

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH  
FEBRUARY 08, 2026  
FIFTH AFTER EPIPHANY**

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church  
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Reverend Deborah M. Hoekstra Cell: 780 983-2148  
WELCOME to our service this morning!

**PLEASE STAY FOR LUNCH AFTER THE SERVICE TODAY!**

**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)**

Come, beloved people of God.

**We come to worship.**

Come, salt of the earth,

**We come to add seasoning and vitality.**

Come, light of the world,

**We come to bring light to those around us.**

Come, let us worship and pray.

~ Written by Beth W Johnston Gathering Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2013 – 2014 p.41. Used with permission.

**GATHERING SONG: VU# 234 “Let Us With A Gladsome Mind” v 1,2,,5**

**Verse 1**

Let us with a gladsome mind praise our God, forever kind;  
whose great mercies still endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

**Verse 2:** God, with all-commanding might, filled the new-made world with light;  
for God's mercies still endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

**Verse 5:** Let us then with gladsome mind, praise our God, forever kind;  
whose great mercies still endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

~ Words: John Milton 1623, alt. Music attrib to John Antes ca. 1800-. Public Domain.

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**GATHERING PRAYER (Unison) Let us pray together:**

Loving God, unchanging, ever with us, we praise you!  
 You are the guiding light when the way ahead seems dark.  
 You are the renewing Spirit when despair clouds our path.  
 You are the will to change when the old ways hold us bound.  
 You are the touch of compassion when life is harsh.  
 Loving God, hope of the world, giver of Jesus, we praise you! Amen

~ Written by David Sparks, 1995 Worship For All Seasons II, Selections from Gathering Year A, page 69.

**HYMN: Then Let Us Sing #30 “We’re the Light of all the World”**  
 (Alternate: VU# 87 “I Am the Light of the World”)

**THEN LET US SING #30**

**Verse 1**

We're the light of all the world, we are a city on a hill,  
 we're a candle on a stand proclaiming light,  
 we will not hide our lamp beneath a bushel any more,  
 we will shine a ray of hope that's burning bright.

**REFRAIN: We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace**  
**for the flood of tears will finally cease to be.**  
**come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,**  
**paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.**

**Verse 2:** We're a coat of many colours, sewn from many different threads,  
 cov'ring all in warmth, in welcome and in grace,  
 God said "Let there be light", created every varied shade,  
 in the rainbow each of us can find a place.

**REFRAIN: We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace**  
**for the flood of tears will finally cease to be.**  
**come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,**  
**paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.**

**Verse 3:** We are hope to still believe in tomorrow's better day,  
 we are peace in a world that's torn apart,  
 we are joy that will last in all the struggles that we face,  
 we are love that blooms and grows in every heart.

**REFRAIN: We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace**  
**for the flood of tears will finally cease to be.**  
**come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,**  
**paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.**

**Verse 4:** When we face the storms of life, we will never be alone,  
 for our God will be with us on the way,  
 hand in hand, side by side, we won't be frightened any more,  
 as the mourning night of tears breaks into day.

**LAST REFRAIN**

**We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace**  
**for the flood of tears will finally cease to be.**  
**come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,**  
**paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.**

## Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.

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## 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 "Bless the Lord"

Words from Psalm 103; Music: "Adagio" from Sonata Pathetique Ludwig van Beethoven; Setting by Hal H. Hopson

## THEME TIME

### HYMN: This Little Light of Mine

#### Verse 1

This little light of mine. I'm gonna let it shine.  
 This little light of mine. I'm gonna let it shine.  
 This little light of mine. I'm gonna let it shine.  
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

#### Verse 2: Hide it under a bushel (NO!) I'm gonna let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel (NO!) I'm gonna let it shine.  
 Hide it under a bushel (NO!) I'm gonna let it shine.  
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

#### Verse 3: Don't let anyone blow it out. I'm gonna let it shine.

Don't let anyone blow it out. I'm gonna let it shine.  
 Don't let anyone blow it out. I'm gonna let it shine.  
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

#### Verse 4: Let it shine in my hometown. I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine in my hometown. I'm gonna let it shine.  
 Let it shine in my hometown. I'm gonna let it shine.  
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

#### Verse 5: See the light spreading round the world. See all the faces shine.

See the light spreading round the world. See all the faces shine.  
 See the light spreading round the world. See all the faces shine.  
 Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Arrangement: Pamela Bye All rights reserved. Used with permission.

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

We seek you in your Word, O God. Help us find your Way for us in the scriptures we hear

**today, and to abide in your will. Amen.**

Written by George Allen Gathering Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2010 – 2011 page 45. Used with permission.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**Hebrew Scripture:**      **Isaiah 58 : 1 – 9a**  
**Gospel Lesson:**      **Matthew 5: 13 – 20**

**REFLECTION: “Having The Heart of Christ” by Susan Oleskiw**

**HYMN: MV #10 “Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom”. (seated)**

**Verse 1**

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom, she who danced when earth was new.  
Follow closely what she teaches, for her words are right and true.  
Wisdom clears the path to justice, showing us what love must do.

