

STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 – Creation 1

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 today.
Thanks to Rev. Deborah for preparing the service.*

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 (*One voice*) Taken from Psalm 103

Praise God!

With all our hearts, we will praise God's holy name!

Praise God!

Never forget the good things God has done for us.

Praise God, all the earth—

everyone, everywhere!

We too will praise God!

GATHERING PRAYER

Written by Rev. Moira Laidlaw. Posted on her Liturgies Online website. Used with permission.

GATHERING HYMN: VU #232 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”

Verse 1 Joyful, joyful we adore you, God of glory, life and love;

Hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away;

giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

Verse 2 All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you, centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, Sound their praise eternally.

Verse 3 You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Verse 4 Mortals join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.
Words: Henry van Dyke 1907, alt. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven 1824 Public Domain.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

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.**

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD FOR OUR LIVES
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Theme Time

HYMN: VU #651

"Guide, Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

Verse 1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of Heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

Verse 2 Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield.
Be thou still my strength and shield.

Verse 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
 Bid my anxious fears subside;
 Death of death, and hell's destruction,
 Land me safe on Canaan's side:
 Songs of praises, songs of praises
 I will ever give to thee
 I will ever give to thee.

Words: Welsh, William Williams 1745; English trans. Peter Williams and William Williams 1771. Music: John Hughes 1905. Public Domain

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Written by Amy Loving. Posted on The Worship Closet. <http://worshipcloset.com/words-for-worship-18th-sunday-after-pentecost/> Used with permission.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

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A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Exodus 15:1–11, 20–21 **Miriam and Moses lead the people in singing**

GOSPEL LESSON:

Matthew 18:21–35 **How many times must I forgive?**

SERMON (Recorded) by Rev. Deborah Hoekstra **“How Many Times”**

HYMN: VU #271 **“There’s a Wideness to God’s Mercy”**

Verse 1 There’s a wideness in God’s mercy like the wideness of the sea;
 there’s a kindness in God’s justice which is more than liberty.

Verse 2 There is no place where earth’s sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;
 there is no place where earth’s failings have such gracious judgement given.

Verse 3 There is plentiful redemption in the blood that Christ has shed;
 there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

Verse 4 Troubled souls, why will you scatter like a crowd of frightened sheep?
 Foolish hearts, why will you wander from a love so true and deep?

Verse 5 For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind, and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

Words: Frederick William Faber 1854. alt. Music: Johann Ludwig Steiner 1723. Public Domain

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

INVITATION TO GIVE (Sung) TLUS #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

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PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

Dear Gracious God, we give back to you in thankfulness
what you have given to us in kindness.

We acknowledge that the world and its resources are not ours but yours, and that you have
put us in charge as your trustees.

Help us to exercise responsibly the authority you give us in your world.

Let Jesus, your Son, be the pattern for all our dealings with one another, and with the rest of
creation.

Bless the gifts we now present back to you, so that they may be used in the work of your
Kingdom on this earth. Amen.

Posted on <https://worshipleaderguide.blogspot.com/> Adapted. Used with permission.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD
CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US

SENDING HYMN: VU #708 “My Lord, What a Morning”

Refrain:

My Lord, what a morning. My Lord, what a morning.

My Lord, what a morning when the stars begin to fall.

Verse 1: You'll hear the trumpet sound to wake the nations underground.

Looking to my God's right hand when the stars begin to fall.

Refrain

Verse 2: You'll hear the sinner cry to wake the nations underground.

Looking to my God's right hand when the stars begin to fall.

Refrain

Verse 3: You'll hear the Christians shout to wake the nations underground.

Looking to my God's right hand when the stars begin to fall.

Refrain

Words and Music: African-American Spiritual. Public Domain

COMMISSIONING (*One voice*)

Written by Nancy C. Townley. Posted on [Ministry Matters](#) website. Used with permission.

BENEDICTION (*One voice*)

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #646 “We Are Marching”

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

(the light of God.)

We are marching, (marching, we are marching,) oo-oo, (marching,)

We are marching in the light of God. (the light of God.)

We are marching, (marching, we are marching,) oo-oo, (marching,)

We are marching in the light of God.

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen, kwenkhos', Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen, kwenkhos', Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.

(khanyen' kwenkhos'.)

Siyahamba, (hamba siyahamba,) oo-oo, (hamba,)

Siyahamb', ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'. (khanyen'kwenkhos'.)

Siyahamba, (hamba siyahamba,) oo-oo, (hamba,)

Siyahamb', ekukhanyen'kwenkhos'.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

(the light of God.)

We are marching, (marching, we are marching,) oo-oo, (marching,)

We are marching in the light of God. (the light of God.)

We are marching, (marching, we are marching,) oo-oo, (marching,)

We are marching in the light of God.

Words and Music: South African traditional song 20th century. Trans. And Arr. Anders Nyberg.

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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 13, 2026

NEW

FALL FOOD DRIVE: Leading up to Thanksgiving we will be collecting items for the Parkland Food Bank. If you are able, please bring non-perishable food, hygiene products, baby food, pet food and toilet paper. Items can be dropped off at the Stony Plain United Church.

THURS. SEPT 17 1:30PM JOINT WORSHIP MEETING: There will be a joint Worship Committee meeting either in the Chapel or upstairs in the boardroom.

WED. SEPT 30 10:00 AM – 12:00PM: TRUTH & RECONCILIATION: Guests are invited to enjoy tea and Bannock, while gathering in the spirit of reconciliation and community. The event takes place at Heritage Park, Stony Plain.

REMINDERS

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.

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 administration office know if you can help with the Lunch.

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.

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: MEW 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: MEW 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

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	10:00 am-12:00 Heritage Park Truth & Reconciliation.
Wed. Sept 30	6:30 pm Horizon Stage – Truth & Reconciliation