

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH  
MAY 10, 2026  
CHRISTIAN FAMILY SUNDAY**

**Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church**  
Mailing Address: Box 3196, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1C2  
Phone: 780 963-4745 Email: [stonyuc@telus.net](mailto:stonyuc@telus.net)  
Reverend Deborah M. Hoekstra Cell: 780 983-2148  
**WELCOME to our service this morning!**

*Thank-you to Rev. Sharon McRann for presiding at Stony Plain this morning. Rev. Deborah is staying at Mewassin after their service.*

**Mother's Day Celebrations!**

**Mewassin:** Please join Sunday School downstairs after the service for a celebration & extended visit with Rev. Deborah.  
**Stony Plain:** Please stay after the service for a BBQ lunch provided by the Men's Club.

**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)**

Creator, parent of the human family,

**we gather to worship you.**

In baptism, we are called beloved children of God, as such,

**we gather to worship you.**

Friends, neighbours, siblings in faith,

**we gather to worship in song, in prayer, in readings from your story/our story, in thoughts and reflections.**

**ALL: Let us worship God.**

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**GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)**

**God, creator of us all, we gather to worship you.**

**We come as individuals, we come in family units,**

**we come as neighbours and friends.**

**We come here where we are known by name,**

**welcomed with all our fragilities and strengths.**

**We gather with kindred spirits who long to live faithful to your calling.  
Guide us, inspire us, challenge us, comfort us, and nurture us in this time of worship so that  
we might be enabled to return to our daily lives ready to engage fully with all of your creation.  
We pray. Amen.**

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**HYMN: MV #179 “Sisters Let Us Walk Together”**

**Verse 1**

Sisters let us walk together, sharing sadness, loss and grief,  
we will move through pain to wholeness, brokenness transformed to peace.

**Verse 2:** Brothers let us work together, seeking justice, healing shame,  
filled with hope, embued with courage, ev'ry violence we will name.

**Verse 3:** People let us love together, joining spirits, linking hands,  
we are God's unique creation, clothed with dignity we'll stand.

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**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**CONCERNS AND JOYS**

**PRAYERS OF CONCERNS AND JOYS**

**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: “I Would Be True”**

Words: Howard A. Walter; Music: Londonderry Air (Traditional Irish Melody) arranged by Lloyd Larson

**THEME TIME: Psalm 133:1**

**The Blessedness of Unity**

<sup>1</sup> How very good and pleasant it is  
when kindred live together in unity!

**HYMN: VU #245 “Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet”**

**Verse 1**

Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet, praise the Lord with the harp and lute,  
praise the Lord with the gentle-sounding flute.  
Praise the Lord in the field and forest, praise the Lord in the city square,  
Praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.

Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine, praise the Lord in the dark of night,  
 praise the Lord in the rain or snow or in the morning light.  
 Praise the Lord in the deepest valley, praise the Lord on the highest hill,  
 Praise the Lord, never let your voice be still.

### **Verse 2**

Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal, praise the Lord with the pipe and string,  
 praise the Lord with the joyful songs you sing.  
 Praise the Lord on a weekday morning, praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,  
 Praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon.  
 Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow, praise the Lord in the time of joy,  
 Praise the Lord every moment, nothing let your praise destroy.  
 Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet, praise the Lord in your work or play,  
 praise the Lord everywhere in every way.

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### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Written by Susan Girard. **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2026, page 45. Used with permission.

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS: SP Reader: Susan Oleskiw**

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**Ephesians 4:1-3**    **Unity in the Body of Christ**  
**Matthew 25:31-40**    **The Judgement of the Nations**

**REFLECTION: “We Are Family” by Rev. Deborah Hoekstra**  
*(Recorded for Stony Plain)*

**HYMN: VU #594**    **“O Christian, Love”**

#### **Verse 1**

O Christian, love your sister and your brother! Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;  
 to worship rightly is to love each other, each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.

#### **Verse 2**

Follow with reverent steps the great example: Jesus whose holy work was doing good;  
 so shall the wide earth seem a hallowed temple, each loving life a psalm of gratitude.

#### **Verse 3**

Then shall all shackles fall, the stormy clangour of wild war music o’er the earth shall cease;  
 love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger, and in its ashes plant the tree of peace.

Words: John Greenleaf Whittier 1848. Music: Alfred Scott-Gatty 1902 Public Domain.

## **THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION**

### **PRAYER FOR FAMILIES (*Responsive*)**

God of life and death and all things in between, we are quiet before you,  
 yet we are also present before you and your amazing love.  
 You give us voices with which to share, to sing, and to take chances.

You give us senses with which to listen, to discover, and to experience.

And we respond.

**Keep us alert to what is around us and to what may need our attention.**

**May we not be afraid to act in needed ways.**

May your love wash over and in us till we notice your voice within our very being.

What are we being called to? Or away from?

**In our community, help us to be aware of those around us here and now.**

**Do we notice Jesus in them, or even in ourselves?**

Creator, bless those absent from us this day, whether ill or living far away or having entered the next life.

