

Quispamsis United Church

April 4th, 2021 - Easter Sunday

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Music Director: Stephen Alexander

Hymn Leader: Marilyn Robertson, Ashley Orchard & Heather Alward

Reader: Heather Alward

Centering Passage: *I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

-Psalm 118:17, 21-24

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting the Christ Candle

The light that was extinguished burns brightly yet again. Where there was death, there is now life. Where there was darkness shines the light. We gather in that light, we gather in that hope as we bathe in the light of Christ, the risen son this day.

Prelude Trumpet tune on "Lyra Davidica" - David Lasky

Greeting (Responsive):

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Call to Worship (Responsive):

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

This day God calls us to be a people of the resurrection!

To move from the darkened hill to the light-filled open tomb,

To take our place among all who have celebrated Christ's resurrection through the centuries.

To live by the power of Christ raised from the dead.

Christ is alive, hope is alive, joy is alive, love is alive, we are alive, the church is alive...

Alleluia! Amen!

Prayer of Approach

God of mystery and powerful love, we have come today to celebrate the Good News of Easter.

We have come to be filled by the joy of Christ alive and faith renewed. We long for resurrection

ourselves, to be touched by the light that the darkness has never been able to overcome. Yet we are aware that this joyful faith doesn't come easy every Easter. When we face loss in our own lives, when the darkness seems so thick that we fear we might be lost, when stress and anxiety weigh us down, and the stone in front of the tomb seems too heavy to roll away be with us and hold us like you did the disciples on Holy Saturday and open our eyes to your resurrection power at work in the darkness of the early morning, even before the son broke forth. Let us enter into the mystery and power of Christ's resurrection this day. Amen.

Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today VU 155

**Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing hallelujah!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!
sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!**

**But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!
our salvation have procured; hallelujah!
now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!
where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!**

**Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!
praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!
praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!**

Confirmation Liturgy

Statement of Purpose

Presentation of Candidates for Confirmation

On behalf of the congregation of Quispamsis United Church, I present the following persons for initiation into the body of Christ through profession of faith:

Benjamin Donald Alward
Ethan Douglas Alward
Madelyn Elizabeth Pearl Delong
Robert James Orchard
Ashlee Gayle Orchard
Rebekah Dawn Delong
Kieran Ross Winchester

Confirmands please stand

Profession of Faith and Promises (for the Confirmands)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Remembering our Baptism

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life, and, within it, the gift of water. Over its unshaped promise your Spirit hovered at creation. By water, comes the growth of the earth. Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom. In the waters of the Jordan your Child Jesus was baptized. Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, as we are reminded of our own baptism, a step on our journey that has brought us together in this place. AMEN

Commitment of Confirmands (for the Confirmands)

Congregational Commitment (Responsive):

Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge to these persons our support and care.

As your kindred in Christ, we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. We pledge to you our love and our support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church.

Profession of Faith (Unison)

VU 918

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

Laying On of Hands

*We ask that the family of the Confirmands rise and place a hand on the Confirmand's shoulder,
back, or head*

May the power of the Holy Spirit work within you all, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may continue to be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ.

Welcome (Unison):

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to the privileges and responsibilities of membership in this congregation. We give thanks to God for your witness among us.

Gift of Music: This is the day

Today's Scripture: Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

This is the Word of our God.

Praise be to you, O Creator.

Message Amazed

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

Thine is the Glory

VU 173

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where the body lay.**

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

**Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth: death hath lost its sting. R**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. R**

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 MV182

**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.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

You, O God, are the Easter One. You are the holy source of resurrection, you are the dancing spirit of life. We offer these gifts in gratitude; for hope returned, for the mystery of your grace and for the promise of resurrection. May these gifts be used to proclaim your love through your church. In the name of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Words of Invitation

Call to Give Thanks (Responsive):

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving:

Hallelujah, thanks and praise, ever-living God, worker of wonders, maker of miracles, author of all life and giver of life eternal! Out of chaos and fear you bring beauty and hope. Out of despair and death you create courage and new life.

Song of Creation:

With the risen Christ, who makes all things new by the power of his resurrection, we join in the song of a new day, to sing your praise:

Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy MV 203

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.

All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.

Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.

And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!

Remembering Jesus at Table (Responsive):

Let us remember together that vision of God's reign shown to us in Jesus at table:

he shared food with followers and friends,

with saints and sinners,

with crowds of thousands on the hillside,

and a few friends in an upper room.

On the night before he died, he had supper with his companions.

He took a loaf of bread, and after giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

"Take, eat. Do this in remembrance of me."

Prayer of Self-Giving:

Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace, remembering Christ's life and death, proclaiming his resurrection, waiting in hope for his coming again. Grant that in praise and thanksgiving, we may so offer ourselves to you that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

Affirmation of Memory and Hope:

MV 204

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Prayer for Transformation:

Send your Holy Spirit, God, on us and what we do, that as we break bread and drink wine, we may be united with Christ, he in us and we in him, that we who are many may be one in him. Make us strong in faith and love, that we may become truly human, as Christ was truly human.

Lord's Prayer

Great Amen:

MV 205

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup:

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ...This is the body of Christ, bread broken in love for you.

Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life Christ gives...The is the cup of joy, flowing as a gift of God's spirit into our lives.

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup (Responsive):

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Come now for all has been made ready.

sharing the meal

Prayer After Communion (Unison):

Life-giving God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Saviour's presence in the simplicity and splendour of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by the life of Christ that we may faithfully proclaim the Good News of your love. Bathe the path before us in resurrection light as we follow in Christ's own way. Amen.

Hymn: Hallelujah VU 179

*Hallelujah, hallelujah.
Give thanks to the risen Christ;
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Give praise to God's name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth,
firstborn of all creation. R

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and is risen. R

We have been crucified with Christ,
now we shall live for ever. R

Come let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Saviour. R

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

We have come from darkness and despair to hope and joy.

We have been transformed by new life.

Go forth to witness and to testify to the message of hope we have received this day.

Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! AMEN.

Benediction

Go now with the love of God in your hearts, the peace of Christ in your hands, and with the power of the Holy Spirit at your backs to share the good news you have heard this day.

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 Cortege - Gordon Young