

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
DECEMBER 07, 2025
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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!

Join **Zoom Meeting** via computer (with password) **DO NOT POST ON WEB OR FACEBOOK**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83364019239?pwd=TlEyY2c2aXUra1dDcHdvNlI4Y3Q4UT09>
Zoom teleconference Link info: Meeting ID: 833 6401 9239 Password: 4745
Via phone: +1 587 328 1099 Canada - dial in . +1 587 328 1099 , , 83364019239 - direct

*Thank-you to
for presiding at Stony Plain
We thank Rev. Deborah for preparing today's service.
She is staying at Mewassin this morning
for their Christmas Brunch after church!*

A United Church of Canada Historical Moment

" Though Newfoundland and Labrador didn't become a province until 1949, the Methodist and Presbyterian churches there became part of the United Church of Canada in 1925."

- written by Gayle Simonson

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

CHOIR: "Light of Light"

Words: Joel Raney; Music: Coventry Carol setting & additional Music by Joel Raney
(Music Continues)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Advent is a time to turn away from meaningless distractions.

Prince of Peace, clear our minds and calm our hearts.

Advent is a time to notice and count our many blessings.

Prince of Peace, help us recognize all that is good in our lives.

Advent is a time to let go of bitterness and resentment.

Prince of Peace, make us slow to anger and quick to forgive.

Advent is a time to spread peace to the world around us.

Prince of Peace, open our eyes to the needs of others.

CANDLE LIGHTING

CHORAL RESPONSE: Choir & Congregation “Light of Light”

Voices cry out from a world in grief: Prayers of those who seek relief.

End their darkness, hear their call for peace on earth, good will for all.

~ Words & setting by Joel Raney; © 2019 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

God, during this season of Advent, fill us with your Enduring Vision of a Promised Paradise.

Inspire us to seek justice and love kindness in all our human interactions and in our treatment of all creation. Embrace us with your shepherding presence that frees us from hate and enables us to know your saving grace. Amen.

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.

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD FOR OUR LIVES

GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir “Shine the Light of Your Love”

Words and Music by Mark Patterson

THEME TIME

HYMN: VU #6 “A Candle is Burning” Vs. 1 & 2

Verse 1

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December’s dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven’s starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

Verse 2: A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

Words: Sandra Dean 1986; Music James R. Murray 1887 Words © 1986 Sandra Dean. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Posted on <https://www.caldwellpresby.org/docs/resources/>. Used with permission.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Reader: Susan Oleskiw

FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES:

Isaiah 11:1-10

GOSPEL LESSON:

Matthew 3:1-12

REFLECTION: “Strength in Purpose” by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra (Recorded)

HYMN: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (*alternative words*) (Tune VU #1)

Verse 1:

O come, O come, Emmanuel refresh us at your life-giving well.
All people long to feel your grace, pour out your Spirit on every place.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee wherever you may dwell.

Verse 2:

O come to us, our Everlasting Home, your people lost and broken, roam,
And seek a place of welcome and peace, from war and violence, may they know release.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee wherever you may dwell.

Verse 3:

O come Beloved, hear your peoples' plea - The wounded soul, the homeless refugee.
May 'Welcome' be our own heart's call, 'Till there be room and justice for us all.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee wherever you may dwell.

~ Words by Juanita L. Austin – Nov. 29 2017 Tune: Veni Emmanuel One License Member/Publisher #650298

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

MISSION AND SERVICE STORY

INVITATION TO GIVE

Posted on https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/stewardship_advent-offerings/ Used with permission.

OFFERTORY *To the Tune of “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” (VU #541)*

O Glorious God, to you we bring
Praise, treasures, lives as offering;
Spirit of Peace, within us dwell;
Come, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

~ Written by Paula Meador Testerman. Posted on <https://www.hillsidemedford.org/transforming-love/doxology>
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DEDICATION OF GIFTS (*Unison*)

Peace-filled God, we offer not only financial gifts, but our commitment to serve in your name. We long to use our skills and abilities in ways that glorify you. We seek to share words that tell the Good News. We dedicate to you the fullness of who we are, as we present our offering. Praise be to you, Gracious God. Amen.

~ Written by Laura J. Turnbull. *Gathering*, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2022/2023, page 31. Used with permission.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

CLOSING HYMN: VU #18 “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness”**Verse 1**

There’s a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:
 prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!
 The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;
 make straight all the crooked places where God, our God, may go!

Verse 2: O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up to the heights and sing!
 Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King.
 Like the flowers of the field they perish, like grass our works decay;
 the power and pomp of nations shall pass, like a dream, away.

Verse 3: But the word of our God endureth, whose arm is ever strong;
 God stands in the midst of nations, and soon will right the wrong.
 God shall feed the flock like a shepherd, the lambs so gently hold;
 to pastures of peace will lead them, and bring them safe to fold.

