

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
MAY 31, 2026 TRINITY SUNDAY**

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

A United Church of Canada Historical Moment

May 31, 2026: "The United Church of Canada is experiencing a historic and rapid decline in membership, attendance and national affiliation. While it remains the country's largest Protestant denomination, church leadership has publicly projected that membership could drop to around 110,000 by 2035 - down from over 320,000 in 2023." - taken from UC of C pages

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)

Called to be faithful stewards of creation, we come to worship:
**to sing to the One who has created all that is good, beautiful, and true
and who has shared everything with us.**
Called to be disciples of Jesus Christ, we come to learn:
**to follow the One who meets us in every moment of our lives,
in every place where we find ourselves.**
Called to proclaim the good news of Easter, we come to find the words:
to be taught by the Spirit who moves in and through us, as we serve the world.
~ Written by Thom Shuman Used with permission.

SPECIAL MUSIC: SPUC Ukeleles "I'll Fly Away"

GATHERING PRAYER

<http://www.bibleclaret.org/liturgy/CycleA/may05/22.htm> Used with permission.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (Responsive)

I will light a light in the name of God, who lit the world and breathed the breath of life into me.
I will light a light in the name of the Son, who saved the world and stretched out his hand to me.
I will light a light in the name of the Spirit, who encompasses the world and blesses my soul with yearning.
**We will light three lights for the trinity of love:
God above us, God beside us, God between us:
the beginning, the end, the everlasting one.**
WCC 1991: In Spirit and in Truth Used with permission.

GATHERING HYMN: VU #324 “Jesus, Come to Our Hearts”**Verse 1:**

Jesus, come to our hearts like falling rain;
Come to refresh, come to renew, wash all our sins away.

Verse 2: Spirit, come to our hearts like rushing wind;
Come with your fire, come with your life, blow all our doubts away.

Verse 3: Come, God, come to hearts like shining sun;
come to reveal, lighten your Word, drive all our gloom away.

Verse 4: Glory be to the Lamb that once was slain;
praise for his life, praise for his death, praise that he lives again.

Verse 5: Praises be to our God, the three in one;
praise for the sun, praise for the wind, praise for the falling rain.

Words: William Worley, Alt 1991; Music William Worley 1991; arr. David Dell 1991. Words and music copyright © 1992 William Worley. Arr.. copyright © 1992 David Dell . All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

CONCERNS AND JOYS**PRAYERS OF CONCERNS AND JOYS****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.**

GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir Anthem: “Holy Spirit, Hope and Healer”

Words: Mary Kay Beall; Music: Welsh folk tune arr. by John Carter

THEME TIME**HYMN: VU #316 “Praise Our Maker”****Verse 1:**

Praise our Maker, peoples of one family; God is love, God is love!
Praise our Maker, peoples of one family: God is love God is love!

Verse 2:

Love our Saviour, followers of Jesus: God is love, God is love!
Love our Saviour, followers of Jesus: God is love, God is love!

Verse 3: Care for others, children of the Spirit: God is love, God is love!
Care for others, children of the Spirit: God is love, God is love!

Words: vs.1,2 anon. ca 1890, adapt. And v. 3 R. Gerald Hobbs 1987. Music: Carey Bonner 1904, arr. Ruth Watson Henderson 1995. Adapt. & Vs 3 copyright © 1987 Songs for a Gospel People. Arr. © 1995 R. Watson Henderson.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION ~ From [Caldwell Presbyterian Church](#) Adapted. Used with permission.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

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.

RESPONSIVE READING FROM THE PSALMS **Psalm 8 VU #732**

REFRAIN: O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!
From the lips of infants and children your praises reach up to the heavens.
**You have set up a stronghold against your foes,
to quell the enemy and the avenger.**

REFRAIN: O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

When I look to the heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their places,
**What are we mortals that you should be mindful of us,
mere human beings that you should care for us?**

REFRAIN: O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

You have made us little less than divine,
and crowned us with glory and honour.
**You have made us rulers over all your creation,
and put all things under our feet,**
All sheep and cattle, all creatures of the wild,
**And birds of the air and the fish in the sea,
and all that make their way through the waters.**

REFRAIN: O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!

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THE GOSPEL LESSON **Matthew 28:16-20**

HYMN: VU #381 (seated) "Spirit of Life"

Spirit of Life, come unto me. Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea; move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free; Spirit of life, come to me, come to me.

~ Words and Music: Carolyn McDade 1981. Words and music copyright © 1981 Carolyn McDade. All rights reserved Reprinted under One License #A-718663

REFLECTION: "Three in One" by Rev. Deborah M. Hoekstra

HYMN: VU #382 (seated) "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

Verse 1

Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

Verse 2: Breathe on me, breath of God, until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with thine, to do and to endure.

Verse 3: Breathe on me, breath of God, till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.