**Verse 2:** Listen to the voice of Wisdom, crying in the market-place.

Hear the Word made flesh among us, full of glory, truth, and grace.  
When the word takes root and ripens, peace and righteousness embrace.

**Verse 3:** Sister Wisdom, come, assist us; nurture all who seek rebirth.

Spirit guide and close companion, bring to light our sacred worth.  
Free us to become your people, holy friends of God and earth.

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**THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION**

**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*)**

**Loving God, we recognize that your blessings come in so many ways; we seek to be a blessing to others, to let our light shine in the world. Use and multiply our gifts so that the work of our church here and around the world can be a sign of your caring presence. Amen.**

- Beth W. Johnston, Bridging Waters P.C., Nipawin, Sask. Gathering Pentecost 2 2025 page 38.

**WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

## SENDING HYMN: VU# 575 "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

### Verse 1

I'm gonna live so (live so) God can use me any where, Lord, any time! (any time!)  
 I'm gonna live so (live so) God can use me any where, Lord, any time! (any time!)

**Verse 2:** I'm gonna work so (work so) God can use me  
 any where, Lord, any time! (any time!)

I'm gonna work so (work so) God can use me any where, Lord, any time! (any time!)

**Verse 3:** I'm gonna pray so (pray so) God can use me  
 any where, Lord, any time! (any time!)

I'm gonna pray so (pray so) God can use me any where, Lord, any time! (any time!)

**Verse 4:** I'm gonna sing so (sing so) God can use me  
 any where, Lord, any time! (any time!)

I'm gonna sing so (sing so) God can use me any where, Lord, any time! (any time!)

Words and music: African-American spiritual. Public Domain

## CARRYING THE CHRIST LIGHT WITH US

### COMMISSIONING (responsive)

We are the world's light; go and shine.

We are the world's salt: go with zest.

Let all see the good you do in Christ's name,

That all may glorify God forever. May God be with you.

**And also with you. Amen.**

~ Written by Jack Ballantine-Dickson, *Gathering Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2013 – 2014* page 46. Used with permission.

## BENEDICTION

### SUNG RESPONSE: MV #211 "Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light" Sing twice

Go now in peace, guided by the light of Christ,

so you may be nourished by the Word of Life.

**REPEAT**

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## MUSICAL POSTLUDE

### A United Church of Canada Historical Moment

The 1988 General Council decision that "all people regardless of sexual orientation are welcome as full members of the United Church" and that "all members of the United Church are eligible to be considered for ministry" made national headlines. Presently there are 44 Affirming congregations in Alberta, the latest being Living Spirit in Drayton Valley. Nationally there are over 300 Affirming ministries openly welcoming all people.

- Gayle Simonson

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS FEBRUARY 08, 2026**

### **NEW OR REVISED**

**THURSDAY, FEB 12 WORSHIP COMMITTEE:** Meets at 1:30 pm in the Chapel or on Zoom Thursday, Feb. 12.

**TUESDAY, FEB 17 SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER:** Our Men's Group will be preparing it's Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm on Tuesday, Feb. 17. Please come out and enjoy a delicious supper of pancakes, sausages, fruit and beverage. Free Will Donation. All are welcome! Posters are available for you to share with your neighbours!

**MARCH 8, MARCH 15 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS:** The Community of Faith AGM will be held on Sunday March 8, and Stony Plain United Church's AGM will be on Sunday, March 15. Both meetings will take place right after the morning service.

**PARKLAND FOODBANK LETTERS AND INFORMATION:** We received a very informative package from the Parkland Food Bank this week, expressing appreciation for donations, and interesting news about their organization. A copy of the letters from the Executive Director, Sheri Ratsoy, and their office are on an insert (yellow) in today's bulletin. Copies of the whole package are on the table outside the sanctuary and on the bulletin board. Of interest to some of you is their annual "Coldest Night of the Year" family-friendly winter walk on February 28 at Columbus Park, Spruce Grove. Details are available on-line. Thank-you to our congregations for their continued generosity.

***Please note that the Lenten Theme 2026, provided by Mewassin UC, will include donations to the Parkland Food Bank.***

### **REMINDERS**

**FEB 2-18 DEBORAH AWAY:** Rev. Deborah is on Vacation/Study Leave until 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.

**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](mailto:stonyuc@telus.net).

### **REV DEBORAH'S SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS:**

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

### **WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

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

**MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Sun. Feb 8**  
**Tues. Feb 17**  
**Sun. Mar 1**  
**Sun. Mar 8**  
**Sun. Mar 15**

**SP Lunch Sunday after church**  
**5 – 6:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**  
**Communion at both churches**  
**Community of Faith Annual General Meeting**  
**Stony Plain United Church Annual General Meeting**