STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
Mailing Address: Box 3196, Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1C2
Phone: 780 963-4745 **Email: stonyuc@telus.net**
Reverend Deborah M. Hoekstra **Cell: 780 983-2148**
WELCOME to our service this morning!

Join **Zoom Meeting** via computer (with password) **DO NOT POST ON WEB OR FACEBOOK**
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83364019239?pwd=TlEyd2c2aXUra1dDcHdvNlp4Y3Q4UT09
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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CALL TO WORSHIP
Posted on **Third Space.** http://third-space.org.uk/ Used with permission.

GATHERING PRAYER
Written by Ted Loder, in *Guerrillas of Grace.* Used with permission.

HYMN: "A Child Will Bring Us Peace"

Verse 1:
In the darkest days of winter, there comes a time of waiting.
Can you hear the sounds of silence,
Hear the whisper of a Saviour coming.

Verse 2:
Advent days are long and full, so much to prepare,
Moving on with love and faith,
Feel the swirl of hope in the air.

Chorus: Can you feel it, can you feel it?
Can you feel the sense of longing? Do you feel the sense of awe?
Do you feel the shift of time?
'Tis the coming of a new world, and a child will bring us peace.

Verse 3:
Light the candles, one by one, our light to show the way.
Make our way to the manger,
To the child asleep on the hay.

Verse 4:
Candles shining in the dark, bring the promise of things to come.
The blessings of a Saviour,
And the hope of a new world to come.

Chorus: Can you feel it, can you feel it?
Can you feel the sense of longing? Do you feel the sense of awe?
Do you feel the shift of time?
'Tis the coming of a new world, and a child will bring us peace

Verse 5:
The candle of **HOPE** is the one we light today
Hope and peace lead us to joy,
And a love that is here to stay.

Chorus: Can you feel it, can you feel it?
Can you feel the sense of longing? Do you feel the sense of awe?
Do you feel the shift of time?
'Tis the coming of a new world, and a child will bring us peace

Verse 5: Advent 1 *Hope*; Advent 2 *Peace*; Advent 3 *Joy*; Advent 4 *Love Christmas Eve, Christ
Words by Linda Bridges, Music by Meredith Adams, Arranged by Meredith Adams & Sue Dugal

LIGHTHING THE ADVENT CANDLE *(For two voices)*
1: What do you do when an angel interrupts your day?
2: You stop.
1: What do you do when an angel speaks?
2: You listen.
1: An angel interrupted Zechariah's work in the temple.
2: He stopped. He listened.
1: The angel had a message for Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth.
2: "You will have a baby".
1: But Zechariah said, "We're too old. That's impossible."
2: The angel said, "With God, all things are possible".
1: Remembering Zechariah and Elizabeth, we light this candle of Possibility, this candle of Hope.
ALL: In the circle of God's light, all things are possible.
(Light one purple/blue candle)

SUNG RESPONSE: "Holy Baby, Holy Child"

Holy baby, holy child, we await your coming now.
You bring us hope, you bring us peace;
You bring us joy, you bring us love.
Holy baby, holy child, come to us now.
Words: Lynn S. Hurst; Music: Lynn S. Hurst, arr. by Allen Tuten. © 2000 Abingdon Press, admin. by The Copyright Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One license A-718663

CONCERNS AND JOYS
PRAYERS OF CONCERNS AND JOY

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

CHOIR ANTHEM "At the Table of the Lord"
Words by Joseph M. Martin; music by David Angerman and Joseph M. Martin.

THEME TIME

HYMN: VU #2 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Verse 1
Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Verse 2
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Verse 3
Born thy people to deliver; born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever; now thy gracious kingdom bring.

Verse 4
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.
Words: Charles Wesley 1744; Music Psalmodia Sacra 1715. Public Domain

SCRIPTURE READINGS, READER:
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READING FROM THE EPISTLES: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

READING FROM THE GOSPELS: Mark 13:24-37

REFLECTION: "Getting Ready"

HYMN: VU #713 "I See a New Heaven"

REFRAIN:

I see a new heaven. I see a new earth as the old one will pass away,
Where the fountain of life flows and without price goes
To all people who abide in the land.

Verse 1
There, there on the banks of a river bright and free,
Yielding her fruit, firm in her root, the Tree of Life will be.

REFRAIN

Verse 2
There, there where death dies and our lives are born again,
Body and soul, struggling but whole like flowers after the rain.

REFRAIN

Verse 3
There, there where the darkness brings visions from above.
There where the night, bearing new light, reveals the promise of love.

REFRAIN

Verse 4
There, there where we work with love of healing hands.
Labour we must, true to our trust to build a promised new land.

REFRAIN
Words and Music: Carolyn McDade 1979. Copyright © 1979 and harmony copyright © 1981 Carolyn McDade. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663.

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH INTENTION

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY VU # 537 "Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands"

Verse 1
Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.

Verse 2
Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make:
be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.
Words: Calvin Weiss Laufer 1927, alt. Music Neil Dougall ca. 1831. Public Domain

DEDICATION OF GIFTS (*Unison)*
Loving God, with hope and love, we bring our gifts to you.
May our act of giving symbolize hope to the world
As we worship you through the Advent journey,

may these offerings be blessed to bring hope for our work here in this community and the surrounding area and your work in the world Amen.
Written by Lori Van Santvoort-Jansekovich. **Gathering**

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE ***(One voice)***

GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER
God be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift our hearts in prayer.
Let us give thanks to God.
It is good to give God thanks and praise.

