

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
AUGUST 23, 2026
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
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Reverend Deborah M. Hoekstra Cell: 780 983-2148
WELCOME to our service this morning!

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

Inspired by Mark 8:29 and posted on <http://www.spillbeans.org.uk> Used with permission.

GATHERING PRAYER

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GATHERING HYMN: TLUS #1

“Simply To Be”

Verse 1: Simply to be, to be in stillness,
simply to trust that God is here,
simply to know the Holy Presence,
is to be blessed: so am I blessed,

Verse 2: simply to hold the given moment,
simply to lay concern aside,
simply to let the heart be speaking,
is to be blessed: so am I blessed,

Verse 3: so am I blessed within God's keeping,
so am I freed from point-less stress,
steadied to feel the soul replenished,
given this grace, folded in peace.

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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
THEME TIME**HYMN: MV #157****"I Am a Child of God"****Verse 1**

I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God's new creation.
 I am a child of God, I am a child of God.

Verse 2: I am an endless prayer, I am a yearning for contemplation,
 I am an endless prayer, I am an endless prayer.

Verse 3: I am an angry voice, I am compassion and consternation,
 I am an angry voice, I am an angry voice.

Verse 4: I am a cry for peace, I am commitment and dedication,
 I am a cry for peace, I am a cry for peace.

Verse 5: I am a song of joy, I am the moment of jubilation,
 I am a song of joy, I am a song of joy.

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PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

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SCRIPTURE READINGS: Reader: Darlene Nelson

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THE GOSPEL LESSON**Matthew 16:13-20****Peter's Declaration about Jesus****REFLECTION by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra****"Vantage Point"****HYMN: MV #154 (*seated*)****"Deep in our Hearts"****Verse 1**

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision; Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
 Deep in our hearts there is a common story, Telling creation that we are one.

Verse 2: Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose; Deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
Deep in our hearts there is a sacred message, Justice and peace in harmony.

Verse 3: Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
Deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
Deep in our hearts there is a common current, Flowing to freedom like a stream.

Verse 4: Deep in our hearts there is a common vision; Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story, Telling Creation that we are one.

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THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERING HYMN: MV# 135

“Called by Earth and Sky”

REFRAIN:

**Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.**

Verse 1: Precious these waters, endless seas, deep ocean's dream,
water of healing, rivers of rain, the wash of love again.

REFRAIN

Verse 2: Precious this gift, the air we breathe; wind born and free.
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place, our gathering and our grace.

REFRAIN:

Verse 3: Precious these mountains, ancient sands; vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong, Creation's faithful song.

REFRAIN:

Verse 4: Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone, our faith and justice one.

LAST REFRAIN:

**Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky, called by earth and sky**

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SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Written by Rex A. E. Hunt Posted on <https://www.rexaehuntprogressively.com>
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INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(One voice with Responsive sections)*

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Holy One.

Let us give thanks

It is right to give thanks and praise.

God of the summer's day and the holiday season,

Praise and wonder be.

God of the lingering sunset and early dawn,

Praise and wonder be.

God of the hot north wind and the refreshing shower,

God of the shady tree and the cool water bag,

God of the ripening harvest and sparkling sea,

Show to us beauty, vision, and joy.

All creation blesses the Source of Energy and Life.

For all things bright and beautiful.

For all things dark and mysterious and lovely.

For all things green and growing and strong.

For all things weak and struggling to push life up through rocky earth.

For all human faces, hearts, minds, and hands which surround us.

And for all nonhuman minds and hearts, paws and claws, fins and wings

Praise and wonder be.

So we join our praise with all your people across the generations, saying

Holy, holy, holy, Celebrating God,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

Hosanna throughout the Earth.

In our praise and thanksgiving, we also remember the ways of Jesus

who walked the dusty roads of Galilee,

who taught from seashore and mountainside,

who told stories of the sower and the seed,

the lilies of the field, and the birds of the air.

May we, too, know your presentness in the beauty of creation.

We also remember, Creating God,

that your care for this earth and your people can be denied;

for your goodness was abused

and the Human One betrayed.

On the night of his arrest, so our tradition reminds us,

Jesus shared a meal with his disciples.

Bread taken, blessed, broken in silence

White Wine taken, poured out in silence

Through grain and grape, bread and wine,

he spoke of his coming death and new life,

asking his disciples to remember him.

HYMN: MV #195 (seated)**“Long Ago and Far Away”**

Verse 1: Long ago and far away, Jesus lived and worked and prayed.
Healed the sick and the fearful and lonely lived his life to show us God's way.

