

Quispamsis United Church

April 25th, 2021 - The Fourth Sunday of Easter

President: Rev. Linda Watson

Music Director: Stephen Alexander

Hymn Reader: John Hill

Reader: Brion Crossman

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting the Christ Candle

We receive our light from God. Sometimes it comes from the love of those around us. Thank you, God, for sharing your light with us.

Let our light shine into the world.

Prelude

Amazing Grace - arr. Harold DeCou

Call to Worship (Unison):

Tender God, your ways are beyond our knowing, your mystery is too deep for us to fathom. And yet you constantly come into our lives. Over and over again you draw us to you and invite us into your loving heart. Help us to trust your intentions for us and connect the goodness and mercy we meet in the people around us with your will and your truth. Be in these words of ours. Wing them like eagles so they may fly to hearts that are longing for your word of hope and reassurance. God who heals the broken-hearted, heal us and teach us; and may our prayers and words be true and to your glory. We pray in the holy name of Jesus Christ, teacher, healer and prayer. Amen

Prayer of Approach

We come, Creating God, away from the restless hurry of our lives, into this space of worship. Gentle our souls, ease our minds; fill us with your Spirit. Assure us that we are yours, held in your forever love. Thank you. Amen.

Hymn:

Spirit, Open My Heart

MV 79

Refrain

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.

As you love me I love, in receiving and in giving,

Spirit, open my heart.

**God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender. R**

**Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory. R**

**May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another. R**

Theme Conversation

Prayer of Confession (Responsively):

God of light and love, we confess that our priorities are often all mixed up. We spend too much time and money on things of little worth and have nothing left over for what really matters.

Help us God to lighten our load, and to put your call first in our lives.

Guiding God, we confess that we often lose our way because obstacles in our paths cause us to lose our focus on the opportunities for serving you.

Help us God, to keep the wider picture in view.

God of the ages, we often feel alone and abandoned. We think that what is happening to us has never happened to anyone before.

Help us, God, to step forward, trusting that your light will be with us.

Assurance of Pardon

The light shines forth on all of our paths, whether they be in dark valleys or on well-marked hilltops. We are forgiven and given light for the journey.

Thanks be to God.

Today's Scripture: Acts 8:26-39

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So, he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

This is the Word of our God.

Praise be to you, O Creator.

Message Ethiopian Eunuch Baptized

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: Will you come and follow me. VU 567

- 1 **Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?**

- 2 **Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?**

- 3** Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?
- 4** Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?
- 5** Christ, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

How Can I Give?

HOW CAN I GIVE TO MY CHURCH WHEN THE CHURCH IS CLOSED?

1/ If you have internet banking, you can E-transfer funds to QUC by sending the funds to QUC@nb.aibn.com. Do not forget to send a separate email with the answer to your security question.

2/ go to www.CanadaHelps.org and search for Quispamsis united Church. You can give to the church by using your credit card. The address says Gondola Point, do not worry, that is us.

3/ you can sign up for a pre-authorized remittance (PAR) donation which comes out of your bank account or credit card once a month. You can cancel this at any time. Contact Brion Crossman at 849-6003 for details.

4/ mail or deliver your giving's to our treasurer, Brion Crossman, 22 Country Crescent, Quispamsis, E2E 1T2

Offertory Dedication Hymn: Grateful MV 182

**Grateful for the life you give us
thankful for your holy son
joyful in your spirit flowing
over all O God of love
grateful for the bread of heaven
thankful for your holy word
joyful in your mercy flowing
we will praise you.**

Offertory Dedication (Unison):

Dear God, we praise you today, that all things which come to us are because of you. We are thankful that we can return those gifts in appreciation of you and your love for us. We are thankful for the spiritual gifts you have given us, which have taught us to be a giving and caring family of faith. We give you our offerings now to support the ministry of this church both within and outside these walls. All praise to you our provider and keeper. AMEN

Prayers for Ourselves and Others & Lord's Prayer

Hymn: One More Step VU 639 (Verses 1, 4 & 5)

- 1 One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go,
from the old things to the new,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.**
- 4 Give me courage when the world is rough,
keep me loving though the world is tough,
leap and sing in all I do,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.**
- 5 You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me,
ever old and ever new,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Unison): A Prayer VU 349

**May the Christ who walks on wounded feet
walk with you on the road.
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands
stretch out your hands to serve.
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart
open your hearts to love.
May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet,
and may everyone you meet
see the face of Christ in you.**

Benediction

Choral Closing: Go Now In Peace VU 964

**Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

Postlude Sortie - G.F. Handel