

# Quispamsis United Church

August 14th, 2022 - Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

**Liturgical Colour:** Green

**Presider:** Rev. Richard Bowley

**Musician:**

**Reader:** Heather Haché

*\*Though scripture and music will change from week to week, the order of service will remain the same for the most part from August 14th - September 4th\**

*\*All Prayers for this service have been adapted from various parts of the Book of Ruth\**

**Centering Passage:** *'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

*-Matthew 5:3-9*

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## GATHERING TOGETHER

### Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this candle to symbolize the light of Christ that burns within us. We cannot be parted from that light because it is a part of us. It is our guide on the way. It is our hope when the world around us grows dark. Let us follow this light on a journey through word and worship.

### Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

### Opening Music

### Greeting

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):**

Here in this place, there are no foreigners, no come-from-aways, no strangers  
**for all are welcome in this holy space, this sacred time.**

Here in this worship, in this community, there is only acceptance,  
**for love is the language of faith.**

Here in our lives, there are no divisions,  
**for God dwells in each of us.**

Come, let us worship in unity and love.

### **Opening Prayer**

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the gift of family, whether it is family by blood or by deed, by faith or by circumstance. You bless our lives with those who support and encourage us. You call on us to offer that same strength to others. Be with us this day as we hear the story of your daughter, Ruth. In her we see examples of how to care for one another. In her, we see ourselves. Open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to what you can teach us through her story. We offer this prayer in the name of Christ, our companion on the way. AMEN

### **Hymn:**

Sisters Let us Walk Together

MV 179

**Sisters let us walk together  
sharing sadness loss and grief  
we will move through  
pain to wholeness  
brokenness transformed to peace.**

**Brothers let us work together  
seeking justice, healing shame  
filled with hope  
imbued with courage  
ev'ry violence we will name.**

**People let us love together  
joining spirits, linking hands  
we are God's unique creation  
clothed with dignity we'll stand.**

## LISTENING FOR TRUTH

### Prayer for Reconciliation (Unison):

God of compassion, of community, of connection, we come to you because our lives are filled with broken relationships. We admit that there are times when we could have offered love, but didn't because we were afraid that it would hurt too much. We could have mended bridges of trust, but didn't because we got used to holding a grudge. We could have given of ourselves to lift up another who has fallen, but didn't because we were afraid it would cost too much. Forgive us for holding back. Forgive us the pain we have caused, or allowed because of our action or inaction. Forgive us, yes, but redirect us so that we might respond as Ruth did, with love and without fear. Work in us, and remind us of the boundless nature of love and grace. We offer this and all our prayers in the strong name of Christ, our guide. AMEN

### Assurance of God's Love (Responsive)::

Ruth shows us the power of love. She would not - could not - leave Naomi. God's love for us is even stronger, and God clings to us when we might lose our way.

**Thanks be to God for such a love as this.**

### Theme Conversation

#### Illumination Verse:

There is Room for All (X2)

MV 62

**There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;  
there is room for all sheltered in God's love.**

**And I rejoice and sing, "My Refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."**

**There is room for all, there is room for all.**

#### Reading:

Ruth 1:1-22

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there for about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons or her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had had consideration for his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, 'Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security,

each of you in the house of your husband.’ Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, ‘No, we will return with you to your people.’ But Naomi said, ‘Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.’ Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, ‘See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.’ But Ruth said, ‘Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!’ When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, ‘Is this Naomi?’ She said to them, ‘Call me no longer Naomi, call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty; why call me Naomi when the Lord has dealt harshly with me, and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?’

So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gift of Music**  
*Recording*

God Will Take Care Of You

*Valley Woodwinds*

**Message**

Belonging: A Stranger in a Strange Land

### **RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

**Hymn:**

We Are Pilgrims

VU 595

**We are pilgrims on a journey. Fellow travellers on the road.  
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**

**Sister, let me be your servant. Let me be as Christ to you.  
Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night time of your fear.  
I will hold my hand out to you; speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping. When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony  
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, let me be your servant. Let me be as Christ to you.  
Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

## **Minute for Mission**

Rebuilding After Loss – Lisa's Story

### **How Can I Give?**

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

4/ 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.

5/ if you come for in-person worship, there is a plate as you enter the church where you can place your offering.

6/ As we consider the greater work of the United Church consider giving to Mission and Service Fund through your regular offering or at <https://united-church.ca>

### **Offertory Dedication Hymn:**

We Give You But Your Own

VU 542

**We give you but your own,  
whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is yours alone,  
we give it gratefully**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison):**

**We offer to you, O God, all that we are. We offer our heart; fill it with your love. We offer our arms; embrace a world in need of healing. We offer our gifts; use them to build your kingdom. Bless all that we are and all that we bring. We offer this and all our prayers in the strong name of our brother and companion on the way, Jesus Christ. AMEN**

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

**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 my heavenward, O power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and thou only, 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.**

**SENDING FORTH**

**Commissioning & Benediction (Responsive):**

**Though we part ways, we carry with us a call to embrace a world in need.**

**We will walk this road with those whom God sends our way.**

**Their pain will be our pain;**

**their joy, our joy.**

As you have been blessed, go now and be a blessing to others.

**We live and serve in devotion to God,  
in partnership with Christ,  
inspired by the Holy Spirit.**

Go now in peace.

**Choral Closing:**

Wherever You May Go (vs 2)

MV 216

**Refrain:**

**Wherever you may go, I will follow,  
And your people shall be my people too.**

**Wherever you may go, I will follow:  
For I will be faithful, loyal and true.**

**From beginning to the end  
I will always be your friend,  
When you need me, I'll be there,  
You can trust my faithful care. R**

**Closing Music**