

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
MARCH 29, 2026
PALM SUNDAY**

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 to the Men's Club for Breakfast this morning!

HYMN SING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WE GATHER TOGETHER BEFORE GOD
on traditional territory of Treaty Six Peoples and of the Métis Nation

INTROIT: MV #7 "Gather Us In"

Gather us in, ground us in you.

Gather us in, ground us in you.

Gather us in, gather us in, ground us, ground us in you.

~ Words and Music: David Hann, 2005. Words and music copyright © 2005 David Hann

CALL TO WORSHIP loosely based on Psalm 118 (Responsive)

Though we have known hardship and pain, though life has not always turned out as we had hoped, we will stand here and say:

God's steadfast love endures for ever!

Though life becomes more complex, the deepest questions remain unanswered, and the mystery of faith deepens, we will say:

God's steadfast love endures for ever!

And though the pain of the world often seems more than we can bear or address, we will stand firm in our faith and say:

God's steadfast love endures for ever!

Written by Ann Siddall, and posted on the website of the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre. <http://www.stillpointsa.org.au/>

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TENEBRAE LITURGY:

CALL TO THE LIGHT

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PRAYER

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

LETTING THE LIGHT IN *(Turning up the lights)*

HYMN VU #84 “O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word”

Verse 1

O radiant Christ, incarnate Word, eternal love revealed in time:
Come, make your home within our hearts, that we may dwell in light sublime.

Verse 2: Our bartered, busy lives burn dim, too tired to care, too numb to feel.
Come, shine upon our shadowed world: your radiance bathes with power to heal.

Verse 3: Your glory shone at Jordan’s stream, the font where we were born anew.
Attune your church to know you near; illumine all we say and do.

Verse 4: O Light of Nations, fill the earth; our faith and hope and love renew.
Come, lead the peoples to your peace, as stars once led the way to you.

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A CANDLE IS LIT

PRAYER: *(Unison)* Week 6 “Shadows within the Light”

As I walk this 40-day journey, may I grow closer to You, and in the strength of Your light, arrive at Easter renewed, restored, and transformed. When I am in darkness or doubt, let your light be my guide, revealing my shortcomings with grace and strengthening my resolve to amend my life. Amen.

LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD FOR OUR LIVES

(The Scripture Passages contained within the document are take from the New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicised Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.)

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

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PALM SUNDAY GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 21: 1-11 Reader: Barb Stearns

THEME TIME

BLESSING OF THE PARADE PALMS

Written by Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor, First Congregational United Church of Christ in Manhattan, Kansas.
Posted on <https://re-worship.blogspot.com> Used with permission.

HYMN: VU #123 “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

Verse 1

Hosanna, loud hosanna the happy children sang;
through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang;

to Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

Verse 2

From Olivet they followed 'mid an exultant crowd,
the victory palm branch waving, and singing clear and loud;
the Lord of earth and heaven rode on in lowly state,
content that little children should on his bidding wait.

Verse 3

“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer; earth, let your anthems ring.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
and in his humble presence eternally rejoice!

Words: Jennette Threlfall 1873. Music: trad. 18th-century German tune, adapt. Xavier Ludwig Hartig 1868. Public Domain

SHARING THE PEACE (*Responsive*)

Note: To be done in a manner that suits the congregation best

Peace is God’s gift, both peace with God the creator and peace with all creation. May our gesture be the expression of this gift. Let us give one another a sign of peace. The peace of God be with you.

And also, with you.

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

GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir “A Palm Sunday Calypso”

Words by Daniel Charles Damon; Music: The Jamaican Folk Song “Linstead”, adapted by Doreen Potter; arranged by Mark Hayes

READING FROM THE EPISTLES: Philippians 2:5-11

Reader: Barb Stearns

REFLECTION: “Humble, Gentle, Bold” by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra

HYMN: MV #65 (*please remain seated*) “When We Are Tested” (Tune VU #642 “Be Thou My Vision)

Verse 1

When we are tested and wrestle alone, famished for bread when the world offers stone,
nourish us, God, by your Word and your Way, food that sustains us by night and by day.

Verse 2

When in the desert we cry for relief, pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and test, trusting your presence, our only true rest.

