

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
NOVEMBER 23, 2025
REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY**

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!

A United Church of Canada Historical Moment

"Before Union, each denomination had its own printing business to produce news and resources; all dated back to the 1800s. At union, they combined to form The New Outlook. In 1938, it was renamed the United Church Observer and more recently changed to Broadview. It remains the oldest continuously published magazine in North America and the second oldest in the English-speaking world."
- 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

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Psalm 46: 1-3, 11

God is our refuge and strength,
always ready to help in times of trouble.
So we will not fear, even if earthquakes come,
and the mountains crumble into the sea.
Let the oceans roar and foam.
Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!
The Lord Almighty is here among us;
the God of Israel is our fortress.

~ Posted on <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/> Used with permission.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

GATHERING PRAYER

Written by Thom M. Shuman and posted on Lectionary Liturgies. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
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HYMN: VU #325 "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

Verse 1:

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious, binding all the church in one,
Holy Zion's help forever, and its confidence alone.

Verse 2: To this temple where we call you, come, O lord of hosts, today;
with your faithful loving kindness hear your servants as they pray,
and your fullest benediction shed within its walls always.

Verse 3: Here bestow on all your servants what they ask of you to gain,
what they gain from you forever with the blessed to retain,
and here-after in your glory evermore with you to reign.

Verse 4: Laud and honour to the Father, laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit, ever three and ever one,
one in might, and one in glory, while unending ages run.

Words: Latin 7th c. trans John M. Neale 1851. Music Henry Purcell 1682 adapt. Ernest Hawkins 1842. Public Domain.

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 "Believe He Loves You"

Words & Music by Betta Poorman and Sonja Poorman, incorporating "Trust and Obey"

THEME TIME

HYMN: MV #145

"Draw the Circle Wide"

REFRAIN:

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
Standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

Verse 1

God the still-point of the circle, 'round whom all creation turns;
Nothing lost, but held forever, in God's gracious arms.

REFRAIN

Verse 2: Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;
Let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call.

REFRAIN

Verse 3: Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we've ever dreamed before;
Let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door.

REFRAIN: Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
Standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

~ Words and music: Gordon Light 1994. Words and Music Copyright © 1994 Common Cup Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (*Unison*)

**God, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

Posted on <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/book-of-worship> Used with permission.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

FROM THE EPISTLES: Colossians 1:11-20

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 23:33-43

REFLECTION: “Justice Will Prevail” by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra

HYMN: MV #171 (*seated*) “Christ Has No Body Now but Yours”

**REFRAIN: Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.**

Verse 1: 'No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,
no hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,
no touch but yours to bind the broken hope of the people of God.

REFRAIN

Verse 2: No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,
to find the lost, to gaze with compassion;
no eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy of the city of God.

REFRAIN

Verse 3: No feet but yours to journey with the poor,
To walk this world with mercy and justice.
Yours are the steps to build a lasting peace for the children of God.

REFRAIN

Verse 4: Through ev'ry gift, give back to those in need:
As Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,
With ev'ry gift a benediction, be to the people of God.

REFRAIN:

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THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

INVITATION TO GIVE

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OFFERTORY: VU #538 “For the Gift of Creation”

For the gift of creation, the gift of your love, and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.

May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

~ Words and Music by Steve Garnaas-Holmes 1991. Words and music copyright © 1991 Abingdon Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

DEDICATION of GIFTS: (Unison)

God of abundance, we thank you for the gifts that we present to you now. We ask that you receive them and bless them. May they enable us to serve the world in ways that inspire hope and make your love known. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

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SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER (Responsive)**

One: May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God most holy.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

(One Voice continues ... join to sing/say your praise:)

RESPONSE: (Unison)

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.

All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.

Hosanna in the highest heav’n, creation sings your praise.

And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!