Refrain:

Stretched his arms out as he said, fill the cup and share the bread.
Remember me in love and joy and blessing.

Verse 2: Jesus gathered the children around him, spoke of love and joy to be found.
Told them stories of wisdom and wonder God's creation in all that's round.

Refrain:

Verse 3: Jesus called all his friends to be with him, share the bread and the cup once again.
Life to you I will offer it gladly, love will be with you right to the end.

Refrain:

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BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP**BLESSING ALL THOSE WHO RECEIVE THIS DAY**

Be present with us now, Enfolding God, as we share this sacrament.
Let your Holy Spirit brood among us...
and upon and through this Bread and Wine.
Bless us with a desire to praise in song and story and poetry.
Bless us with a sharpened awareness of your presence.
Bless us with deep compassion.
Bless us with the patience and daring of the mystics.

Abide with us always.

Abide with us in our daily work.

Abide with us when we rest.

Abide with us in our journeying.

Abide with us at all times and through eternity.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life

Jesus Christ, the Cup of Promise

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Unison)

Gracious God, lover of all, in this sacrament
we are one family in Christ your Son,
one in the sharing of his body and blood
and one in the communion of his Spirit:
help us to grow in love for one another
and come to the full maturity of the Body of Christ.
We make our prayer through your Son our Saviour. Amen.

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WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US

SENDING HYMN: MV #90

“Don’t Be Afraid” (sing twice)

Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear.

Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised, Promised to be always near.

Repeat:

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COMMISSIONING

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BENEDICTION

GRACE BEFORE THE MEAL MV #193 “God Bless to Us Our Bread”

God bless to us our bread, and give bread to all those who are hungry,
and hunger for justice to those who are fed; God bless to us our bread.

Words: bishop Federico Pagura English translation John L. Bell. Music traditional melody Argentina arr. John L. Bell.
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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.

Please stay for the Pot Luck “Picnic”

ANNOUNCEMENTS AUGUST 23, 2026

NEW

TUES. AUG 25 OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING: The official board will be having their meeting from 7:05 to 8:30 pm. In person or zoom teleconference available.

WED. SEPT. 2: WHISPERING WATERS SERVICES: All are welcome to come over and assist with singing (choir is not back yet). This is an opportunity to visit with folks there, including some friends. Rev. Deborah presiding as Communion is offered.

TUES. SEPT 15, 7 PM: TOWN OF STONY PLAIN – LET’S TALK CAREGIVING: The Town of Stony Plain is facilitating a Community conversation hosted by Caregivers Alberta to share your experiences, connect with others, and help identify the supports caregivers need most in our region. The event is free, the location is 107, 4613-52 Ave Stony Plain, AB. Please RSVP : 780-9638583 or connect@stonyplain.com Light refreshments will be provided.

REMINDERS

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.

AUG. 28 - 30 MEWASSIN CAMPING WEEKEND: Camping weekend at Entwistle RV Campground is happening from Friday, Aug. 28 to Sunday Aug. 30. Everyone is welcome – either to come and camp for the weekend or come for a visit. There will be a **service & pot-luck supper on Saturday**. Watch for more information via e-mail closer to the date. There is no service at Mewassin on Sun. Aug. 30. If you need directions or more information, please contact Sandra McNab at 587 785-0628.

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/>

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:

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. Presider: Sharon McRann NO SERVICE IN MEWASSIN (Camping Weekend)
Sun. Sept 6, 2026	Rev. Deborah away. Pulpit Supply Lesley Janke
Sun. Sept 13, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at Devon UC. Presider SP Darlene Nelson
Sun. Sept. 20, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukuleles & Choir: No practices until Sept 2 or 9 unless otherwise notified
Card Recreators: Thursdays, 10 am

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun. Aug 23	SP Paper Bag Communion/Pot Luck Lunch Service.
Tues. Aug 25	Official Board Meeting from 7:05 – 8:30pm in person and zoom available
Fri. Aug 28 to Sun. Aug 30	MEWASSIN Camp out at Entwistle RV Campground
Sun. Aug. 30	NO SERVICE AT MEWASSIN
Wed. Sept. 2	Evening service at Whispering Waters Senior Lodge
Tues. Sept 15	7 pm Town of Stony Plain “Let’s Talk Caregiving”
Sat. Sept 26	MEWASSIN Bottle Drive
Wed. Sept 30	6:30 pm Horizon Stage – Truth & Reconciliation