

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH  
MARCH 22, 2026  
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

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!**

*Thanks very much to our Presiders this morning and to  
Rev. Deborah, for preparing the service.*

**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)**

Healing God, we come together in our brokenness,  
to call to you in your mercy, to make us whole again.

**Wholeness-giving God, listen to our prayers, we pray.**

Restoring God, we gather to worship you, even as  
we hopefully seek to be renewed and restored again.

**God, our Quiet-Centre, listen to our prayers this day.**

Foundational God, we come to praise and thank you!

In the depths of your Holy Being we find peace and rest.

**God – our Beginning and our End, we hope always in you. Amen.**

~© 2012 Joan Stott – "The Timeless Psalms" RCL Psalm Year B posted on **Geelong City Parish**  
UCA website. <http://www.wesleychurchgeelong.net/> Used with permission.

**TENEBRAE LITURGY:**

**CALL TO THE LIGHT**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**PRAYER** ~ Posted on <https://cookingwithelsa.org> Used with permission.

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

**HYMN: VU #82 "A Light Is Gleaming" Refrain, all 4 verses, 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 1:** When light comes pouring into the darkest place, it hurts our eyes to see the glow.  
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears, our memories and tears.

**Verse 2:** When night is round us and every shadow grows, a star is there to light our way.  
It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say: "God's light will ever stay."

**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;

**Verse 4:** So let us live in the brightness God has giv'n, and let us rise to see the dawn.  
We trust that God is here a-sparkle and ablaze, warming all our days.

**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.**

~ Words and Music by Linnea Good 1992. Words and Music copyright © 1992 Borealis Music  
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## **A CANDLE IS LIT**

**PRAYER: (Unison) Week 5 "Sharing the Light"**

**Lord Jesus, during this Lenten season, let your light shine within me so brightly that it may be shared with all whom I encounter. Through my actions, words and service, may I reflect your love and bring your hope to those in darkness. Help me to be a vessel of your light today and always. 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: "Lead Me Lord" Words based on Psalm 5:9, 4:8;  
Music: Samuel S. Wesley; Arranged by John Leavitt**

### **THEME TIME**

**HYMN: VU #581 "When We Are Living"**

**Verse 1**

When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus, and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.  
Both in our living and in our dying, we belong to God, we belong to God.

**Verse 2:** Through all our living, we our fruits must give. Good works of service are for offering. When we are giving, or when receiving, we belong to God, we belong to God.

**Verse 3:** 'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain, when sensing beauty or in love's embrace, whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing, we belong to God, we belong to God.

**Verse 4:** Across this wide world, we shall always find those who are crying with no peace of mind, but when we help them, or when we feed them, we belong to God, we belong to God.

~ Words translated from Spanish by Elise S. Eslinger and George Lockwood. Translation and harmony copyright © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

***If there is NO Theme Time, the Hymn is sung after the scripture readings.***

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

~ Posted on <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/> Used with permission.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

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**FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES:**

**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

**FROM THE GOSPELS:**

**John 11:1-45**

**REFLECTION: "The Breath of Life" by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra  
(Recorded)**

**HYMN: VU #614 (seated) "In Suffering Love"**

**Verse 1**

In suffering love the thread of life is woven through our care,  
for God is with us; not alone our pain and toil we bear.

**Verse 2:** There is a rock, a place secure within the storm's cold blast;  
concealed within the suffering night God's covenant stands fast.

**Verse 3:** In love's deep womb our fears are held, there God's rich tears are sown  
and bring to birth, in hope newborn, the strength to journey on.

**Verse 4:** Now to our hearts your joy commit, into our hands your pain;  
so send us out to touch the world with blessings in your name.

**Verse 5:** In suffering love our God comes now, hope's vision born in gloom;  
with tears and laughter shared and blessed the desert yet will bloom.