The prayer continues with one voice

BLESSING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP ***(Responsive)***
The body of Christ,
the Bread of life.
The lifeblood of Christ,
the cup of blessing.

Let us eat and drink together
for our strengthening in the faith,
and for the sake of the world.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION ***(Unison)***
We thank you, God, for breaking into our world
and pouring into our lives and our experiences.
We thank you, God, for this meal of thanksgiving and the stories of love,
grace, and hope that it tells. Amen.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

SENDING HYMN: VU #424 "May the God of Hope Go with Us"

Verse 1
May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Refrain:

Praying, let us work for peace, singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Verse 2
May the God of healing free the earth from fear, freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed.

Refrain:
Praying, let us work for peace, singing, share our joy with all, working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.
Words V. 1 Alvin Schutmaat 1984; V. 2 Fred Kaan 1993. Music Argentine Folk Melody
Words © 1983 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-718663

CARRYING THE LIGHT WITH US

COMMISSIONING: ***(Responsive)***
Holy One, healer of the world,
shed your light upon this world.
Holy One, healer of brokenness,
make us bold to share your light with others.
Lead us to wholeness
and make us shine with your light of healing love.
Posted on http://deaconsbench.wordpress.com/files-and-forms/
From *Daily Prayer for All Seasons.* Used with permission.

BENEDICTION

VU #34 ***(sung twice)*** **"Come Now, O God of Hope"**
Come now, O God of hope, we are your people,
Pour your spirit that we be one body.
Words: Korean. Geonyong Lee 1988 English Trans. Marian Pope 1996. Music: Geonyong Lee; Words & Music copyright © 1995 Geonyon Lee; Trans copyright © 1996 Marian Pope. All rights reserved.

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 NOVEMBER 29, 2026

MEWASSIN

SUN. Dec 6/26 White Gift Sundays – Socks of all sizes will be accepted for Parenting for the Future (mitts, hats, etc. are also being accepted). Drop off is at the Church.

SUN. Dec 6/26 Christmas Hamper Collection – Mewassin will be collecting non-perishable food items and/or gift cards for the Wabamun Christmas Hamper program. Items can be dropped off Sunday. A Mewassin Church member is willing to pick them up.

SUN. Dec 6/28 Christmas Brunch – Directly after Church the annual Christmas Brunch will be served. Please bring a pot-luck item for sharing.

SUN. Dec 20/26 Coffee Sunday – The last Coffee Sunday of the year will be held directly after the Service.

MON. Dec 21/26 5:30pm Christmas Evening – There will be a movie and pizza night at the Church with visiting and more, hosted by Sunday School.

THUR. Dec 24/26 4:30pm Christmas Eve Service.

SUN. Dec 27/26 – Christmas Break No Service This Sunday.

STONY PLAIN

The United Church Women (UCW) wish to thank all of you who supported our Muffin Cafe, Craft and Bake Sale on November 21.

SUN. DEC 13/26 Christmas Cantata/Advent Supper – Doors open at 4:30, Supper will begin at 5:00 with Caroling at 6:30 and Cantata at 7pm. Dessert/coffee/cookies after Cantata.

THURS. Dec 24/26 7:00pm – Christmas Eve Service.

The Card Recreators will be breaking for the Christmas season returning Jan 7/27.

COMMUNITY

FRI. Dec 25/26 12:00 noon – Stony Plain United Church is a sponsor for the Free Community Dinner being held in the Church for those spending Christmas alone. Doors open at 12:00 noon, dinner from 1pm to 3pm.

TOWN OF STONY PLAIN – Dec. 2026 and Jan. 2027 events posted on bulletin board.

STOCKINGS OF CARE 2026 CAMPAIGN – If anyone is interested in assisting or donating to this event please contact 780 960-9669. The event is hosted by the Neighbourlink Parkland program.

WHISPERING WATERS SERVICE – 7:15pm First Wed. each month at Whispering Waters Center.

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. Dec 6/26	**Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW.**
Sun. Dec 13/26	**Rev. Deborah in person at Devon.**
Sun. Dec 20/26	**Rev. Deborah in person at SP and MEW.**
Thur. Dec 24/26	**Rev. Deborah in person at MEW @ 4:30 pm.**
Thur. Dec 24/26	**Rev. Deborah in person at SP @ 7 pm.**
Thur. Dec 24/26	**Rev. Deborah in person at Devon @ 9 pm.**
Sun. Dec 27/26	**No Service in Mewassin**
Sun. Dec 27/26	**Rev. Deborah away, Presider: TBD Stony Plain only**

WEEKLY & RECURRING ACTIVITIES

Wed.	**7pm SP Cantata practice**
Wed.	**6:15pm-7pm SP Ukulele & Choir practice**
Thurs.	**10:00am-2pm SP Card Recreators taking a Christmas break returning January 7/27**
Wed.	**7:15pm First Wed. each month Whispering Waters Comm. Service**

MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun Dec 6	**White gift Sunday drop off at Church MEW**
Sun Dec 6	**Christmas Hamper Collection at Church MEW**
Sun Dec 6	**Christmas Brunch at Church MEW**
Sun Dec 13	**Cantata/Advent supper event SP**
Sun Dec 20	**Coffee Sunday after Service MEW**
Mon Dec 21	**5:30pm Christmas Evening Movie & Pizza night at Church MEW**
Thurs Dec 24	**4:30pm Service in Mewassin**
Thurs Dec 24	**7pm Service in Stony Plain**
Fri Dec 25	**1pm-3pm Free Community Christmas Dinner SP**
Sun Dec 27	**NO SERVICE in MEWASSIN**