Verse 4: There’s a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:
 prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!
 The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;
 make straight all the crooked places where God, our God, may go!

~ Words: James Lewis Milligan 1925, alt.; Music: Henry High Bancroft 1938 Words – Public Domain

CLOSING PRAYER (Unison)

God of light, we thank You for the sacrifice You made in sending Your Son, and we pray today that You will fill us with a deep sense of peace. Lighten our anxious moments. Help us keep our minds focused on Your love and take away our feelings of hopelessness and despair. May we remember that we are Your instruments of peace and help us to spread that peace to the world around us. Amen.

BENEDICTION**SUNG RESPONSE: VU #507 “Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples” Verses 2 & 3****Verse 2**

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
 To live as stewards of the earth, responding to God’s grace.
 But we are vain and sadly proud, we sow not peace but strife,
 Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

Verse 3: Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
 With righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
 For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,
 A world that was created for a harmony of peace.

~Words H. Kenn Carmichael 1985. Music: English traditional melody arr. Arthur Seymour Sullivan 1874. Words Copyright © 1989 H. Kenn Carmichael All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS DECEMBER 07, 2025

NEW OR REVISED

OUR APPRECIATION. The UCW thanks all those who assisted us with our Bake and Craft Sale. A special thanks to those who packaged and labelled their donations so beautifully. We realized \$1,627.00.

THURS DEC 11 - WORSHIP COMMITTEE: The Worship Committee will meet on Thursday, Dec 11 at 1:30 pm in the Chapel. Also on Zoom.

NEWS FROM MEWASSIN

- **Sunday School** is again doing the **Advent candle lightings**.
- **White Gift Sundays will be November 30 and December 7.** Our clothesline will be hanging up for collection of socks for Parenting for the Future. Socks of any kind are needed – kids, women and men
- **Nov 30, Dec 7 for Wabamun:** Please bring non-perishable food items or gift cards to contribute to the Wabamun Christmas Hamper.
- **Sat Dec 6 at 5 pm:** Family Christmas Gathering
- The annual **Christmas Brunch** will take place on **December 7** immediately following the service. Deborah will be staying with us for the morning. Please contribute by bringing a pot-luck food item.
- Sadly, there will be no formal Christmas concert this year due to lack of kids. Sunday School will be part of the Christmas Eve service though, so you will still see us telling the Christmas story in one way or another (we are still working on planning this).
- Next **Coffee Sunday is December 21.**
- Our **Christmas Eve Service is Sunday, December 24 at 4:30 p.m.**
- There will be **no service at Mewassin on December 28.** All are welcome to join in Stony's service at 10:30 a.m.
- Next **Communion date is January 11/26**

REMINDERS

(Please also check the "Meetings & Special Events")

CARD RECREATORS TAKING A BREAK: The Card Recreators will not meet again until Jan 8, 2026, but you can still buy cards!

SUN DEC 7 (TODAY!) AT 2 PM AT DEVON UC: Our Cantata Choir will be presenting our Cantata "Glory to the Newborn King!" at Devon United Church on Sunday, Dec 7 at 2 pm. All are welcome!

ADVENT DINNER AND CHOIR CANTATA SUNDAY, DEC 14: Tickets are available at the Church Office for this year's Christmas Cantata and Advent Supper on Sunday, Dec. 14. General admission: \$27.00; Children 6 to 11: \$13.00 and Children 5 & under: Free. Dinner starts at 5:00 pm (doors open at 4:30) and will include Ham, Scalloped Potatoes and all the trimmings. Carol Singing and Special Music starts at 6:30 followed by the Cantata, "Glory to the Newborn King!" by Lloyd Larson at 7:00 pm. Plan to stay afterward for fellowship, coffee and dessert. As always, we depend on volunteers to make the dinner a success –there will be Sign Up sheets in the atrium.

SUN DEC 21 STONY PLAIN SUNDAY SCHOOL: During church at Stony Plain on Sunday Dec 21, Sunday School will be doing its Christmas Presentation. There will be coffee after the service, thanks to our Sunday School group!

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.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukuleles & Choir: Ukes 6:15, Cantata 7 pm; Choir 8 pm
Card Recreators: **RESUME** JAN 8, 2026 Thursdays, 10 am

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Sat Dec 6	MEW: 5:00 pm - Family Christmas Gathering
Sun Nov 30, Dec 7	SP & MEW: White Gift Sundays
Sun Nov 30, Dec 7	MEW: collecting non-perishable food/gift cards for Wabamun Christmas Hamper
Sun Dec 7	MEW: Annual Christmas Brunch after church
Sun Dec 7	2 pm at Devon United Church – Our Choir will present the Cantata
Sun Dec 14	Advent Dinner & Choir Cantata (at SPUC) - Doors open 4:30 pm
Sun Dec 21	MEW: Coffee Sunday
Sun Dec 21	SP: Sunday School Christmas Presentation during church – coffee to follow