

STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH

JANUARY 25, 2026

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 the Men's Club
for the great breakfast this morning!**

REMINDER: "Endings and Beginnings" Service at 3:30 pm today!

HYMN SING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WE GATHER TOGETHER BEFORE GOD

on traditional territory of Treaty Six Peoples and of the Métis Nation

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

The invitation is given to every person by Jesus Christ:

"Come to me! Follow me! Be my disciples!"

**We come to this place, to this time,
at the invitation of Jesus Christ.**

In the name of Christ,

we accept the invitation to discipleship.

In the name of Christ,

as his disciples, we worship and praise God.

In the midst of a world where cruelty abounds,

we proclaim the God of Compassion.

In the midst of despair that threatens to swallow up

whole lives, whole peoples,

we proclaim the God of Hope.

In the midst of indifference and apathy,

we proclaim the God of Love.

Come, let us worship together

and share our witness of God's living presence in the world.

~ From the **On Earth Peace** website. <http://www.onearthpeace.org/> Used with permission.

GATHERING PRAYER

~ Written by Rev. Elizabeth Dilley, and posted on the **United Church of Christ's Worship Ways** website. <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/> Used with permission.

HYMN: VU #79 “Arise, Your Light is Come”**Verse 1**

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

Verse 2: Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Verse 3: Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Verse 4: Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Words: Ruth Duck 1974; Music: William H. Walker 1872. Words copyright © 1982 G.I.A. Publications Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (*Responsive*)

In this season of Light, we light this candle to remind us of God's light shining in the darkness

May we carry this light of hope, peace, and justice to the world around us everyday.

~ Written by Rev. Gord Waldie. Posted on <https://worshipofferings.blogspot.com/> 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.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES**GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir “Walk in the Light”**

Words & Music by Joseph M. Martin

THEME TIME**HYMN: VU #288 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”****Verse 1**

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator; there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

REFRAIN:

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided –
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!**

Verse 2: Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

REFRAIN: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided –
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

Verse 3: Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow – wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.

REFRAIN

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm 1923. Music: William M. Runyan 1923. Words and Music copyright © 1923, 1951 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES:

Isaiah 9:1-4

READING FROM THE GOSPELS:

Matthew 4:12-23

**REFLECTION: “Changed by Faith” by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra
(Recorded)**

HYMN: MV #220 (seated) “Hope Shines as the Solitary Star” (4x: “Hope”, “Peace”, “Joy”, “Love”)

Verse 1

Hope shines as the solitary star, faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights, and illumine the pathway home.

Verse 2: Peace shines as the solitary star, faith is the inner light.

You and I together mirror the Light of Lights, and illumine the pathway home.

Verse 3: Joy shines as the solitary star, faith is the inner light.

You and I together mirror the Light of Lights, and illumine the pathway home.

Verse 4: Love shines as the solitary star, faith is the inner light.

You and I together mirror the Light of Lights, and illumine the pathway home.

Words: Catherine Faith MacLean; Music Janet Bauman Tissandier Words copyright © Catherine Faith MacLean Music copyright © Janet Bauman Tissandier. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

PRAYER FOR UNITY

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

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY: VU #537 “Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands”

Verse 1:

Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.

Verse 2: Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make:
be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.

~ Words: Calvin Weiss Laufer 1927, alt. Music Neil Dougall ca. 1831. Public Domain

DEDICATION OF GIFTS (*Unison*)

**We give these gifts freely, We receive these gifts gratefully,
We dedicate these gifts to the work of our congregation: serving human wholeness, caring for
our planet, upholding religious freedom, welcoming the stranger, loving one another. Amen.**

~ Posted on <https://givingspeaks.com/congregations/words-for-the-dedication-of-the-offering/> Used with permission.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

SENDING HYMN: VU #651 “Guide Me. O Thou Great Jehovah”

Verse 1

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty, hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of Heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.

Verse 2: Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield. Be thou still my strength and shield.

Verse 3

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee, I will ever give to thee.