(One Voice continues.... We delight to proclaim:

RESPONSE: (Unison)

Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

(One Voice continues...Amen)

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS Hymns during distribution: VU #469 “We Gather Here”; VU #471 “Eat This Bread and Never Hunger”; MV #198 “When We Gather at the Table”

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Unison)

We give thanks that bread broken, brings wholeness; that wine poured out, replenishes; that sacrificial love mends this wounded world. Through the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

HYMN: VU #512 “Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

Verse 1: Lord, you give the great commission: “Heal the sick and preach the word.”

Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity,
with the Spirit’s gifts empow’r us for the work of ministry.

Verse 2: Lord, you call us to your service: “in my name baptize and teach.”
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community;
with the Spirit’s gifts empow’r us for the work of ministry.

Verse 3: Lord, you make the common holy: “This my body, this my blood.”
Let us all, for earth’s true glory, daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us share your children’s liberty;
with the Spirit’s gifts empow’r us for the work of ministry.

Verse 4: Lord, you show us love’s true measure; “Father, what they do, forgive.”
Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us to a just society;
with the Spirit’s gifts empow’r us for the work of ministry.

Verse 5: Lord you bless with words assuring: “I am with you to the end.”
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend,
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity;
with the Spirit’s gifts empow’r us for the work of ministry.

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WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

CARRYING THE CHRIST LIGHT WITH US

COMMISSIONING

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BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #646 “We Are Marching” (3X English, South African - Zulu, English)

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. (the light of God.)
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,) oo-oo, (marching,)
We are marching in the light of God. (the light of God.)
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,) oo-oo, (marching,)
We are marching in the light of God.

Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen, kwenkhos’, Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos’.
Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen, kwenkhos’, Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos’. (khanyen’ kwenkhos’.)
Siyahamba, (hamba siyahamba,) oo-oo, (hamba,)
Siyahamb’, ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos’. (khanyen’kwenkhos’.)
Siyahamba, (hamba siyahamba,) oo-oo, (hamba,)
Siyahamb’, ekukhanyen’kwenkhos’.
We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. (the light of God.)
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,) oo-oo, (marching,)
We are marching in the light of God. (the light of God.)
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,) oo-oo, (marching,)
We are marching in the light of God.

Words and Music: South African traditional song 20th century. Trans. And Arr. Anders Nyberg. Copyright © 1984 Walton Music Corporation. All rights reserved. Reprinted under one License #A-718663.

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS NOVEMBER 23, 2025

NEW OR REVISED

THURS. NOV 27: CARE COMMITTEE MEETING: The Care Committee will meet Thursday, Nov. 27 at 2 pm in the Board Room.

SP WHITE GIFT SUNDAYS NOV 30 AND DEC 7: Stony Plain is also having "White Gift Sundays" on the first 2 Sundays of Advent, Nov. 30 and Dec. 7. We will be collecting warm weather clothing: Mitts, socks, toques, etc. Donations will go to Parenting for the future.

GIFTS WITH VISION, LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE: There are brochures on the table outside the sanctuary for "Gifts with Vision" (United Church of Canada) and the annual "Light Up Your Life" campaign (supporting local Palliative Care, Hospice, and Continuing Care)

REMINDERS

SAT. NOV 29 UCW MUFFIN CAFÉ, BAKE & CRAFT SALE: Sat. Nov 29, 2025, the UCW will hold their muffin café, bake and craft sale. We welcome craft and baking donations. Baking may be packaged in clean, repurposed, clear top, food containers. Label with name of item, quantity, and with/without nuts. Please bring to the church before noon Fri. Nov 28.

SUN. NOV 30 BREAKFAST: The Men's Club will be serving breakfast from about 8:45 am to 9:30 am. Please come join us!

WED. DEC 3: UCW CHRISTMAS MEETING. On Dec 3 at 12:00 noon we will share Chinese food. All ladies are welcome.

SUN NOV 30 BREAKFAST: The Men's Club will be serving breakfast on Sun Nov 30 from about 8:45 am to 9:30 am. Please join us!

ADVENT DINNER AND CHOIR CANTATA SUNDAY, DEC 14: Tickets are now 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. The musical portion of the evening starts with Carol Singing and Special Music 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 – later this month, there will be Sign Up sheets in the atrium for donations of grocery items and/or your time.