Bless those worried by many things in our world.

You know our hearts' desires and foibles, and yet your love for us cannot be measured.

**That same love is for all human life, all plant life, and all creatures of land, sea, and air.**

**Bless all of your Creation today.**

Among us there are amazing people we may call mother, mom, grandma, nana, aunt, or friend.

Today we recognize those who have blessed us on our way, mothering souls who have nurtured us.

Bless all these and more who have guided us to a better path in life.

We are grateful for their words, their time, their care, and their examples that have helped us.

Help us to be great stewards of the earth and ourselves, and to take time to pay attention to your quiet, steady voice of love, that nudge to suddenly change direction, make a call,

to visit or to just say hello.

**May we reach beyond walls into corners where the need is raw and your healing light and energy become our call to serve.**

Go with us through the weeks ahead calling us to trust your voice and respond.

**Gracious God, we are paying attention. We are ready.**

And together, with energy, we share:

**Amen!**

Written by Diane Trollope, Sudbury, Ont. Posted on <https://gatheringworship.ca/prayer/prayers-christian-family-sunday>

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### **INVITATION TO GIVE:**

Written by George Allan. **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2026, page 52. Used with permission.

**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 (Unison)**

**Gracious God, you are the source of all that we have and all that we share. May our offerings of money, time, talent, and presence help change the world so all may be fed. Bless our gifts, the ministries of this congregation, and of the wider church through The Mission and Service Fund, and all that reveals your never-ending love. Amen.**

Written by Anna Constantin, Grace U.C., Edmonton, Alta. Posted on <https://gatheringworship.ca/services-and-rituals/all-you-need-love-reflection-christian-family-sunday> Used with permission.

## **WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD**

**SENDING HYMN: VU #556 "Would You Bless Our Homes and Families"**

**Verse 1**

Would you bless our homes and families, source of life who calls us here;

in our world of stress and tension teach us love that conquers fear.

Help us learn to love each other with a love that constant stays;  
teach us when we face our troubles, love's expressed in many ways.

**Verse 2:** When our way is undemanding, let us use the time that's ours  
to delight in simple pleasures, sharing joys in gentle hours.  
When our way is anxious walking and a heavy path we plod,  
teach us trust in one another and in you, our gracious God.

**Verse 3:** From the homes in which we're nurtured, with the love that shapes us there,  
teach us, God, to claim as family every one whose life we share.  
And through all that life may offer, may we in your love remain;  
may the love we share in families be alive to praise your name.

**Verse 4:** Let us reach beyond the boundaries of our daily thought and care  
till the family you have chosen spills its love out everywhere.  
Help us learn to love each other with a love that constant stays;  
teach us when we face our troubles love's expressed in many ways.

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## CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US

### COMMISSIONING

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### BENEDICTION

#### SUNG RESPONSE: VU #974 "Hallelujah Amen"

**Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, Amen! Sing 3x**

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### MUSICAL POSTLUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS May 10, 2026

### NEW OR REVISED

**SUNDAY, MAY 10 AFTER CHURCH MEW & SP:** At **Mewassin**, Sunday School will host a special Mother's Day celebration downstairs after church. Rev. Deborah will be staying at Mewassin to enjoy a visit with them.

At **Stony Plain**, the Men's Club will be providing a BBQ Lunch after church.

**SUNDAY, MAY 17 MEWASSIN:** There will be NO coffee Sunday at Mewassin on May 17.

**SUNDAY, MAY 24 PENTECOST:** The Stony Choir will be joining Mewassin for their Pentecost Service (then coming back to Stony!). Mewassin Sunday School will be serving special treats!

### REMINDERS

**SUNDAY, JUNE 21 SP “FATHER’S DAY SUNDAE SUNDAY”:** Instead of Lunch Sunday in June, our Sunday School will be hosting a “Sundae Sunday”. If you have any questions, or want to help, please see Rianna Clark.

**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](mailto:stonyuc@telus.net).

**REV DEBORAH’S SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS:**

Sun. May 10, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at <b><u>MEWASSIN ONLY</u></b> SP Presider: Rev. Sharon McRann
Sun. May 17, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP
Sun. May 24, 2026	<b><u>Pentecost:</u></b> Rev. Deborah in person at Devon UC Presiders: Mew: Lisa Furry; SP: Rev. Sharon McRann
Sun. May 31, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP
Sun. June 7, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at Devon UC

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

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

**MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS**

Sun. May 10 Rev. Deborah will be in person at Mewassin only  
Sun. May 10 SP After Church BBQ Lunch (Men’s Club)  
Sun. May 17 Mew: NO Coffee Sunday  
Sun. June 21 SP “Father’s Day Sundae Sunday”

**FROM OTHER UNITED CHURCHES AND THE COMMUNITY**

*(Posters on the Bulletin Board and on the table in the Narthex)*

**Town of Stony Plain Community and Social Development:** Several programs are being offered in the next couple of months, including Mental Health Week Events, Sketch Book Club, Women’s Support Group, and many more.