

**STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 6, 2026**

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
Mailing Address: Box 3196, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1C2
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Join **Zoom Meeting** via computer (with password) **DO NOT POST ON WEB OR FACEBOOK**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83364019239?pwd=TEYd2c2aXURa1dDcHdvNlp4Y3Q4UT09>

Zoom teleconference Link info: Meeting ID: 833 6401 9239 Password: 4745

Via phone: +1 587 328 1099 Canada - dial in . +1 587 328 1099, 83364019239 - direct

**Thank you to our presider for leading us in Worship today, and for preparing the service while
Rev. Deborah is away.**

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (one voice)

Adapted from Rev. Gord Waldie on worshipofferings.blogspot.com

WE GATHER TOGETHER BEFORE GOD

on traditional territory of Treaty Six Peoples and of the Métis Nation

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: Family of God, we live in a world full of conflict and division.

All: God calls us to be a people of reconciliation.

One: We live in a world full of misinformation and confusion.

All: God calls us to be a people of truth and clarity.

One: We live in a world that wants to settle disputes with harmful words and actions.

All: God calls us to be a people who make peace through compassion and honesty.

One: We live in a world that does not understand the ways of Jesus.

**All: Yet Jesus teaches us to be a people of reconciliation and peace for the good of God's
whole creation. Thanks be to God, Amen!**

Adapted from Dr Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2026. Used with permission.

GATHERING PRAYER

GATHERING HYMN: MV #30 "It's A Song of Praise"

Verse 1 It's a song of praise to the Maker, the thrush sings high in the tree.

It's a song of praise to the Maker, the gray whale sings in the sea,

REFRAIN:

And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry

And sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

Verse 2 It's a call of life to the Giver when waves and waterfalls roar.

It's a call of life to the Giver when high tides break on the shore,

REFRAIN

Verse 3 It's a hymn of love to the Lover; the bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover; the summer breeze joins the song.

REFRAIN:

**And by the Spirit you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
And sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.**

Verse 4 It's the chorus of all creation; it's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation; a song the universe sings,

REFRAIN:

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LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**On our journey of faith, O God, we often act out of fear rather than stepping forward in faith.
We confess that we do not follow the way of Jesus in all that we do. We do not love
unconditionally. We judge and condemn others. We do not recognize the sacred in others.
Forgive us O God. Give us courage and strength to walk in your way of compassion; assure
us that we never journey alone. Call us once again to live and love in your way. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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, forever and ever. Amen.**

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES
--

Theme Time *The Stranger's Gift*, retold by Margaret Silf in One Hundred Wisdom Stories from around the world.

Hymn: MV# 178 "Who Is My Mother"?

Verse 1 Who is my mother, who is my brother?

All those who gather round Jesus Christ:
Spirit blown people born from the Gospel
sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.

Verse 2 Differently abled, differently labelled,
widen the circle round Jesus Christ:
crutches and stigmas, culture's enigmas,
all come together round Jesus Christ.

Verse 3 Love will relate us colour or status
can't segregate us round Jesus Christ:
family failings, human derailings
all are accepted round Jesus Christ

Verse 4 Bound by one vision, met for one mission
we claim each other, round Jesus Christ:
here is my mother, here is my brother,
kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ.

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WORDS OF ILLUMINATION (unison)

We belong to you, O God. As we prepare to hear the scripture readings this morning, we acknowledge that sometimes it is a challenge to understand these writings. We give thanks for the opportunity to share this time together to deepen relationships within community. May these stories empower us to expand our lives to serve you more wholly. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Hebrew Scriptures: Exodus 12.1-14 Instructions for the first Passover

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 18.15-20

HYMN: MV #14 "Where Two or Three are Gathered" (2x)

Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.

Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.

Words and Music: Bruce Harding, 2002 after Matthew 18:20. Words and Music copyright © 2002 by Bruce Harding. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663.

REFLECTION: "Deepening Relationships"

HYMN: MV # 154 "Deep in our Hearts"

Verse 1 Deep in our hearts there is a common vision; Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story, Telling creation that we are one.

Verse 2 Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose; Deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
Deep in our hearts there is a sacred message, Justice and peace in harmony.

Verse 3 Deep in our hearts there is a common longing; Deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
Deep in our hearts there is a common current, Flowing to freedom like a stream.

Verse 4 Deep in our hearts there is a common vision; Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story, Telling Creation that we are one.

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THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION
--

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY: “Doxology” (Tune VU #541)
Praise God, the source of breath and birth,
who formed us from the dust of earth,
and made us kin in unity
to love and set each other free.

Posted on <https://www.hillsidedmedford.org/transforming-love/doxology>

Written by Mary Luti. Used with permission.

DEDICATION OF GIFTS (*unison*)

O God, receive our offerings today as a sign of our commitment as your agents of reconciliation. Use what we offer to mend what is broken, to welcome those who feel outside, and to build a community of forgiveness and hope. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR LABOUR DAY SUNDAY (*responsive*)

One: Ever-present God, on this Labour Day weekend, let us reflect on the gifts and skills offered by workers in all aspects of life. We remember labourers who have been injured or have lost their lives in workplace accidents.

All: May they and their families find comfort and healing.

One: We give thanks for those who are part of the labour movement.

All: We cannot imagine our world without them.