~ Words: Rob Johns 1983. Music Gardiner's Sacred Melodies 1812. Words copyright © 1876 Elinor Johns. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

**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 #662 "Lead Me, God" (*sung 2x*)**

Lead me, God, lead me in your righteousness; make your way plain before my face.

For it is you, and you, God only, who makes me to swell in safety.

### **REPEAT**

~Words based on Psalm 5:8, 4:8; Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley 1861. Public Domain.

### **COMMISSIONING (*Responsive*)**

Come out! Jesus commands,

**And calls us from the tombs of our existence into the brightness of a new day.**

Come out! Jesus cries,

**And unbinds us from the chains of our past.**

Come out! Jesus calls,

**And entices us into a world filled with grace and possibility.**

So: Go out!

**Into a world that needs our life, our breath, our spirit!**

Go out!

**Into a world that needs the Spirit of God,**

**carried on our lips and in our loving arms.**

Go out!

**Into the world to live as God's resurrected people!**

Go out: and go on the breath of God's holy wind!

~From *Come Out! On the Breath of God, Service Prayers for the fifth Sunday of Lent*, written by the Rev.

Elizabeth Dilley. Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website. <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/> Used with permission.

### **BENEDICTION**

**SUNG RESPONSE: "Threefold Choral Amen"**

### **MUSICAL POSTLUDE**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS MARCH 22, 2026

### NEW OR REVISED

**MEWASSIN AGM TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026 AT 6:00 P.M.** Mewassin will hold its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, March 31 at 6:00 p.m. There will be a chili supper followed by the meeting and dessert.

**WED. APRIL 1,UCW MEETING 1:30 PM.** This month we look forward to hearing from **The Parkland Turning Point Society**. This group provides individual counseling, Women's Groups, and Men's Groups with the goal of making families stronger. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

**THURS. APRIL 2 5:30 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE/POT-LUCK:** **This year's Maundy Thursday service will be held at St. Andrew's United Church in Spruce Grove.** Please join the folks at St. Andrew's for a "Living Last Supper experience, where the story of that sacred night comes to life in a powerful and engaging way." Stony Plain, Mewassin and Devon attendees are invited to bring desserts, and St. Andrews will bring salads or vegetables. Baked chicken, along with coffee, tea and punch, will be provided. Please see the poster for more information.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17 AN EVENING OF CHOCOLATE AND MUSIC:** Catering will be hosting an evening of Live Music and Chocolate on Friday, April 17. Doors open at 5:30 pm, Buffet opens at 6 and music starts at 6:30. You are encouraged to "Dress to impress" (Formal wear)! Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$25 for young adults (13 – 18 years) and will be available in advance.

### REMINDERS

**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.

**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 to 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](#); Meeting ID: 864 7516 7860; Passcode: 803578).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86475167860?pwd=HKXBqMbin1oADzFCFbapYgKa9bLz0c.1#success>.

**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:**

**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)  
**Sun. Apr. 12, 2026** Rev. Deborah on Vacation.  
**Sun. Apr. 19, 2026** Rev. Deborah on Vacation.

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

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

**MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Sun. Mar 29** SP Breakfast (8:45 to 9:30) , thanks to the Men's Club  
**Tues. March 31** 6:00 pm Mewassin AGM  
**Wed. April 1** 1:30 pm UCW Meeting  
**Thurs. April 2** 5:30 at St. Andrew's UC Spruce Grove. Maundy Thursday Potluck  
 Supper/Service. Stony & Mewassin bring desserts  
**Fri. April 17** 5: 30 pm Live Music and Chocolate Night  
**Apr. 9-11** Chinook Winds & Northern Spirit Regions Conference & AGM at  
 Providence Renewal Centre, 3005 – 199 St. N.W, Edmonton

**Sun Feb 22-Mar 22** Collection for Parkland Food Bank  
**Sundays, until Mar 29** 4 – 5 pm Northern Spirit Lent Prayer Sessions (see announcement  
 and poster)