

Quispamsis United Church

August 22nd, 2021 - Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

President: Rev. Richard Bowley

Music Director: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Sue King

Centering Passage: *The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.*

John 10:3

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting the Christ Candle

Like the Shepherd's voice speaking to our hearts, this light speaks to our souls. It reminds us that as dark as things get, the Light of Christ is shining to show us the way. May it guide us through worship and beyond.

Prelude

Prelude on "St. Columba" - Healey Willan

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):

We come to rejoice in the One who lays us down in green pastures, who leads us beside still waters,

and gives us refreshment of soul.

Christ, the Shepherd of our hearts, shows us the way we should go,

so that the name of God will be glorified.

Though darkness surrounds us and all manner of evil befall us, we will not be afraid,

for the Great Shepherd of our souls is with us.

We are never away from the love and grace of God,

and we shall be with him for ever and ever.

Opening Prayer

We come before you, O Great Shepherd, longing to catch the whispers of your wisdom as we find our way on the roads of life. We come hoping for green pastures and still waters, but also praying that you will be with us through the dark valleys when we feel surrounded on all side. And yet, there are times where we have revelled in the darkness because we think it hides our brokenness, or because we aren't sure if we are ready to see what you might have in store for us. Forgive us for those moments where we have ignored your call, and found ourselves more lost than ever. Forgive us for the ways that we have abused the pastures and polluted the waters of creation. Forgive us, O Christ, and call to us again. Inspire us again. We know that in you is grace never-ending, and that as the Eternal Shepherd, you will seek us out, no matter how lost or alone we are. We praise you for that constant love, and listen intently for your guidance. We offer this and all our prayers, in your name, O Christ. AMEN

Hymn:

Are you a Shepherd

MV 126

**Are you a shepherd, good shepherd who leads us
safely through danger, while calming our fears?**

**Are you a father who shelters and feeds us,
shares in our laughter and wipes away tears?**

Refrain

**Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,
but you are greater than all that we know.
Holy and living, loving and giving,
God, you are with us wherever we go.**

**Are you a mother, good mother who bears us,
comforts, protects us and helps us to rest?
Are you a teacher who daily prepares us,
challenging students to offer their best? R**

**Great, gentle shepherd, forever beside us,
lead all you children in paths that are right.
Great, loving parent, wise teacher, you guide us.
We want to love you and bring you delight. R**

Theme Conversation Knowing the Voice

Prayer of Illumination & Understanding

God, source of all light, by your Word, you give light to our souls. Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that our hearts and minds may be opened to know your truth and your way. Amen

Scripture Reading: John 10:1-4

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you O Christ.

Sung Scripture: Psalm 23

VU 747

- 1 The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me,
the quiet waters by.**
- 2 My soul he doth restore again;
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
even for his own name's sake.**
- 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for thou art with me; and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.**
- 4 My table thou has furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.**
- 5 Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me,
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.**

Message

The One Who Knows Us

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: The King of Love VU 273

- 1 **The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine forever.**

- 2 **Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.**

- 3 **Perverse and foolish oft I strayed;
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.**

- 4 **In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.**

- 5 **Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!**

- 6 **And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever!**

Affirming Moment: Connecting with our Indigenous Neighbours-Sue King and Wendy Stewart

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

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

Offertory Dedication Hymn: Doxology
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

On the many roads of our lives, you, O God, have called us on and sent your Spirit to guide us on our way. This blessing, along with so many others draws us to this place, and inspires us to give back out of our own abundance. Receive and bless what we give of our time, talent, and treasure. May what we offer build up your Kingdom and aid in guiding others on the way. This we pray in the strong name of our brother and Saviour, Jesus Christ. AMEN

Prayer for Ourselves & Others and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: I have called MV 161

- 1. I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you;
all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen;
you are mine.**
- 2. I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name,
speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.**

