

Quispamsis United Church

August 21st, 2022 - Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Musician: Darlene Friars

Reader: Leslie Reid

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: *Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. 'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'*

-Luke 6:36-38

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:

Each Blade of Grass

MV 37

**Each blade of grass, ev'ry wing that soars,
the waves that sweep across a distant shore,
make full the circle of God.**

**Each laughing child, ev'ry gentle eye,
a forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky,
make full the circle of God.**

**Each silent paw, ev'ry rounded stone,
the buzz that echoes from a honey'd comb,
make full the circle of God.**
**Each fire-brimmed star, ev'ry outstretched hand,
the wind that leaps and sails across the land,
make full the circle of God.**

**Each icy peak, ev'ry patterned shell,
the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,
make full the circle of God.**

**Each cosmic hue, ev'ry creature's way,
all form the beauty of this vast array,
making full the circle of God.**

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 2:1-23

Now Naomi had a kinsman on her husband's side, a prominent rich man, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, 'Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain, behind someone in whose sight I may find favour.' She said to her, 'Go, my daughter.' So she went. She came and gleaned in the field behind the reapers. As it happened, she came to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. Just then Boaz came from Bethlehem. He said to the reapers, 'The Lord be with you.' They answered, 'The Lord bless you.' Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, 'To whom does this young woman belong?' The servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, 'She is the Moabite who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. She said, "Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the reapers." So she came, and she has been on her feet from early this morning until now, without resting even for a moment.'

Then Boaz said to Ruth, 'Now listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped, and follow behind them. I have ordered the young men not to bother you. If you get thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn.' Then she fell prostrate, with her face to the ground, and said to him, 'Why have I found favour in your sight, that you should take notice of me, when I am a foreigner?' But Boaz answered her, 'All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. May the Lord reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!' Then she said, 'May I continue to find favour in your sight, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, even though I am not one of your servants.'

At mealtime Boaz said to her, 'Come here, and eat some of this bread, and dip your morsel in the sour wine.' So she sat beside the reapers, and he heaped up for her some parched grain. She ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. When she got up to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, 'Let her glean even among the standing sheaves, and do not reproach her. You must also pull out some handfuls for her from the bundles, and leave them for her to glean, and do not rebuke her.'

So, she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. She picked it up and came into the town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gleaned. Then she took out and gave her what was left over after she herself had been satisfied. Her mother-in-law said to her, 'Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you.' So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, 'The name of the man with whom I worked today is Boaz.' Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, 'Blessed be he by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!' Naomi also said to her, 'The man is a relative of ours, one of our nearest kin.' Then Ruth the Moabite said, 'He even said to me, "Stay close by my servants, until they have finished all my harvest."' Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, 'It is better, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, otherwise you might be bothered in another field.' So she stayed close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests; and she lived with her mother-in-law.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Blessing: Hope And Circumstance

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

Praise to the Lord

VU 220

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;
O my soul, praise him, at all times your health and salvation.
Come, all who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,
joining in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,
keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.
Have you not seen, how all you needed has been
met by God's gracious ordaining?**

**Praise to the Lord, who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend us:
ponder anew what the Almighty can do
who out of love will befriend us.**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from God's people again:
gladly with praise we adore him.**

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

VU 542

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:

God Be With You

VU 422

**God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain:

**Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.**

**God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again. R**

**God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you;
God be with you till we meet again. R**

**God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threatening wave before you;
God be with you till we meet again. R**

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