Words: Welsh, William Williams 1745; English trans. Peter Williams and William Williams 1771. Music: John Hughes 1905. Public Domain

CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US

COMMISSIONING

~ Written by Rev. Elizabeth Dilley, and posted on the **United Church of Christ's Worship Ways** website <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/> **Adapted.** Used with permission.

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE: MV #211 “Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light”

Go now in peace, guided by the light of Christ, so you may be nourished by the Word of Life.

~Words and Music: Pedro Rubalcava, 2002; Arrangement: Peter Kolar, 2002 Words and Music copyright © 2002 World Library Publications. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

A United Church of Canada Historical Moment

"For nearly 125 years, the United Church and its predecessor denomination have offered health care in remote areas of Canada's west coast. Hospitals in Bella Bella and Bella Coola BC have operated with support from the Mission and Service fund. The United Church involvement in these hospitals is currently coming to an end."

- Gayle Simonson

ANNOUNCEMENTS JANUARY 25, 2026

NEW OR REVISED

SUN. JAN 25 BREAKFAST: The Men's club will serve breakfast Sunday Jan 25 from about 8:45 am to 9:30 am. Thank you!

CORRECTION TO CHOIR PRACTICE TIME: Weekly choir practice is Wednesday evenings starting at 7:00 pm.

FEB 2-18 DEBORAH AWAY: Rev. Deborah will be on Vacation/Study Leave starting Feb. 2 and will return to work Feb 18. In case of emergency, you may call her, as she will be staying in town. Otherwise, please leave a message with the church office.

WED. FEB 4 UCW: The UCW will meet Wed. Feb 4 at 1:30 pm. Guest speaker, Noel Cairney "The Spirituality of Laughter". All ladies welcome.

WED. FEB 4 WHISPERING WATERS: We will have our monthly service at Whispering Waters on Wed. Feb 4 at 7:15 pm. The choir will come back to the church afterwards for its practice.

REMINDERS

SUN. FEB 8, 2026 SP LUNCH SUNDAY: Stony Plain is planning a Lunch Sunday on Feb. 8. Helpers are always needed, and most welcome! If you can help, please leave a message with the Office 780 963-4745.

SUNDAY, JAN. 25, 2026 3:30 PM: ENDINGS & BEGINNINGS SERVICE: 'Endings and Beginnings' is a special Worship Service to help people in our congregations and the community who have experienced grief or loss. Through lighting candles, silence, prayers, music and caring, we hope to help each other move from 'Endings' to new 'Beginnings'.

SERVICE FOR GEORGE McRANN SAT. JAN 31, 2 PM: As most of you know, we were deeply saddened by the passing of George McRann early in December. There will be a Celebration of Life service for George at Stony Plain United Church on Saturday, January 31, at 2 pm. Please continue to keep Sharon and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

ANNUAL REPORTS: All Chairpersons are asked to email their reports to the office, stonyuc@telus.net, by the end of January, 2026, please. These will be used to compile the Annual Report which will be reviewed at the Annual General Meetings (Community of Faith March 8, Stony Plain United March 15 and Mewassin TBA). Thank-you!

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.

REV DEBORAH'S SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS:

Sun Jan 25, 2026 Rev. Deborah in Devon – recorded service for us.
Sun Feb 1, 2026 Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW
Sun Feb 8, 2026 Rev. Deborah on Vacation/Study Leave.
Sun Feb 15, 2026 Rev. Deborah on Vacation/Study Leave.
Sun. Feb 22, 2026 Rev. Deborah in Devon – recorded service for us.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukuleles & Choir: Wednesdays: Ukes 6:15, Choir 7:00 pm
Card Recreators: Thursdays, 10 am

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun. Jan 25 3:30 pm Endings and Beginnings Service at Stony Plain UC
Sat. Jan 31 2:00 pm Celebration of Life for George McRann
Wed. Feb 4 1:30 pm UCW Meeting
Wed. Feb 4 7:15 pm Whispering Waters Service
Sun. Feb 8 SP Lunch Sunday after church