

STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
FEBRUARY 18, 2024
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME

WE GATHER TOGETHER BEFORE GOD
on traditional territory of Treaty Six Peoples and of the Métis Nation

AN AFFIRMATION

~ from *Bread for the World Worship Aids II*, posted in **Liturgy, Justice and the Reign of God**. <http://www.jfrankhenderson.com/pdf/ljrg.pdf>
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LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

HYMN: MV #194 "Bread of Life, Feed My Soul"

Verse 1

Bread of life, feed my soul, as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.
Bread of life, fill my heart with the grace and mercy you impart.

Verse 2: I have heard your voice calling, "Come, my friend, and share
in the feast that is laid out for you to show how much I care.

Verse 3: Bread of life, help me live a life as pure and true as Jesus did.
Bread of life, help me see the boundless love of Christ for you and me.

Verse 4: I have heard your voice calling, "Come, my friend, and share
in the feast that is laid out for you to show how much I care.

Verse 5

Bread of life, feed my soul, as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.
Bread of life, fill my heart with the grace and mercy you impart.

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GATHERING PRAYER : ~ Excerpted from a longer prayer written by Rev. Scott McKenna, Minister of Edinburgh Mayfield Salisbury. Posted on the Church of Scotland's **Weekly Worship** website.

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/> Used with permission.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

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.

AND LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES

GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir "Bread of Life"

Words & Music by Joel Raney

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION ~ Written by Cheryl Dillon. **Gathering** Lent/Easter 2024 (*Year B*) page 35.

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SCRIPTURE READINGS:

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RESPONSIVE PSALM: VU #752 Refrain 2 Psalm 25:1-10

Refrain: To you, O God, I lift my soul, to you I lift my soul.

To you, O God, I lift my soul; my God, in you I trust.

Let me not be put to shame, nor let my foes gloat over me.

Let none who wait for you be shamed; let them be shamed who wantonly break faith.

Show me your ways; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me; for you are God my saviour. For you I wait all the day long.

Refrain: To you, O God, I lift my soul, to you I lift my soul.

Remember your mercy, O God, and your steadfast love, for they are as old as time.

Do not remember the sins and offences of my youth. According to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O God!

Refrain: To you, O God, I lift my soul, to you I lift my soul.

You are upright and good, O God, therefore you show the path to those who go astray.

You guide the humble to do what is right, and teach the lowly your way.

All your ways are loving and sure

For those who keep your covenant and commandments.

Refrain: To you, O God, I lift my soul, to you I lift my soul.

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READING FROM THE GOSPELS:

Mark 1:9-15

REFLECTION by Rev. Deborah Hoekstra “The Beginning of The End”

(Presented by Rev Sharon McRann or Recorded)

HYMN: VU #99 “Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized”

Verse 1

Christ, when for us you were baptized, God’s Spirit on you came,
as peaceful as a dove and yet as urgent as a flame.

Verse 2: God called you, “My beloved Son,” called you, “My servant true,”
sent you God’s kingdom to proclaim, God’s holy will to do.

Verse 3: Straightway and steadfast until death you then obeyed the call
freely as Son of Man to serve and give your life for all.

Verse 4: Baptize us with your Spirit now, your cross on us be signed,
that likewise in God’s service we may perfect freedom find.

Words: F. Bland Tucker 1977, alt. Music: melody from Tochter Zion, Cologne, 1741. Words from The Hymnal 1982, copyright © Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License A-718663.

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

MISSION AND SERVICE STORY

London Community Chaplaincy offers a welcoming and safe social setting.

SPECIAL MUSIC: Terry Blois, Accompanied by Meredith Adams

“You’ve Got To Be Carefully Taught “ Music by Richard Rodgers, Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY: VU #581 “When We Are Living” Verse 2

Through all our living, we our fruits must give. Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving, we belong to God, we belong to God.

Translated by Elise S. Eslinger and George Lockwood. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

DEDICATION OF GIFTS (Responsive)

God of the wilderness,

We give these offerings in gratitude,

rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.

We give these offerings in faith,

trusting that you will provide for our needs.

We give these offerings in hope,

knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world.

And with these offerings, we give ourselves;

May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen

~Written by Joanna Harader, and posted on her **Spacious Faith** blog. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>
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PASTORAL PRAYER: ~ Written by Patrick Ryan, Pastor at Kuhn Memorial Presbyterian Church in Barboursville, West Virginia. Used with permission.

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.AND WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

SENDING HYMN: VU #262 “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Verse 1

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper sure amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:
for still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
with power and malice great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth he has no equal.

Verse 2: Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
were not the right man on our side, the man of God’s own choosing:
dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

Verse 3: And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us;
we will not fear, for God hath willed the truth to triumph through us:
the prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure, one little word shall fell him.

Verse 4: That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through Christ, who with us sideth:
let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill: God’s truth abideth still, God’s kingdom is for ever.

Words and Melody: Martin Luther, 1529, trans. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; Public Domain

CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US

COMMISSIONING

~ Written by Joanna Harader, and posted on her Spacious Faith blog. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>. Used with permission.

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE: MV #115 “Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New” (2x)

Behold, behold, I make all things new, beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold, behold, I make all things new, my promise is true, for I am Christ the way.

