

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
AUGUST 16, 2026
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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 to our presider today.
Thanks to Rev. Deborah for preparing the service.*

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) Based on Psalm 67

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!

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GATHERING PRAYER

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**GATHERING HYMN: VU #559 “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”
Verse 1**

Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

Verse 2: Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger, precious presence, precious blood.

Verse 3: O, to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
 Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
 Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:
 here's my heart, O, take and seal it, seal it for your very own.

Words: Robert Robinson 1758, alt.; Music: John Wyeth, "Repository of Sacred Music, Part II" 1813. Words alteration copyright © 1993 The Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663.

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
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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

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

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SCRIPTURE READINGS:

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A READING FROM THE EPISTLES

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Israel's Rejection Is Not Final

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 15:21-28

The Canaanite Woman's Faith

Gift of Music: "When the Sun Comes Up Tomorrow"
The Easter Brothers (Russell, James & Ed Easter)

**REFLECTION: "Courage and Faith" by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra
 (Recorded)**

PRAYER FOR UNITY

Posted on the Monthly Prayers page of the Christian Aid website. <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/> Used with permission.

HYMN: VU #679 (seated) "Let There Be Light"

Verse 1

Let there be light, let there be understanding,
 let all the nations gather, let them be face to face;

Verse 2

Open our lips, open our minds to ponder,
 open the door of concord opening into grace;

Verse 3

Perish the sword, perish the angry judgement,
 perish the bombs and hunger, perish the fight for gain;

Verse 4

Hallow our love, hallow the deaths of martyrs,
 hallow their holy freedom, hallowed be your name;

Verse 5

Your kingdom come, you spirit turn to language,
 your people speak together, your spirit never fade;

Verse 6

Let there be light; open our hearts to wonder,
 perish the way of terror, hallow the world God made.

Words: Frances Wheeler Davis 1968, alt. Music: Robert J.B. Fleming 1967
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THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION
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MISSION AND SERVICE STORY "Breaking the Silence"

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY: Doxology (Tune VU #541)

Praise God, the source of breath and birth,
who formed us from the dust of earth,
and made us kin in unity
to love and set each other free.

Posted on <https://www.hillsideford.org/transforming-love/doxology> Written by Mary Luti. Used with permission.

DEDICATION OF GIFTS (*Unison*)

As we present our offerings today, we are reminded of your great love for us. Your love knows no bounds and is beyond measure. Help us to reflect your love in all that we do, including our giving.

May these gifts be used to spread your love to others, bringing hope and healing to a world in need. Thank you for your love that never fails us. Amen.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US

SENDING HYMN: VU #591 “Jesus, United by Your Grace”

Verse 1

Jesus, united by your grace, and each to each endeared,
with confidence we seek your face, and know our prayer is heard.

Verse 2

Help us to see in each a friend, each other's cross to bear;
let all their friendly aid extend, and feel the other's care.

Verse 3

Up unto you, our living head, let us in all things grow,
till you have made us free indeed and faithful here below.

Verse 4

Drawn by the lodestone of your love, let all our hearts unite;
let us toward each other move, and move toward your light.

Words: Charles Wesley 1742. alt. Music: Thomas Augustine Arne 1762. Public Domain

COMMISSIONING

Written by Christine Longhurst/Canadian Foodgrains Bank <http://www.fastforchange.ca> Used with permission.

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #454 “May God Who Creates You”

May God who creates you, give you light;
may God who sustains you, make you wise;
may God who protects you, give you joy;
may God who surrounds you, give you peace.

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POSTLUDE

YOUR OFFERING: Monetary gifts (cash or cheque) may be placed in one of the boxes next to the doors in the sanctuary; dropped off at the church during office hours; mailed to Stony Plain United Church, Box 3196, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1Y4; set up through PAR (pre-authorized remittance); or, by e-transfer to stewards@stonyplainunitedchurch.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AUGUST 16, 2026

NO NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS THIS WEEK

REMINDERS

CARD RECREATORS ON BREAK: The Card Recreators will be back at work on Thurs. Aug. 20.

EDMONTON PRIDE PARADE SAT. AUG 22: The Northern Spirit Affirm Committee is hosting an entry in the Edmonton Pride Parade and inviting Affirming congregations and ministries, and all United Church members and friends who are interested, to walk together. Every participant needs to be registered. Parade starts at 1pm (line up begins at 11:30.) If you want to walk with us in the Edmonton Pride Parade on August 22nd register here: [NS Affirm Parade Registration Link](#)

WED. SEPT 30, 6:30 PM: HORIZON STAGE - NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION: Horizon Stage in Spruce Grove is hosting an evening of reflection and connection as we mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Through stories, reflections and open conversation, we will honour the lived experiences of Indigenous Peoples. This is a time to listen, learn and explore how each of us can commit to the work of healing and reconciliation. Tea, Bannock and light refreshments will be served. **This event is free, but you must reserve tickets.** For more information and to reserve tickets, see the following:
<https://www.horizonstage.com/season-shows/national-day-for-truth-and-reconciliation/>

SUN. AUG. 23 SP PAPER BAG COMMUNION/PICNIC SERVICE: On Sunday, August 23, Stony Plain United Church will be holding its annual Paper Bag Communion Service with pot luck lunch to follow. Devon, St. Andrew's and Mewassin have been invited. Mewassin is still having its regular service, with Communion, at 9 am.

PASSING ON YOUR CONCERNS: If you know of anyone who would like a visit or a card, please contact the Care Committee, Rev. Deborah or the Church Office (780 963-4745) or email stonyuc@telus.net.

REV DEBORAH'S SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS:

<u>SAT AUG 15, 2026</u>	1 pm Special Service at Mewassin to celebrate 100 years of Ministry
Sun. Aug 16, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at Devon UC. NO SERVICE IN MEWASSIN
Sun. Aug 23, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW. SP: Paper Bag Communion/Picnic Service MEW: Regular Communion Service
Sun. Aug 30, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at Devon UC. NO SERVICE IN MEWASSIN (Camping Weekend)
Sun. Sept 6, 2026	Rev. Deborah away.
Sun. Sept 13, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at Devon UC.

MEWASSIN SUMMER SERVICES SCHEDULE

Sat. Aug 15:	100th Anniversary Service
Sun. Aug 16	<u>No Service</u>
Sun. Aug 23	Regular (Communion) Service
Aug 30	<u>No Service</u> (Camping Weekend)

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukuleles & Choir: No practices until Sept 2 or 9 unless otherwise notified
Card Recreators: Thursdays, 10 am ***NOT AUG 6 or 13***

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Sat. Aug. 15	MEWASSIN 100th Anniversary Service
Sun. Aug 16	NO SERVICE AT MEWASSIN
Sun. Aug 23	SP Paper Bag Communion/Pot Luck Lunch Service.
Fri. Aug 28 to Sun. Aug 30	MEWASSIN Camp out at Entwistle RV Campground
Sun. Aug. 30	NO SERVICE AT MEWASSIN
Sat. Sept 26	MEWASSIN Bottle Drive
Wed. Sept 30	6:30 pm Horizon Stage – Truth & Reconciliation