform great complicated acts in flashy and dramatic ways. We then fail to see how you are at work in the simple tasks and ordinary experiences of everyday life. Forgive us for our misunderstanding and heal us of our sightlessness.

Forgive us and heal us, O God.

(Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(responsive)*

There is no pain that God cannot heal. There is no wrong that God cannot forgive.
 Come, immerse yourselves in the healing waters of God's forgiveness. Come and be restored.
 Let God make you whole.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

~ from A Harvest of Joy, Healing, and Peace: Service Prayers for the 7th Sunday after Pentecost was written by Rev. Heather A. Moody. Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website.
<http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/> MISSION AND SERVICE - adapted

MISSION AND SERVICE STORY

INVITATION TO GIVE *(responsive)*

With sincere gratitude for all that we have received we offer what we can,
both our monetary gifts, and the gifts God has given us to share.

OFFERTORY: VU #537 "Your Work, O God Needs Many Hands" vs.1 only

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.

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

DEDICATION OF GIFTS *(Unison)*

Knowing that many voices clamour and compete, we pray that the offerings given may become symbolic of our decision to serve one master, one God. Amen.

~ written by Katherine Hawker.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

~ written by Terri (2009) and posted on the RevGalBlogPals website.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

SENDING HYMN: MV #144 “Like a Healing Stream”

Verse 1

Like a healing stream in a barren desert, Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth ... like a healing stream

Verse 2: Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden, Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation,
yearning for an end to want and need ... like a gentle rain.

Verse 3: Like a river strong with a restless current, Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,
calling for an end to hate and war ... like a river strong.

Verse 4: Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons, Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide! Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

Words & music Bruce Harding, © 2003 by Bruce Harding. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US (*Responsive*)

Christ's light of compassion shines in you and in me.

We will fearlessly shine that light, for all to see.

COMMISSIONING

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE: MV #220 “Hope Shines as the Solitary Star”

Hope shines as the solitary star, faith is the inner light.

You and I together mirror the Light of Lights, and illumine the pathway home

Words: Catherine Faith MacLean; Music Janet Bauman Tissandier. Words copyright © Catherine Faith Maclean Music copyright © Janet Bauman Tissandier. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS FEBRUARY 15, 2026

NEW OR REVISED

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 4:00 PM - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: This year's Annual World Day of Prayer service will be held at St. Augustine's – Parkland Anglican Church, 131 Church Road, Spruce Grove on Friday, March 6 at 4:00 pm. This ecumenical worship service is open to everyone and was written and prepared by WDP Nigeria.

PURDY'S EASTER CHOCOLATES: As Easter is early this year, now is the time for our popular fundraiser! Since 1907, Purdy's fine chocolates have been proudly made in Canada, with premium quality ingredients and sustainable cocoa. Get your holiday gifts for your family, friends, neighbours, and co-workers by supporting our church. There are no-sugar and vegan options. Join on-line at Welcome to the Purdy Fundraiser: "Easter Chocolates for Stony Plain United Church" and order at: <https://fundraising.purdys.com/campaign/000024869> Alternatively, you may submit a paper form to the church office.

Place Orders & Pay By: Sunday, March 15, 2026 at the latest.

Pickup: April 2, 2026 (or earlier - you will be notified when the orders arrive)

At: Stony Plain United Church, 5012 – 51 Ave, Stony Plain. Thanks for supporting our church!

REMINDERS

TUESDAY, FEB 17 SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER: Our Men's Group will be preparing it's Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm on Tuesday, Feb. 17. Please come out and enjoy a delicious supper of pancakes, sausages, fruit and beverage. Free Will Donation. All are welcome! Posters are available for you to share with your neighbours!

MARCH 8, MARCH 15 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS: The Community of Faith AGM will be held on Sunday March 8, and Stony Plain United Church's AGM will be on Sunday, March 15. Both meetings will take place right after the morning service.

PARKLAND FOODBANK LETTERS AND INFORMATION: We received a very informative package from the Parkland Food Bank last week, expressing appreciation for donations, and interesting news about their organization. Copies are on the table outside the sanctuary and on the bulletin board. Of interest to some of you is their annual "Coldest Night of the Year" family-friendly winter walk on February 28 at Columbus Park, Spruce Grove. Details available on-line. Thank-you to our congregations for their continued generosity. ***Please note that the Lenten Theme 2026, provided by Mewassin UC, will include donations to the Parkland Food Bank.***

FEB 2-18 DEBORAH AWAY: Rev. Deborah is on Vacation/Study Leave until Feb 18. In case of emergency, you may call her, as she will be staying in town. Otherwise, please leave a message with the church office.

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 Feb 15, 2026	Rev. Deborah on Vacation/Study Leave. Pulpit Supply: Rev. Sharon McRann.
Sun. Feb 22, 2026	Rev. Deborah in Devon – recorded service for us.
Sun. Mar. 1, 2026	COMMUNION Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW
Sun. Mar 8, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW
Sun. Mar 15, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukuleles & Choir:
Card Recreators:

Wednesdays: Ukes 6:00, Choir 7:00 pm
Thursdays, 10 am

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Tues. Feb 17

5 – 6:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Sun. Mar 1

Communion at both churches

Fri. Mar 6

4:00 pm World Day of Prayer at St. Augustine's-Parkland Anglican Church, Spruce Grove

Sun. Mar 8

Community of Faith Annual General Meeting

Sun. Mar 15

Stony Plain United Church Annual General Meeting

Apr. 9-11

Chinook Winds & Northern Spirit Regions Conference & AGM at Providence Renewal Centre, 3005 – 199 St. N.W, Edmonton