One: Help us to honour our own acts of labour, regardless of how great or small they may seem. Especially today, we offer gratitude to everyone who labours on behalf of this congregation and the wider church. Bless the hands that repair and build,

All: bless those who sew and bake,

One: bless the hands that create powerpoints and bulletins,

All: bless those who make music,

One: bless the hands that do hidden work to ensure that our community of faith continues.

All: Finally, we pray for all the hands and hearts who work to seek healing and reconciliation, with each other as siblings in Christ and to the world you love. Amen.

Adapted from Laura J Turnbull, Gathering Pentecost 1 2026. Used with permission.

CARRYING THE LIGHT

SENDING HYMN: MV #212 “Sent out in Jesus’ name”

Section 1: Sent out in Jesus’ name, our hands are ready now

To make the world the place in which the kingdom comes.

Repeat

Section 2: The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain

Into a world of love, of justice and of peace.

The task is ours to do, to set it really free.

O, help us to obey, and carry out your will.

Repeat

Words and Music: Traditional song, Cuba. English trans. Jorge Maldonado; arr. More Voices, 2007. English translation copyright © 1988 Abingdon Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION:

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #974 Amen

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

Amen! Amen! Hallelujah, amen!

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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 SEPTEMBER 6, 2026
NEW

SUN. SEPT. 6 HARVEST FEAST PREP. MEETING There will be a brief meeting right after the service to discuss the Harvest Feast on October 30/26. Anyone interested in helping is invited to attend this meeting.

WED. SEPT. 16 UKULELE GROUP: 6:15pm Sign up as well as tuning and chords

WED. SEPT. 16 CHOIR PRACTICE: 7pm Choir practice starts.

SAT. SEPT. 19 PILGRIM UNITED CHURCH: is hosting a Hawaiian Lunch and show fundraiser. Everyone is invited. Doors open @ 11:30am, show and lunch noon-2:00pm. More details on poster on bulletin board in foyer.

THURS. SEPT 24 WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING 1:30pm The Worship Committee will meet in the Chapel at 1:30pm. This meeting will also be available on zoom.

REMINDERS

WED. SEPT. 9 UCW MEETING: 1:30pm "Truth and Real – Reconciliation". All women are welcome.

SAT. SEPT. 12 9:30am – 4:00pm UCW Fall Rally. All women are invited to the Fall Rally, at St. Albert United Church, 20 Green Grove Drive. St. Albert UCW is the host. Theme "Hope in Our Changing World", speaker Rev. Chelsea Masterman of Grace United Church in Edmonton. It will follow the format of previous Fall Rallies. Cost \$10. There will be a book exchange table if you wish to contribute to that. **Bring your own lunch.** Coffee, tea, water and muffins will be available. We need to know who plans to attend so we can convey numbers to St. Albert and arrange for car pooling. We look forward to sharing a wonderful day together.

TUES. SEPT 15, 7 PM: TOWN OF STONY PLAIN – LET'S TALK CAREGIVING: The Town of Stony Plain is facilitating a Community conversation hosted by Caregivers Alberta to share your experiences, connect with others, and help identify the supports caregivers need most in our region. The event is free, the location is 107, 4613-52 Ave Stony Plain, AB. Please RSVP : 780-963-8583 or connect@stonyplain.com Light refreshments will be provided.

SUN. SEPT. 20. Please join us for lunch after the service as we celebrate a retirement. This is our chance to say thank you for many years of service as our Church Administrator. Please let the Office know if you can help with the Lunch.

WED. SEPT 30, 6:30 PM: HORIZON STAGE - NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION: Horizon Stage in Spruce Grove is hosting an evening of reflection and connection as we mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Through stories, reflections and open conversation, we will honour the lived experiences of Indigenous Peoples. This is a time to listen, learn and explore how each of us can commit to the work of healing and reconciliation. Tea, Bannock and light refreshments will be served. **This event is free, but you must reserve tickets.** For more information and to reserve tickets, see the following:
<https://www.horizonstage.com/season-shows/national-day-for-truth-and-reconciliation/>

PASSING ON YOUR CONCERNS: If you know of anyone who would like a visit or a card, please contact the Care Committee, Rev. Deborah or the Church Office (780 963-4745) or email stonyuc@telus.net.

REV DEBORAH'S SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS:

Sun. Sept 13, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at Devon UC. SP Presider:
Sun. Sept. 20, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW.
Sun. Sept 27, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW.
Sun. Oct 4, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW.
Sun. Oct 11, 2026	Rev. Deborah in person at Devon UC. SP Presider:

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Ukuleles & Choir: Practices start Sept. 16, 2026 6:15pm for Ukuleles and 7pm for Choir.
Card Recreators: Thursdays, 10 am

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun. Sept 6	Harvest Feast prep meeting after Church
Wed. Sept 9	UCW meeting 1:30 pm
Sat. Sept 12	9:30–4:00 UCW Fall Rally at St. Albert United Church. All women welcome
Tues. Sept 15	7 pm Town of Stony Plain "Let's Talk Caregiving"
Wed. Sept 16	6:15 pm Ukulele group sign up
Wed. Sept 16	7 pm Choir practice starting
Sun. Sept 20	SP Lunch Sunday after service
Thur. Sept 24	Worship Committee meeting 1:30 pm
Sat. Sept 26	MEWASSIN Bottle Drive
Wed. Sept 30	6:30 pm Horizon Stage – Truth & Reconciliation