REPEAT

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MUSICAL POSTLUDE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we come together, we respectfully acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 territory of Alberta, Regions 2, 3 and 4 within the historical Northwest Métis Homeland. . We honour all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries. We recognize that many have come throughout the years to make this place their home. As treaty People, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, we share the responsibility of finding authentic ways to ensure that the spirit of Reconciliation and Treaty 6 is honoured and respected.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FEBRUARY 18, 2024

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS:

Community of Faith: Sunday, March 17, right after Church
Stony Plain U. C.: Sunday, April 14, right after Church
Mewassin U. C.: Sunday, March 17 after Mewassin's service

REV DEBORAH ON STUDY LEAVE: Rev. Deborah will be taking a Reading Week Feb 24 through Mar 1. If an emergent pastoral care need arises, she will be available at 780 983-2148 as she will be staying home for the reading week.

LENTEN PROJECT: This Sunday, Feb 18, is the first Sunday in Lent and Mewassin is sharing a Lenten project with us. Both churches will collect food items for the Parkland Food Bank during Lent, until March 17. Last week's insert explaining our "Lenten Journey" and listing items for donation each week is also in this week's bulletin, along with **a bread recipe for you to enjoy!** . Thank-you in advance for your generosity.

EASTER FUNDRAISER: It is the start of Lent, so we are again holding our Easter Fundraiser! Since 1907, Purdy's chocolates have been made in Canada, with premium quality ingredients and sustainable cocoa. This makes gift giving fun in time for Easter for your family, friends, neighbours, and co-workers by supporting our church. As usual, there are no-sugar and vegan options as well! Join on-line at Welcome to the Purdy Fundraiser: Easter Chocolates for Stony Plain United Church by placing your order at <https://fundraising.purdys.com/1499006-116183> or submit a paper form to Cathy Yamada-Swan or the church office, with cheques addressed to Catherine Yamada.
Place Orders & Pay By: Friday, March 15, 2024 at the latest.
 Pickup: by March 30, 2024 (or earlier - you will be notified when the orders arrive) at Stony Plain United Church. There are brochures and order forms on the table outside the Sanctuary. Thanks for supporting our church!

LIVE MUSIC & CHOCOLATE FRIDAY, APRIL 19: Catering will be hosting an evening of Live Music and Chocolate on Friday, April 19, 2024. (Save the date!). **Auditions for musicians and singers will be held Thursday, February 29 from 5pm to 8pm at the church.** Anyone interested in performing a 15 minute set on event night are welcome to come and do 1 or 2 songs on audition day. Musical genres are jazz, rock n roll, blues, country, classical, east coast, folk and open. Solos, duos, trios, etc. ALL ARE WELCOME! If you (or someone you know) would like to be a part of this exciting event, please call the church office to book a time slot. Performing artists will get a free ticket for the chocolate buffet.

REMINDERS

THURS. FEB 29 - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: **World Day of Prayer** is a world wide ecumenical movement with the motto "Informed Prayer, Prayerful Action". Each year a different country prepares the service and the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC) prepares and adapts it for our use. The Women of Palestine authored our service for 2024 before they knew there would be a war in their country. They chose as their theme "I beg you, bear with one another in love" Eph 4: 1 -3. Before the service there will be a slide presentation about the history of Palestine. **Everyone, every gender, is invited to Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Thurs. Feb 29, 2024 at 6:30 PM.** The offering goes toward the work of WICC, envelopes will be provided.

BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES: Thursday night Bible Study on Zoom continues with the Study "The Final Week/Holy Week". Dates: Feb 8, 15, 22, March 7, 14 & 21. If you wish to join, please contact Sue in the Office or Reverend Deborah. We will send you more information including the Zoom Link. Copies of the Study are available at the office.

THANK-YOU FROM REHOBOTH: It is with hearts of gratitude that the Board of Rehoboth Christian Ministries announces that the 2023 "Friends of Rehoboth" campaign reached \$264,000.00. Stony Plain United Church contributed \$590.00 to the campaign and we are thankful for your congregants help to "**Make Room**" for the individuals we serve, and allow them to **Flourish**.

HEALTH ADVISORY: The Worship Committee has been tracking the incidence of hospitalization due to COVID and Influenza. Although the worst of the COVID 19 seems to be over and incidence going down, it is still with us causing illness and hospitalization. Influenza is also causing illness and hospitalization, with incidence of hospitalization going down. Masks are not mandatory, but we do encourage the congregation to wear a mask if they feel more comfortable doing so. And we ask the congregation, please, stay home if you are ill.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukulele Group	Wednesdays, 6:15 pm
Choir	Wednesdays, 7 pm
Card Recreators:	Thursdays, 10 am
Bible Study:	Thursdays, 7 – 8 pm on Zoom until Mar 21.

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Thurs Feb 29	5 – 8 pm Auditions for upcoming Music night (April 19)
Thurs Feb 29	6:30 pm World Day of Prayer Service at Holy Trinity Catholic Church
Sunday Mar 17	Mewassin AGM after their Service
	Community of Faith AGM after Stony Service
Sunday Apr 14	Stony Plain United Church Annual General Meeting after church
Friday April 19	Live Music & Chocolate Night