

**MEWASSIN UNITED CHURCH
STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
APRIL 3, 2026
GOOD FRIDAY**

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!

Join **Zoom Meeting** via computer (with password) **DO NOT POST ON WEB OR FACEBOOK**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83364019239?pwd=TlEyd2c2aXUra1dDcHdvNlp4Y3Q4UT09>
Zoom teleconference Link info: Meeting ID: 833 6401 9239 Password: 4745
Via phone: +1 587 328 1099 Canada - dial in . +1 587 328 1099 , , 83364019239 - direct

(The Scripture Passages contained within the document are take from the New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicised Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.)

MUSICAL PRELUDE

A Lantern is placed by the Lectern

COMMUNITY WELCOME

LIGHTING THE TENEBRAE CANDLES

PRAYER (Unison) “There is Darkness”

Christ, You are the True Light that shines in the darkness, and I thank You that the darkness can never extinguish Your light. As I gaze upon the cross, I see the immense love and sorrow that flowed from Your hands and feet. Crucified Messiah, let Your sacrifice break the chains of darkness within me and replace them with the light of Your love. Let Your inner light shine through me, that I may be a reflection of Your grace, bringing hope to the broken and peace to the weary. Amen.

HYMN: VU #612 “There Is a Balm in Gilead”

REFRAIN:

**There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul**

Verse 1: Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

REFRAIN

Verse 2: If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus and say, “He died for all.”

REFRAIN

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (*Responsive*)

In the beginning, darkness covered the face of the deep. Then God said,
“Let there be light.”

And there was light. And every day since, the light has come and gone.

The sun has risen and set.

The moon has waxed and waned.

The light is still with us.

In the beginning was the Word, which brought all things into being.

What has come into being through him is life,

the light of all people.

The light shined in the darkness,

and the darkness did not overtake it.

When God made the light, when the light of all people came into the world, God did not send away the dark.

The darkness remains.

God created the night for dreams and clarity,

an exhaling of the light.

Let us enter this holy darkness to bear witness to the light of the world who was extinguished by violence.

Let us worship our Incarnate God.

Posted on <https://sanctifiedart.org/> Used with permission.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE: Luke 22:47-65 SP Reader: Susan Oleskiw

*A Bag of Coins is dropped on a Metal Plate
 A Rooster is placed on the Communion Table*

HYMN: VU #135 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”**Verse 1**

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand:
 the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
 a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
 from the burning of the noontide heat and the burden of the day.

Verse 2: Upon the cross of Jesus my eyes at times can see
 the very dying form of one who suffered there for me;
 and from my smitten heart, with tears, two wonders I confess,
 the wonder of his glorious love, and my unworthiness.

Verse 3: I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;
 I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face,
 content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
 my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.

Words: Elizabeth Cecilia Clephane 1868, Alt. Music Frederick Charles Maker 1881. Public Domain

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE: Luke 23: 13-25 SP Reader Sharon McRann**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Posted on <https://sanctifiedart.org/> Used with permission.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Responsive*)

Holy God, we can easily see ourselves in any number of the people surrounding Jesus in his final days. We are Judas, betraying what we hold most dear for status, wealth, and security. We are the soldiers, using our power to maintain the status quo which serves us. We are the disciples, brandishing our weapons to fight violence with violence, and we are the high priest's servant, victims of a world hell-bent on winning.

Prince of Peace, forgive us.

We are Herod, finding our entertainment at the expense of other people's dignity. We are Pilate, excusing ourselves from the blame that is rightfully ours. We are the crowd, foaming at the mouth and demanding blood, and we are Barabbas, our lives spared while others are crucified.

Prince of Peace, forgive us.

Forgive us, we pray, for the parts we have played. Set us free from the sin that chokes the world, threatening to extinguish all that is good and beautiful.

Break the cycles of violence, step into the machinery of a world fueled by division and disrupt us. Forgive us, Prince of Peace. Kyrie eleison. Have mercy on us.

Amen.

Posted on <https://sanctifiedart.org/> Used with permission.

Crown of Thorns is placed on the Communion Table

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Posted on <https://sanctifiedart.org/> Used with permission.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE: Luke 23: 44-49 SP Reader: Susan Oleskiw

SILENT REFLECTION: *We take a few moments to reflect on all we have heard.*

SP: GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir: "The Day the Cross Held Up the Sky"

Words and Music by Douglas Nolan

MEW: GIFT OF MUSIC: Lisa Furry "Holy Darkness"

Words and Music by Dan Schutte

A POEM: "The Light" by Jadine Lydia

original poem – [@jadinelydia](https://jadinelydia.com) Posted on <https://jadinelydia.com> Used with permission.

*A time of silent reflection as we process forward and place
our nails in the basket at the foot of the cross.*

HYMN: VU #144 "Were You There"

Verse 1: Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Verse 2: Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Verse 3: Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Verse 4: Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Verse 5: Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
 Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
 ~Words African American Spiritual. Public Domain

READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE: Luke 23: 50-53 SP Reader Sharon McRann

TENEBRAE LITURGY 2026

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PRAYER (*Unison*)

O Light of Our World, give us strength to face the things we fear. As we move closer to our own death, with Jesus by our side, let us be the light that your world needs; in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Posted on <https://cookingwithelsa.org> Used with permission.

EXTINGUISHING THE CHRIST CANDLE

PRAYER (*Unison*)

What we contemplate this night is beyond words, beyond understanding. May the Holy Spirit intercede for us and give voice to what, for us, is inexpressible. Amen.

Posted on <https://processandfaith.org>. Used with permission.

EXTINGUISHED CHRIST CANDLE IS HIDDEN FROM VIEW

SENDING HYMN: VU #136 "O Come and Mourn with Me Awhile"

Verse 1: O come and mourn with me awhile, O come now to the Saviour's side.
 O come, together let us mourn. Jesus, our Love, is crucified.

Verse 2: Have we no tears to shed for him, while soldiers scoff and foes deride?
 Ah! Look how patiently he hangs: Jesus, our Love, is crucified.

Verse 3: Seven times he spake, seven words of love, and all three hours his silence cried
 for mercy on the souls of all. Jesus, our Love, is crucified

Verse 4: O love of God! O sin-filled world! In this dread act your strength is tried,
 and victory remains with love. Jesus, our Love, is crucified.

~ Words: Frederick William Faber, 1849, Alt. Music John Bacchus Dykes 1861. Public Domain

COMMISSIONING

Posted on <https://thinkingworship.com/> Used with permission.

BENEDICTION

WE LEAVE IN SILENCE