

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
APRIL 05, 2026
EASTER SUNDAY**

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
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WELCOME to our service this morning!

MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME (*Responsive*)

Welcome to this Easter Sunday worship service. Christ is Risen!

Hallelujah!

We are so glad all of you could join us today both in-person and online. If you are visiting us for the first time today, we are happy you're here.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

PROCLAMATION HYMN: VU #155

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

Verse 1

Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah! Our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
Who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah! Suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!

Verse 2: Hymns of praise then let us sing hallelujah! Unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!
Who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah! Sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!!

Verse 3: But the pains which he endured, hallelujah! Our salvation have procured; hallelujah!
Now above the sky he's King, hallelujah! Where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!

Verse 4: Sing we to our God above, hallelujah! Praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah! Praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!

Words and Music: Lyra Davidica 1708 Public Domain.

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsive*)

We enter a gathering space once again this season.

We worship together in spirit and in truth.

We pray, sing, and listen to God's Word.

We trust Christ's peace,

a peace given freely, despite our doubts and fears.

We know the Holy Spirit is among us,
blowing with a hopeful wind of change.

**We feel the presence of Christ,
the one who died and rose again and brings us eternal life.**

We submit to God's leading in this time of transformation.

**We experience the joy of Easter morning
when we celebrate all God has in store for us.**

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Libby Grammer, Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church in Martinsville, VA. <https://fbcmartinsville.com> Adapted. Used with permission.

GATHERING PRAYER

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SUNG PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: VU #202 vs 3 "O Breath of Life"

O Breath of love, come breathe within us, renewing thought and will and heart;
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us; revive your church in every part.

~ Words: Elizabeth A. P. Head ca. 1914; Music: Mary Jane Hammond 1936 Words Public Domain

GOSPEL READING: John 20:1-18

GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir "Mary's Jubilation"

Words by J. Paul Williams; Music by Michael Barrett

LIGHTING THE NEW CHRIST CANDLE: (responsive)

The Risen Christ lives today!

We are witnesses to these things.

We sing praise to God incarnate.

May his love burn within us!

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UNISON PRAYER: "Jesus is the Light"

Jesus, as we celebrate Your glorious Resurrection, I ask that the power that rolled away the stone also rolls away the darkness in my own heart. Shine Your inner light into the hidden, quiet, and fearful places of my heart. On this Sunday of new beginnings, I rise with You, choosing to walk in hope, compassion, and the radiant light of Your Resurrection. Amen.

HYMN: VU #166 "Joy Comes with the Dawn"

REFRAIN:

**Joy comes with the dawn; joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb and scatters the night with her song, joy comes with the dawn.**

Verse 1: Weeping may come; weeping may come in the night,
when dark shadows cloud our sight.

REFRAIN

Verse 2: Sorrow will turn, sorrow will turn into song,
and God's laughter make us strong.

**REFRAIN: Joy comes with the dawn; joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb and scatters the night with her song, joy comes with the dawn.**

Verse 3: We will rejoice, we will rejoice, and give praise,
to the One who brings us grace.

REFRAIN

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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

THEME TIME

SUNG PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: VU #202 vs 3 **"O Breath of Life"**

O Breath of love, come breathe within us, renewing thought and will and heart;
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us; revive your church in every part.

~ Words: Elizabeth A. P. Head ca. 1914; Music: Mary Jane Hammond 1936 Words Public Domain

SCRIPTURE READING: Colossians 3:1-4

REFLECTION: "The Light Breaks Free from the Darkness"
By Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra

SP: GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir **"Hallelujah! What a Savior"**

(Part IV of the Easter Musical Drama "Hallelujah! What a Savior")

Written and arranged by Anna Laura Page and Jean Anne Shafferman

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

MISSION and SERVICE STORY

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY: VU #265 verse 4 **"Creating God, Your Fingers Trace"**

Indwelling God, your gospel claims one family with a billion names;
let every life be touched by grace until we praise you face to face.