Verse 4: Breathe on me, breath of God: so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

~ Words: Edwin Hatch 1878. Music: Robert Jackson 1888. Public Domain

MISSION AND SERVICE STORY

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY: Doxology (Tune VU #541)

**Praise God, the Source of life and birth;
Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame;
All glory, honour to God's name!**

Posted on <https://www.hillsidemedford.org/transforming-love/doxology> Written by Ruth Duck. Used with permission.

DEDICATION OF GIFTS (Unison)

O God, may our kindness be continually inspired by yours.

Receive our gifts now and inspire us to greater generosity, we pray. Amen.

~ Words for Worship 2011: [w4w Trinity A](http://w4w.Trinity.A) Posted on <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/> Used with permission.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

SENDING HYMN: VU #312 "Praise with Joy the World's Creator"

Verse 1

Praise with joy the world's Creator, God of justice, love, and peace,
source and end of human knowledge, God whose grace shall never cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory, power to rescue and release.

Verse 2

Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry, frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion, fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence: friend and stranger, guest and host.

Verse 3

Praise the Spirit sent among us, liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender, age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure: foolishness none dare deride.

Verse 4

Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit, one God in community,
calling Christians to embody oneness and diversity.
This the world shall see reflected: God is One and One in Three.

Words: The Iona Community 1985, alt. Music: John Goss 1888. Words copyright © 1987 WGRG, Iona Community, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Used with permission. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #-718663.

CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US

COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION **2 Corinthians 13:11-13**
Final Greetings and Benediction

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #454 "May God Who Creates You"

May God who creates you, give you light;
may God who sustains you, make you wise;
may God who protects you, give you joy;
may God who surrounds you, give you peace.

~ Words and Music: Louise Skibsted 1994 Copyright © 1994 Louise Skibsted . All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

YOUR OFFERING: Monetary gifts (cash or cheque) may be placed in one of the boxes next to the doors in the sanctuary; dropped off at the church during office hours; mailed to Stony Plain United Church, Box 3196, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1Y4; set up through PAR (pre-authorized remittance); or, by e-transfer to stewards@stonyplainunitedchurch.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS MAY 31, 2026

NEW OR REVISED

WHISPERING WATERS WED. JUNE 3, 7:15 PM: Please join us for the monthly Communion Service at Whispering Waters on Wed. June 3 at 7:15 pm. The choir will attend and then come to the church for the rest of their practice.

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH: An information board, featuring Local Placenames with their Indigenous origins, will be displayed in the Narthex throughout the month of June to celebrate National Indigenous History Month. Every Sunday over the next few weeks there will be one or two Alberta placenames with their meanings and/or related stories included in the bulletin. Special thanks to St. Andrew's United Church for creating the info board and giving it to our church!

SUNDAY JUNE 7: June 7 is Pride Sunday. Please wear rainbow colours.

UCW MEETING WED JUNE 10: The UCW has changed their regular meeting date to the ***second Wednesday of the month***. Thus, we will meet next on June 10 at Rotary Park for our "picnic in the park". Bring your bag lunch, beverage, lawn chair, sun hat etc. Arrive at 11:30 AM to secure a good location. If the weather doesn't cooperate, the picnic will be in the church.

REMINDERS

SP BREAKFAST – MEN’S CLUB: There will be no Sunday Morning Breakfast until the fall. Thanks to the Men’s club for all the delicious breakfasts this year!

SUNDAY, MAY 31 MEWASSIN: We will be having a planning meeting for our 100th anniversary (August 15, 2026) after church on Sun. May 31.

TUESDAY JUNE 16 SP COUNCIL MEETING: The Stony Plain Council will meet on Tuesday, June 16 at 7:00 pm in the Board Room or on Zoom.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21 DEVON PICNIC AND SERVICE: Our congregations are invited to join Devon United Church for their Sunday service in the Park on June 21! The service will begin at 10:00 a.m. with games and then picnic lunch to follow. A reminder to bring lawn chairs is on the invitation. We have lots of kites for the children to decorate and fly after the service, and the parachute games were a hit last year, so that is on the games agenda again 😊 Potluck items are welcome if people wish: salads or dessert/fruit or finger foods. There is a sign-up sheet available – please add your name if you’d like to attend– we need to RSVP with our numbers of attendees by June 7.

.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. May 31, 2026	<u>Trinity Sunday:</u> Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP
Sun. June 7, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at Devon UC
Sun. June 14, 2026	<u>Communion</u> Rev. Deborah in person at MEW and SP
Sun. June 21, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at Devon UC for their picnic service. Mew & SP are invited. More info re services at Mew & SP to follow.
Sun. June 28, 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. May 31 MEW: Planning meeting after Church for 100th Anniversary
Wed. June 3 7:15 pm Whispering Waters Service
Tues. June 16 SP 7 pm Council Meeting
Sun. June 21 Devon Picnic and Service – SP and MEW are invited!