

STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
MAY 17, 2026
ASCENSION 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
Reverend Deborah M. Hoekstra Cell: 780 983-2148
WELCOME to our service this morning!

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)

A new day has begun.

Hope wins!

A fresh start is granted.

Faith wins!

Today you have the opportunity to do something new.

Hope wins!

Christ is entering your life in a new way.

Faith wins!

Come, let us worship God, who is inviting us into life in a new way, a way that transcends death, a way of hope and faith.

Love wins!

Let us worship Christ, who overcame death to give us new life!

Written by Rev. Mindi and posted on Rev-o-lution. <http://rev-o-lution.org/> Used with permission.

GATHERING PRAYER

Originally posted on the *Monthly Prayers* page (now Weekly Worship) of the Christian

Aid website. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/churches/weekly-worship> Used with permission.

HYMN: VU #232 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

Verse 1

Joyful, joyful we adore you, God of glory, life and love;

Hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away;

giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

Verse 2: All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you, centre of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, Sound their praise eternally.

Verse 3: You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Verse 4: Mortals join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.

Words: Henry van Dyke 1907, alt. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven 1824 Public Domain.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE: (*Responsive*)

We light this candle as a sign of God's Spirit at work in the world,
may its light brighten our spirits, may the light of God shining through us brighten the world.

Written by Rev. Gord Waldie. Posted on <https://worshipofferings.blogspot.com/> Used with permission.

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: "Glory Land Hallelu"

Traditional Choruses arranged by Ruth Elaine Schram

THEME TIME

HYMN: MV #145 "Draw the Circle Wide"

REFRAIN:

**Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
Standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

Verse 1

God the still-point of the circle, 'round whom all creation turns;
Nothing lost, but held forever, in God's gracious arms.

REFRAIN: Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

**Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
Standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

Verse 2: Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;

Let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call.

REFRAIN

Verse 3: Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we've ever dreamed before;
Let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door.

REFRAIN

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PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS: SP Reader: Barb Somers

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Acts 1:1-14 The Ascension of Jesus

John 17:1-11 That All May Be One

REFLECTION “We Are the Body of Christ” by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra

HYMN: MV #137 “Welcome, Jesus, You Are Welcome”

Verse 1:

Welcome, Jesus, you are welcome in this world made hard by fear;
loving reach us, living teach us Jesus, you are welcome here.

Verse 2: Welcome, Jesus, you are welcome in the ghettos we have made;
give the tattered, bruised and battered winter shelter, summer shade.

Verse 3: Welcome, Jesus, you are welcome with the wealthy and the poor;
give the broken love unspoken, open wide each prison door.

Verse 4: Welcome, Jesus, you are welcome, let your loving light appear.
In our seeing, in our being, Jesus, you are welcome here.

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THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

MISSION AND SERVICE STORY

INVITATION TO GIVE

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>

WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

SENDING HYMN: VU #437 “The Day You Gave Us, God, Is Ended”

Verse 1

The day you gave us, God, is ended, the sun is sinking in the west;
To you our morning hymns ascended, your praise shall sanctify our rest.

Verse 2: We thank you that your church unsleeping, while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world a watch is keeping, and rests not now by day or night.

Verse 3: As o'er each continent and island, the dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent, nor dies the strain of praise away.

Verse 4: The sun that bids us rest is waking your church beneath the western sky,
And hour by hour fresh lips are making your wondrous doings heard on high.

Verse 5: So be it, God! Your throne shall never, like earth's proud empires, pass away;
Your rule remains and grows forever, until there dawns that glorious day.

Words: Jon Ellerton, 1870; Music Clement Cotterill Scholefield 1874 Public Domain

CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US

COMMISSIONING (*Responsive*)

As people of faith we have gathered for worship.

As people of faith we now return to the world.

Go out to share the story of faith,
the story of life, with the world around you.

**We share the faith in word and in deed,
in speech and in action.**

As you go out to give a living witness,
as you go out to testify to God's love active in the world,
go knowing that God goes with you,
sharing the laughter and the hope, the fears and the tears.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Posted by Rev Gord Waldie on his blog, **Worship Offerings.** <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/>

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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 17, 2026

NEW OR REVISED

SUNDAY, MAY 17 SP CAR SHOW PLANNING MEETING: If you are interested in helping out with our activities for the Canada Day Car Show on July 1, please stay for a meeting after church May 17.

SUNDAY, MAY 24 CELEBRATE PENTECOST! Our congregations are encouraged to wear Red, Orange or Yellow to celebrate Pentecost.

SUNDAY, MAY 24 SP "SUNDAE SUNDAY": Due to conflicts in scheduling, our Sunday School will be hosting the "Sundae Sunday" to celebrate fathers after church on Sunday, May 24. If you have any questions, or want to help, please see Rianna Clark.

SUNDAY, MAY 31 MEWASSIN: We will be having a planning meeting for our 100th anniversary (August 15, 2026) after church on Sun. May 31.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21 DEVON PICNIC AND SERVICE: Our congregations are invited to join Devon United Church for their Sunday service in the Park on June 21! Not all details are finalized, but the service will begin at 10:00 a.m. with games and then picnic lunch to follow. A reminder to bring lawn chairs is on the invitation. We have lots of kites for the children to decorate and fly after the service, and the parachute games were a hit last year, so that is on the games agenda again 😊 Potluck items are welcome if people wish: salads or dessert/fruit or finger foods... whatever they are comfortable with!

There is a sign-up sheet available – please add your name if you'd like to attend or talk to Sandra at Mewassin, or Terry or Lesley at Stony – we need to RSVP with our numbers of attendees by June 7.. Looking forward to being together with you there! - *Marla Schumacher, Devon United Church*

NEWS FROM THE M & P COMMITTEE: Sue Dugal is retiring from the position of Church Administrator, effective as of July 31, 2026. Sue has played an important role in keeping our Community of Faith running smoothly and she will be dearly missed. Fortunately, Sue intends to stay involved in the church and will remain in the Ministry of Music. We are sure you would like to join the M and P Committee in wishing Sue a fun filled and well deserved retirement. - *M and P Committee*

M & P ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

We are looking for a new Church Administrator to fill this position. If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested please contact Allan Scherlie for more information. Cell 780 984 5074 Home 780 892 3259

REMINDERS

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!

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. May 17, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP
Sun. May 24, 2026	<u>Pentecost:</u> Rev. Deborah in person at Devon UC Presiders: Mew: Lisa Furry; SP: Rev. Sharon McRann
Sun. May 31, 2026	<u>Trinity Sunday:</u> Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP
Sun. June 7, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at Devon UC Presiders: Mew: Fran Scherlie SP: Lesley Janke
Sun. June 14, 2026	<u>Communion</u> 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

Sun. May 17	Mew: NO Coffee Sunday SP: Planning meeting for Canada Day Car Show
Sun. May 24	PENTECOST: All are encouraged to wear red, orange or yellow
Sun. May 24	SP "Sundae Sunday" to celebrate fathers - <u>NOTE DATE CHANGE</u>
Sun. May 31	MEW: Planning meeting after Church for 100 th Anniversary
Sun. June 21	Devon Picnic and Service – SP and MEW are invited!