Verse 3

When we are tempted to barter our souls, trading the truth for the pow'r to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you, seeking your will in the work that we do.

Verse 4

When we have struggled and searched through the night, sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Saviour, surround us with circles of care, angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

Words: Ruth Duck 1996. Musi:, Irish Traditional Melody, Public Domain. Words copyright © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION**PRAYER FOR PALM SUNDAY**

Written by Kathy Galloway, and posted on the "Monthly Prayers" page of the **Christian Aid** website. <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/> Used with permission.

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 #127 "Ride On! Ride On in Majesty" (Tune VU #20 "On Jordan's Bank")****Verse 1**

Ride on! Ride on in majesty! Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
O Saviour meek, pursue thy road with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Verse 2

Ride on! Ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die;
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Verse 3

Ride on! Ride on in majesty! The wingèd squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes to see the approaching sacrifice.

Verse 4

Ride on! Ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow thy meek head to mortal pain, then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

Words: Henry Hart Milman 1821; Music (VU #20) Musikalisches Handbuch *Hamburg* 1690; arr. W. H. Havergal 1861.
Public Domain.

COMMISSIONING (*Responsive*)

We have gathered with the crowds crying Hosanna!

Because even if we were silent

the stones themselves would have called out.

We have shared the hope for a world about to be changed,
and then it changed.

We have walked with another crowd.

One that called words of scorn and condemnation.

And now we follow the crowd as it leads out to the cross,
and yet even as the world grows dark, we cannot lose hope.

Because God is with us. God will be with us.

Whatever happens. We are not alone.

And so we watch the crowd and we follow...

Posted by Rev Gord Waldie on his blog, **Worship Offerings**. <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca/> Used with permission.

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE: "Threefold Choral Amen"

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS MARCH 29, 2026

NEW OR REVISED

WED. APRIL 1 WHISPERING WATERS SERVICE: Please join us at Whispering Waters on Wed. April 1, 7:15 pm for our monthly communion service. The choir will sing at the service then come to the church for the remainder of their practice time. Everyone is welcome to attend and visit with our many friends there. If you'd like to help with the service, please contact Linda Maki.

THURS. APR. 2 NO CARD RECREATORS: The Card Recreators will not meet Thursday, April 2. They are taking the Easter weekend off!

NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL REPORT FOR MARCH: Our Lay Representative, Lorraine Stewart, has written a report on the recent activities of our Northern Spirit Regional Council. It is on a yellow insert in today's bulletin.

COMMUNITY EVENT "SEEDY SATURDAY SPRING MARKET" SAT. APR. 4: There will be a Spring Market at the Perc Gym (5413 51 St., Stony Plain) on Sat. Apr. 4 from 10 am to 3 pm. Come support local vendors and discover garden treasures! If you would like to help out at this event, please contact Karen Clarke at 780 918-0206.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17 AN EVENING OF CHOCOLATE, CHARCUTERIE AND MUSIC: Catering will be hosting an evening of Live Music and Chocolate on Friday, April 17. There will also be Charcuterie Boards. 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. If you'd like to join in the music, please bring your instrument and there will be opportunities to jam. (There will be a piano available).

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.

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.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18 95th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR DORIS COLE: The family of Doris Cole would like you to join us for an open house to celebrate her 95th birthday on Saturday, April 18th from 1:30 to 4:00 pm at the Stony Plain United Church.

SUNDAYS, FEB 22 TO MAR 29 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>.

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 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. Pulpit Supply Rev. Sharon McRann
 Sun. Apr. 19, 2026 Rev. Deborah on Vacation. Pulpit Supply Terry Blois
 Sun. April 26, 2026 Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP

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
 Wed. April 1 7:15 pm Whispering Waters Service
 Thurs. April 2 NO Card Recreators
 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, Charcuterie and Chocolate Night
 Sat/ April 18 1:30 to 4 pm Birthday Party for Doris Cole.
 Apr. 9-11 Chinook Winds & Northern Spirit Regions Conference & AGM at
 Providence Renewal Centre, 3005 – 199 St. N.W, Edmonton

Sundays, until Mar 29 4 – 5 pm Northern Spirit Lent Prayer Sessions (see announcement
 and poster)