

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
APRIL 19, 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!

**THANK-YOU, TERRY BLOIS,
FOR PREPARING AND LEADING TODAY'S 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*)

I invite you to the worship service today with the following words:
when we arrive here in this space, we come as we are:

questioning,
wondering,
hoping.

We come, knowing that God accepts us just as we are:

learning,
praying,
singing.

Let us quiet our minds and still our hearts so that in this place,
we might strengthen our lives and find our spirits inspired.

Let's feel the spirit of God here amongst us today and always.

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GATHERING PRAYER (in unison)

Loving God, because of your son, Jesus Christ, we have found the path leading from the shadows through to the light. We gather together to celebrate your gift of life and light given to us in Jesus, through whom we find your forgiving, renewing grace. In this time of worship, we offer our prayer, song, and reflection to the glory of God. We offer our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to the glory of God. Amen.

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HYMN: VU #183 “We Meet You O Christ”**Verse 1:**

We meet you, O Christ, in many a guise; your image we see in simple and wise.
You live in a palace, exist in a shack. We see you, the gardener, a tree on your back.

Verse 2:

In millions alive, away and abroad; involved in our life you live down the road.
Imprisoned in systems you long to be free. We see you, O Jesus, still bearing your tree.

Verse 3:

We hear you, O Christ, in agony cry. For freedom you march, in riots you die.
Your face in the papers we read and we see. The tree must be planted by human decree.

Verse 4:

You choose to be made at one with the earth; the dark of the grave prepares for your birth.
Your death is your rising, creative your word: the tree springs to life and our hope is restored.

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LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE: (Responsive)

On this third Sunday of the Easter season,
we rejoice that the gospel story is for us,
that we, too, are included in the
good news of resurrection.

Hallelujah, Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

**We light this candle acknowledging
the presence of the risen Christ among us.**

Hallelujah! Amen.

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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: “Fall Like Rain”**

Words and Music by Stan Pethel

THEME TIME

HYMN: MV 81 “Love Us into Fullness”**Verse 1**

Love us into fullness, touch us with your grace;
Jesus, in your mercy, draw us to your face.

Verse 2: Love us into fullness, hold us in your care,
cheer us with your presence here and everywhere.

Verse 3: Love us into fullness, and we will be strong;
Jesus, walk beside us, fill our hearts with song.

~ Words and music: Daniel Charles Damon 2002. Copyright © 2006 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (in unison)

O God,

**as we open your holy book of words written so long ago,
open our senses to receive your word for us today. Amen.**

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SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Luke 24:13-35

Acts 2:14, 36-41

On the Road to Emmaus

Peter Addresses the Crowd

HYMN: VU #184 “As We Walked Home at Close of Day”**Verse 1:**

As we walked home at close of day, a stranger joined us on our way.
He heard us speak of one who'd gone, and when we stopped, he carried on.

Verse 2: “Why wander further without light? Please stay with us this troubled night.
We've shared the truth of how we feel and now would like to share a meal.”

Verse 3: We sat to eat our simple spread, then watched the stranger take the bread;
and, as he said the blessing prayer, we knew that someone else was there.

Verse 4: No stranger he; it was our eyes which failed to see, in stranger's guise,
the Lord who, risen from the dead, met us when ready to be fed.

Verse 5: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

As Mary and our sisters said, the Lord is risen from the dead!

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REFLECTION: “Turn Around” by Terry Blois**HYMN: VU #371 “Open My Eyes, that I May See”****Verse 1**

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

Refrain: Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Verse 2: Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.

Refrain: Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my **ears**, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Verse 3: Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere,
open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.

Refrain: Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my **heart**, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Words and Music Clara H. Scott 1895. Public Domain

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

PRAYER FOR GRACE (Responsive)

We come to worship you, Creator God, who created us in goodness.

In the midst of the evils and greed of the world, remind us of your goodness.

We come to worship you, O God, who created a world of abundance.

When people live as if there is only scarcity, remind us of your abundance.

We come to worship you, Loving God, who created a world for peace and compassion.

When we experience and witness violence,

show us the way back to your peace and healing. Amen.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Responsive)

In life and in death, we belong to God.

In sin and in perfection, we belong to God.

Receive the Good News:

you belong to God at all times.

Be assured God will never abandon or forsake you.

Thanks be to God!

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INVITATION TO GIVE

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OFFERTORY: VU #537 “Your Work, O God Needs Many Hands” vs. 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 (in unison)

Patient and loving God, you are always ready to welcome us home,

and you are always ready to welcome our gifts

so that the good news of Jesus Christ

may be preached and lived in our time and place.

This is why we give.

Receive our giving, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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MISSION AND SERVICE STORY: "Flowing Beyond the Banks"**WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD****SENDING HYMN: TLUS #99 "I am Sending You Light"****REFRAIN:**

I am sending you light to heal you, to hold you.

I am sending you light to hold you in love.

I am sending you light to heal you, to hold you.

I am sending you light to hold you in love.

Verse 1: No matter where you go, no matter where you've been;
you'll never walk alone. I feel you deep within.

REFRAIN

Verse 2: No matter what you feel, or what you choose to show;
I'm always there for you, and so I want you to know,

REFRAIN

Verse 3: I walk the path with you; go slow, dear one, don't hurry.
I'll go just like you need to go; there is no need to worry.

REFRAIN

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CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US (Responsive)

This is still the third Sunday of the Easter season.

We extinguish the candle, but we know that the light we have been sent stays with us, just as we know that Jesus himself is with us, and that recognition may be just a moment, a shared meal, a bite of bread away.

Hallelujah, Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Hallelujah! Amen.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION:

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SUNG RESPONSE:

SP: VU #974 "Hallelujah Amen"

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, Amen! Sing 3x

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MUSICAL POSTLUDE**ANNOUNCEMENTS APRIL 19, 2026****NEW OR REVISED**

THURS APRIL 23 WORSHIP COMMITTEE: The Worship Committee will meet this Thursday, April 23 at 1:30 pm in the Chapel or on Zoom.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026 UCW: The UCW will meet on Wednesday, May 6 at 1:30 pm.

REMINDERS

REV. DEBORAH AWAY: Rev. Deborah is on vacation until April 21. If you need a Minister, please talk to Rev. Sharon McRann (780 823-9794).

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 SP BREAKFAST: The Men's Club will be preparing breakfast for us on Sunday, April 26, approximately 8:45 am to 9:30 am.

SATURDAY, MAY 9 "SPRING PRAISE HANDBELL CONCERT" (ST. ANDREW'S) The Parkland Bells Choir from St. Andrew's UC in Spruce Grove is having concerts at 3 pm and 7 pm on Sat. May 9 at St. Andrew's. Admission is free, but a ticket is required due to limited seating. You can get your ticket by calling St. Andrew's Church Office 780 962-0488. Free will offerings gratefully accepted.

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. Apr. 19, 2026	Rev. Deborah on Vacation. Pulpit Supply Terry Blois
Sun. April 26, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP
Sun. May 03, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at Devon UC
Sun. May 10, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP
Sun. May 17, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukuleles & Choir: Wednesdays: Ukes 6:00, Choir 7:00 pm
Card Recreators: Thursdays, 10 am

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Fri. April 17	5:30 pm Live Music, Charcuterie and Chocolate Night
Thurs. April 23	1:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting
Sun. April 26	SP Breakfast 8:45 – 9:30 am Thanks to Men's Club
Wed. May 6	1:30 pm UCW Meeting
Sat. May 9	St. Andrew's, SG Parkland Bells "Spring Praise Handbell Concert" 3 pm and 7 pm. Free tickets available from St. Andrew's