

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
MARCH 08, 2026
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
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Phone: 780 963-4745 Email: stonyuc@telus.net
Reverend Deborah M. Hoekstra Cell: 780 983-2148
WELCOME to our service this morning!

**REMINDER!
COMMUNITY OF FAITH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TODAY AFTER CHURCH**

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

Written by Kate Carwford. *Gathering Lent/Easter 2026 (Year A)* page 29. Used with permission

TENEBRAE LITURGY:

CALL TO THE LIGHT

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PRAYER

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LETTING THE LIGHT IN (*MEW: Uncovering a window SP: Lights up*)

HYMN: VU #82 "A Light Is Gleaming" Refrain, verse 3, Refrain

REFRAIN:

**A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night, living in the light.
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love is burning bright, living in the light.**

Verse 3

And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk. He showed us things we hadn't seen.
Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine, and this will be a sign;

REFRAIN: A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night, living in the light.

Come share its gladness, God's radiant love is burning bright, living in the light.

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A CANDLE IS LIT

PRAYER: (Unison) Lent 3 "Embracing the Light"

Dear God, I ask you to strengthen the light inside of me. I sometimes struggle to share it, hiding my own light out of fear of being seen or becoming too prideful. Today, I ask you to give me courage to be visible in my faith, to add clarity and light to the darkness in ways I can comprehend. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE LORD'S PRAYER: SING VU #960

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 them that 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.

Adapt. From a chant by R. Langdon Public Domain

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES

GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir: "Way Maker"

Words and Music by Osinachi Okoro; Choral Setting Lloyd Larson

THEME TIME

HYMN: MV #92 "Like a Rock" (2x)

Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet. Like the starry night sky God is over our head.

Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before.

Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God evermore.

REPEAT

Words by Keri K. Wehlander, 1998. Adapted to music: Linnea Good, 1999. Words and music copyright © 1999 Borealis Music. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

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FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES:

Exodus 17:1-7

FROM THE GOSPELS:

John 4:5-26

REFLECTION: "The Water That Quenches" by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra

HYMN: VU 626 (seated) “I Heard the Voice of Jesus” (Tune VU #625)**Verse 1**

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

Verse 2:

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one, stoop down, and drink, and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

Verse 3:

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in the light of life I’ll walk till travelling days are done.

Words: Horatius Bonar 1846; Music: English and Irish Traditional melody. Public Domain

PRAYER

Written by Rev. Karla and posted on **RevGalBlogPals**. <https://revgalblogpals.org> Used with permission.

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION**INVITATION TO GIVE****OFFERTORY: Then Let Us Sing #60 “There’s Enough For All”**

There’s enough for all if we would learn to share it,
there’s enough for all, oh, help us to believe.
There’s enough for all. Let’s bring our loaves and fishes, and offer them to Jesus.
There’s more than enough for you and me

~ Words & Music: Bryan Moyer Suderman, alt. © 2024 Bryan Moyer Suderman/Small TallMusic. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

DEDICATION OF GIFTS (Unison)

May these gifts of talent, time, and money bring encouragement, strength, and peace to each other and to all who need care, O God. May our gifts in some small way, bear witness to our love. Amen.

Written by George Allan. **Gathering** Lent/Easter 2026 (Year A) page 33. Used with permission.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD**SENDING HYMN: VU #639 “One More Step Along the World I Go”****Verse 1**

One more step along the world I go, one more step along the world I go,
from the old things to the new, keep me travelling along with you:

REFRAIN: And it's from the old I travel to the new; keep me travelling along with you.

Verse 2: Round the corner of the world I turn, more and more about the world I learn;
all the new things that I see you'll be looking at along with me:

REFRAIN: And it's from the old I travel to the new; keep me travelling along with you.

Verse 3: As I travel through the bad and good, keep me travelling the way I should;
where I see no way to go you'll be telling me the way, I know:

REFRAIN: And it's from the old I travel to the new; keep me travelling along with you.

Verse 4: Give me courage when the world is rough, keep me loving though the world is tough,
leap and sing in all I do, keep me travelling along with you:

REFRAIN: And it's from the old I travel to the new; keep me travelling along with you.

Verse 5: You are older than the world can be, you are younger than the life in me,
ever old and ever new, keep me travelling along with you:

REFRAIN: And it's from the old I travel to the new; keep me travelling along with you.

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COMMISSIONING

Adapted from the Ecumenical Water Network's Seven Weeks for Water campaign for World Water Day (22 March), and posted on *World Communion of Reformed Churches* <http://www.wcrc.ch> Used with permission.

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE: "Threefold Choral Amen"

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS MARCH 08, 2026

NEW OR REVISED

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 BREAKFAST: The Men's Club will be cooking for us again the last Sunday of the month. Approximately 8:45 to 9:30 am.

REMINDERS

PURDY'S EASTER CHOCOLATES: Place Orders & Pay By: **Sunday, March 15, 2026 at the latest.** Join on-line at Welcome to the Purdy Fundraiser: "Easter Chocolates for Stony Plain United Church" and order at :<https://fundraising.purdys.com/campaign/000024869> Or you may submit a paper form to the church office. Pickup: April 2, 2026 or earlier at SPUC. Thanks for supporting our church

LENTEN JOURNEY 2026 "JESUS IS THE LIGHT" – COLLECTION FOR THE FOOD BANK:

Again this year, Mewassin has provided us with a Lenten Journey, "Jesus is the Light". As part of this, we are collecting specific items for the Parkland Food Bank each week of Lent up to Palm Sunday. There are sheets on the table outside the Sanctuary and on the bulletin board listing the items for each week. Many thanks the Mewassin Sunday School for providing us with this year's Lenten Journey.

STARTING SUNDAY FEB 22 FROM 4 TO 5 PM: LENT PRAYER SESSIONS: Northern Spirit has organized Lenten Prayer sessions every Sunday afternoon from 4 to 5 pm during Lent (Feb 22 to Mar 29). Various churches in our region are hosting the sessions – the schedule is on the bulletin board and also on the table outside the sanctuary. You can join the sessions on zoom with this link: [connection link](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86475167860?pwd=HKXBqMbin1oADzFCFbapYgKa9bLz0c.1#success); Meeting ID: 864 7516 7860; Passcode: 803578).
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86475167860?pwd=HKXBqMbin1oADzFCFbapYgKa9bLz0c.1#success>.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, SUNDAY, 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.

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. Mar 8, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP
Sun. Mar 15, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP
Sun. Mar 22, 2026	Rev. Deborah in Devon – recorded service for us.
Sun. Mar 29, 2026	PALM SUNDAY Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP
Fri. April 3, 2026	GOOD FRIDAY Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP (9 am, 10:30 am) Regular service times
Sun. Apr. 5, 2026	EASTER SUNDAY Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP (9 am, 10:30 am)

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

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

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun Feb 22-Mar 22 Collection for Parkland Food Bank
Sun. Mar 8 Community of Faith Annual General Meeting
Sun. Mar 15 Stony Plain United Church Annual General Meeting
Sun. Mar 15 Deadline to order your Easter Chocolates!
Sun. Mar 29 SP Breakfast (8:45 to 9:30) , thanks to the Men's Club
Apr. 9-11 Chinook Winds & Northern Spirit Regions Conference & AGM at
 Providence Renewal Centre, 3005 – 199 St. N.W, Edmonton

Sundays, Feb 22 to Mar 29 from 4 – 5 pm Northern Spirit Lent Prayer Sessions (see announcement and poster)