

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
AUGUST 30, 2026
FOURTEENTH 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

GATHERING PRAYER

Posted on The Minor Keys. <http://theminorkeys.blogspot.ca/> Used with permission.

GATHERING HYMN: VU #396 “Jesus, Stand Among Us”

Verse 1: Jesus, stand among us in your risen power;
let this time of worship be a hallowed hour.

Verse 2: Breathe the Holy Spirit into every heart;
bid the fears and sorrows from each soul depart.

Verse 3: Lead our hearts to wisdom till our doubting cease,
and to all assembled speak your word of peace.

Words: Vs. 1,2 William Pennefather 1873; v. 3 Lydia Pedersen 1995. Music Fredrick Filitz 1847. Vs 3 words © 1995 Lydia Pedersen. All rights reserved. Vs 3 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
THEME TIME**HYMN: VU #509 "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"**

Verse 1: I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

REFRAIN: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Verse 2: I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain,

I have wept for love of them; they turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

REFRAIN:

Verse 3: I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,

I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

REFRAIN:

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PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

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SCRIPTURE READINGS:

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THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 16:21-28

REFLECTION (*Recorded*) by Rev. Deborah Hoekstra "Heading Down the Difficult Path"

HYMN: VU #506 “Take My Life and Let It Be”

Verse 1: Take my life, and let it be consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Verse 2: Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be swift and purposeful for thee.

Verse 3: Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.

Verse 4: Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

Verse 5: Take my love: and I will pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal 1874; Music unknown. Public Domain

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION
MISSION AND SERVICE STORY (One voice) *Nourishing Students*

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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.hillsidemedford.org/transforming-love/doxology> Written by Mary Luti. Used with permission.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

**Gracious God, you are the provider of all good things.
We thank you for your daily faithfulness and for the abundant blessings you place in our lives.
As we bring our tithes and offerings today, we return to you a portion of what you have
already given us. Please accept these gifts and use them to advance your work. In Jesus'
name, Amen.**

WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD
CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US
SENDING HYMN: VU #601 “The Church of Christ in Every Age”

Verse 1: The church of Christ in every age, beset by change but Spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.

Verse 2: Across the world, across the street the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat, and never live until they die.

Verse 3: Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.

Verse 4: For Christ alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever in our blood, and teach us how to share our bread and feed the starving multitude.

Verse 5: We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord: to care for all without reserve and spread Christ's liberating word.

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COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION

Written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes and posted on Unfolding Light. <https://www.unfoldinglight.net/>

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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 30, 2026

NEW

WED. SEPT. 9 UCW MEETING: 1:30pm "Truth and Real – Reconciliation". All women welcome.

SAT. SEPT. 12 9:30am – 4:00pm UCW Fall Rally. All women are invited to the Fall Rally, at St. Albert United Church, 20 Green Grove Drive. St. Albert UCW is the host. Theme "Hope in Our Changing World", speaker Rev. Chelsea Masterman of Grace United Church in Edmonton. It will follow the format of previous Fall Rallies. Cost \$10. There will be a book exchange table if you wish to contribute to that. **Bring your own lunch.** Coffee, tea, water and muffins will be available. We need to know who plans to attend so we can convey numbers to St. Albert and arrange for car pooling. We look forward to sharing a wonderful day together.

SUN. SEPT. 20. Please join us for lunch after the service. This is our chance to say thank you to our administrator for her many years of service. Please let the Church office know if you would like to help.

REMINDERS

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.

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 : 780 963-8583 or connect@stonyplain.com Light refreshments will be provided.

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 30, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at Devon UC. NO SERVICE IN MEWASSIN (Camping Weekend)
Sun. Sept 6, 2026	Rev. Deborah away. Pulpit Supply for this Sunday
Sun. Sept 13, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at Devon UC.
Sun. Sept. 20, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW.
Sun. Sept 27, 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

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

Wed. Sept 9 UCW meeting 1:30 pm

Sat. Sept 12 9:30 – 4:00 UCW Fall Rally at St. Albert United Church. All women welcome

Tues. Sept 15 7 pm Town of Stony Plain “Let’s Talk Caregiving”

Sun. Sept 20 SP Lunch Sunday after service

Sat. Sept 26 MEWASSIN Bottle Drive

Wed. Sept 30 6:30 pm Horizon Stage – Truth & Reconciliation