PURDY'S CHOCOLATES FUNDRAISER: Help support our church by ordering Purdy's chocolates for Christmas! Join on-line at Welcome to the Purdy Fundraiser: "Christmas Chocolates for Stony Plain United Church" and place your order at: <https://fundraising.purdys.com/1373249-131022>. Alternatively, you may submit a paper form to the church office,. **Place Orders & Pay By: Tuesday, November 25, 2025** at the latest. **Pickup:** December 14, 2025 (or earlier - you will be notified when the orders arrive) **At:** Stony Plain United Church, 5012 – 51 Ave, Stony Plain

NEWS FROM MEWASSIN

- Next **Coffee Sundays** are **November 16 (Today!)** and **December 21**.
- Next **Communion** dates are **today** and **January 11/26**
- **Keephills Hall is having a pancake breakfast on November 30** (9 am - 11:30 am). Tickets are \$10.00 ahead of time or \$15.00 at the door. Kids under 12 are \$5.00.
- **Sunday School** will again be doing the **Advent candle lightings**. Advent starts on November 30, 2025.
- The annual **Christmas Brunch** will take place on **December 7** (2nd Sunday in Advent) immediately following the service. Deborah will be staying with us for the morning. Please contribute by bringing a pot-luck food item.
- **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.
- 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.
- More Christmas announcements to come.

NEWS FROM NORTHERN SPIRIT:

Northern Spirit Climate Contacts: Is your church passionate about climate justice? Do you have special climate-related projects or a justice team working on climate-related issues? The Northern Spirit office & Executive is working on assembling a contact list for communicating key climate-related actions and events. Please [contact the office](#) if your church has any contacts who would appreciate being on this list!

New Northern Spirit Staff: Kevin Guenther Trautwein hired as First-Third Ministry Animator! Northern Spirit is very excited to welcome Kevin Guenther Trautwein as our new First-Third Ministry Animator. [Click here to read the full announcement on the NS website!](#)

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: Thursdays, 10 am

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Tues Nov 25	Deadline to order Purdy's chocolates for Christmas!
Thurs Nov 27	2 pm Care Committee Meeting (Board Room)
Sat. Nov 29	UCW Muffin Café, Bake and Craft Sale
Sun Nov 30	8:45 am Breakfast prepared by the Men's Club

Sun Nov 30, Dec 7
Sun Dec 7

Mew: White Gift Sundays – please donate socks
Mew: Annual Christmas Brunch after church

EVENTS AT OTHER NORTHERN SPIRIT REGION CHURCHES: (see posters on bulletin board)

- **Sat. Nov 22 Spirit of Hope United Church** 7909 Whyte (82nd) Ave. N. W. Edmonton. **Christmas Bake Sale and Artisan Market** 10 am to 3 pm. Baking, Crafts, Lunch (Beef on a Bun, Pie)
- **Sat. Nov 22 Grace United Church:** 6215 104 Ave. Edmonton. **Christmas Bazaar** 10 am to 2 pm. Gifts, crafts, Kids' shopping opportunity, baking etc. Lunch (\$12).
- **Sun. Nov 23 Spirit West United Church:** 7003 199 St. N.W. Edmonton. **Craft & Bake Sale** 12:30 to 3 pm. Home Baking, Handmade Crafts, Store for kids to Christmas shop, Hot chocolate provided!
- **Sat. Nov 29 Mill Woods United Church:** 15 Grand Meadow Cres. NW, Edmonton. **Christmas Market** 10 am to 4 pm. 50+ Vendors, Children's activities, unique gifts.
- **Fri. Dec 5, Sat. Dec 6 Pilgrim United Church** 9008 15 Ave. Edmonton **Christmas Market** Fri 10 am to 6 pm; Sat 10 am to 4 pm
- **Sat. Dec 6 St. Andrew's United Church:** 1A Fieldstone Drive, Spruce Grove, **Christmas Market** 10 am to 2 pm. 25 vendors on site including holiday baking, second hand books and unique one-of-a-kind gifts.