

**Quispamsis United Church**  
April 7, 2024 - *Second Sunday in Easter*  
**Liturgical Colour: White**  
**Presider: Rev Ian Manson**  
**Director of Music: Stephen Alexander**  
**Reader: Ben Alward**

**Centering Reflection:** *“Doubts are ‘ants in the pants of faith’... Doubt is that border territory where personal and spiritual growth may be occurring.”*

- *Frederich Buechner*

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## **GATHERING TOGETHER**

### **Gathering Chord**

**Introit:** Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah! MV 121 Refrain x2  
**Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!**  
**Hey now! The morning has come!**  
**Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!**  
**The tomb was empty at the rising sun.**

**Opening Music... An Invitation to Prayer and Candle Lighting**  
Voluntary in E Minor - John Stanley

**Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**Lighting of Affirm Candle & Acknowledgment of Territories**

### **Celebrations**

#### **Call to Worship**

In life, in death, and in life beyond death,

**God is with us. We are not alone.**

In success and discouragement, in fear and in hope,

**God is with us. We are not alone.**

In times of doubt and uncertainty, when questions abound and the way is unclear.

**God is with us. We are not alone.**

**Prayer of Approach (Unison)**

Gracious God, so often we find ourselves  
locked into rooms out of fear and doubt.  
Come to us this day, and breathe your life-giving Spirit  
upon us as you did so long ago.  
Amid our questions and uncertainties,  
help us be open to the movements of the Spirit  
and to the new insights and understandings we need.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Opening Hymn:**

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks

VU 179

*Refrain*

*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

**A Time of Contemplation**

**Time for All Ages**

**Prayer of Illumination (Unison)**

Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death  
and opened to us the light of eternity.  
Enlighten our minds and kindle our hearts with the presence of your Spirit,  
that we may hear your words of comfort and challenge  
in the reading of the scriptures,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Reading:** John 20: 19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Response to Scripture**

Glory to God in the Highest

MV 124 (2x)

**Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Message**

"Ants in the Pants of Faith"

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**Hymn:**

**Come Touch Our Hearts**

**MV 12 (Vs 1-4)**

**Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,  
from failing embers build a blazing fire;  
love strong enough to overturn injustice,  
to seek a world more gracious, come touch and bless our hearts.**

**Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,  
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;  
create a space for spirit to grow in us,  
let life and beauty fill us, come touch and bless our souls.**

**Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,  
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;  
help us to open doors of understanding,  
to welcome truth and wisdom, come touch and bless our minds.**

**Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,  
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;  
that we may rise to follow and to serve,  
steady now our nerve, come touch and bless our wills.**

**Life and Work of the Church**

**Sharing of Gifts and Talents**

**Offertory Dedication Hymn:**

**Doxology**

**VU #440 (Vs 5)**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
In heaven above and earth below;  
One God, three persons we adore-  
Be praises given for evermore**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

**Generous God, thank you for the hope we can claim in your resurrecting power. Bless the gifts we bring so they may spread that hope in the world you love. Amen**

**Introduction to Prayers of the People**

**And When You Call for Me**

**MV 96 (2x)**

**And when you call for me, I have already answered.**

**And when you call for me, I am already there.**

**Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer**

### **SENDING FORTH**

**Closing Hymn:**

**Be Thou My Vision**

**VU 642**

**Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;  
naught be all else to me save that thou art,  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;  
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;  
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,  
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.**

**Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight  
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;  
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**Great God of heaven, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O ruler of all.**

**Commissioning & Blessing**

**Choral Closing**

Christ Has No Body Now But Yours

MV 171 (Refrain 2x)

**Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.**

**Here on this earth, yours is the work,**

**To serve with the joy of compassion.**

**Closing Music:**

Trumpet Voluntary - William Goodwin