Words: Jeffrey W. Rowthorn 1974. Music: Adapt. From Franz Joseph Haydn 1798. Words © The Hymn Society. Used by permission of Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

DEDICATION of GIFTS: (Unison)

For the wondrous ways our offerings bless this community, help us nurture caring relationships with our neighbors, and do our part to liberate all who are experiencing oppression, we dedicate our gifts.

Let our offering, and the works of our hands and feet, be the resurrection we need to see in the world. Amen.

WE GATHER AT CHRIST'S BANQUET TABLE

WELCOMING ALL TO THE TABLE (*Responsive*)

Easter people, come now to the table with Christ!

For he is risen! He lives, and he presides at this feast!

Come, eat together the bread of life!

For he is risen, and nothing separates us from God's love!

Come, drink together from the cup of gladness!

For Christ is risen—risen as he said!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*One voice with occasional response*)

Praise to you, God of glory! You created the universe and all living things.....

We too proclaim it, as with the angels of heaven we **sing**:

VU p. 934 Sanctus ("Holy, Holy, Holy" - Sanctus and Benedictus)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Bless'd is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

~ Words Public Domain, Music by Stuart Semple 1989 Music © 1989 Stuart Semple

Now, O God, with grateful hearts we remember Jesus.

Silence

We remember that he was laid in a borrowed grave.

A heavy stone sealed up the tomb.

We remember that the women came, early in the morning, on the third day.

They did not find him among the dead.

We remember that his disciples met him on the road.

**He opened the Scriptures, explaining everything,
and their hearts burned within them.**

They said to him, "Stay with us, for it is evening."

So he went in with them.....

Make them the food and drink of everlasting life,

body surrendered, blood poured out.

**As we rejoice in the resurrection, give us love for each other,
and make us servants of peace, until your new realm is revealed
and every creature beholds it.**

**We pray in the name of Jesus, who lives and presides at this table,
our host and our feast. Amen.**

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PREPARING THE TABLE

SP HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION:

POST COMMUNION THANKSGIVING (*Unison*)

Let us give thanks! Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus,
 for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die,
 for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of
 creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own.
 Give us the gifts of this holy communion—
 oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies,
 the will to serve you every day, and risen life that never ends. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

SENDING HYMN: VU #173 "Thine Is the Glory"

Verse 1: Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son: endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
 Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave-clothes where the body lay.

REFRAIN:

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering son: endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.

Verse 2: Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb! Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
 Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, for the Lord now liveth: death hath lost its sting.

REFRAIN

Verse 3: No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life,
 life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;
 make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;
 bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

REFRAIN

Words: Edmond Louis Budry 1884; Music: Harmonia Sacra ca.1753, arr. From George F. Handel 1747 Public Domain

CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US

COMMISSIONING

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BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #353 "Tis the Gift to Be Simple"

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
 'tis the gift to come down where you ought to be,
 and when we find ourselves in the place just right,
 'twill be in the valley of love and delight.
 When true simplicity is gained, to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
 to turn, turn will be our delight 'til by turning, turning, we come round right.

Words: Shaker song; Music: Shaker melody. Public Domain

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS APRIL 05, 2026

NEW OR REVISED

MEWASSIN APRIL 19 NO COFFEE, BUT PANCAKES AT KEEPHILLS HALL: We are cancelling coffee Sunday on April 19 because you are invited to: Keephills Community Pancake Breakfast at Keephills Hall Sunday, April 19 2026, 10 am - 12 pm. \$10.00/adult \$5.00 under 12 (if you get order your tickets by Monday, April 13) –\$15.00/adult at the door

REMINDERS

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).

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. 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.
Sun. April 26, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP
Sun. May 03	Rev. Deborah in person at Devon UC

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

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

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Fri. April 17	5:30 pm Live Music, Charcuterie and Chocolate Night
Apr. 9-11	Chinook Winds & Northern Spirit Regions Conference & AGM at Providence Renewal Centre, 3005 – 199 St. N.W, Edmonton