

# Quispamsis United Church

December 10, 2023 -2nd Sunday in Advent

**Liturgical Colour:** Blue

**Presider:** Rev Ian Manson

**Director of Music:** Stephen Alexander

**Reader:** Wendy Stewart

**Centering Reflection:** *May the angels of light  
glisten for us this day.  
May the sparks of God's beauty  
dance in the eyes of those we love.  
May the universe  
be on fire with Presence for us this day.  
May the new sun's rising  
grace us with gratitude.*

- John Philip Newell

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## GATHERING TOGETHER

**Opening Music (Come On, Ring Those Bells) & Time of Prayer and Candle Lighting**

**Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle**

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

**Celebrations**

**Introit:** Come Now, O God VU 34  
Come now, O God of peace  
We are your people  
Pour out your spirit  
That we be one body.

**Call to Worship (Responsive):**

You give us stories, God.

**Stories of special times and special births.**

Stories of courage. Stories of faith.

**Stories of caring and daring, hope and peace, joy and love.**

Be with us today as we hear again the story of Jesus' birth,  
**Help us be open to all the gifts that come to us this season.**

**Prayer of Approach (Unison)**

**God of purpose and promise,  
Through the stories of the Bible you remind us  
of your great love for the breadth and depth of creation.  
You care for us like shepherds tend their sheep,  
and bring comfort to troubled and weary souls.  
Open our hearts to the presence of your Spirit this morning,  
and fill our hearts with Your hope and peace. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn:**

Herald, Sound the Note of Gladness  
**Herald! Sound the note of gladness!  
Tell the news that Christ is here;  
make a pathway through the desert  
for the one who brings God near.**

VU 28

*Refrain*

***Sound the trumpet!  
Tell the message!  
Christ the Saving One has come!***

**Herald! Sound the note of judgement,  
warning us of right and wrong,  
turning us from sin and sadness,  
till once more we sing the song. R**

**Herald! Sound the note of pardon!  
Those repenting are forgiven;  
God receives these wayward children,  
and to all new life is given. R**

**Herald! Sound the note of triumph!  
Christ has come to share our life,  
bringing God's own love and power,  
granting victory in our strife. R**

## **Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy (Responsive)**

Hope comes to us in dreams of a new and better world for us and everyone.

*light HOPE candle*

And in this world, we seek Peace.

**Peace looks like a flowing river where every living thing has what they need to flourish.**

Peace looks like a place where those who are weak are not afraid of those who are strong.

**Peace looks like a world where the wolf lives with the lamb, the leopard lies down with the kid, and the calf and the lion will feed together.**

We light this candle, a light that shines on all regardless of status or station, as a reminder that God's love is for all,

**And to pray for peace.**

*light PEACE candle*

### **Candle Lighting Hymn**

A Candle is Burning

VU 6 (vs 2)

**A candle is burning, a candle of PEACE,  
A candle to signal that conflict must cease  
For Jesus is coming to show us the way  
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay**

### **Conversation Time**

#### **Prayer of Illumination (Unison)**

**God of grace, in these troubled and anxious times, you speak words of hope and peace. Send your Holy Spirit to open our ears to this sacred story, and grant us comfort, courage and peace. Amen.**

#### **Scripture Reading:** Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon

you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

**Pageant**                    "Happy Birthday Jesus!"

### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn:**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

VU 35

**Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!**

**Give ye heed to what we say: News! News!**

**Jesus Christ is born today.**

**Ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.**

**Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!**

**Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!**

**Jesus Christ was born for this!**

**He hath opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.**

**Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!**

**Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace!**

**Jesus Christ was born to save!**

**Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain his everlasting hall.**

**Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

**Life and Work of the Church**

**Sharing of our Gifts**

**Offertory Dedication Hymn:** In the Bleak Midwinter VU 55 (vs. 4)  
**What can I give him, poor as I am?**  
**If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.**  
**If I were a wise man, I would do my part;**  
**Yet what I can I give him - give my heart.**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison):**  
**God of promise, we offer our gifts in Jesus' name. Help us share the peace you offer with lives that touch ours throughout the world you love. Amen.**

**Sung Invocation to the Prayers of the People:**  
I Waited, I Waited on the Lord VU 954  
**I waited, I waited on the Lord.**  
**I waited, I waited on the Lord.**  
**Who bent down low and remembered me,**  
**And who heard my prayer.**

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

### **SENDING FORTH**

**Closing Hymn:** Joy is Now in Every Place VU 45  
**Joy is now in every place,**  
**Christmas lightens every face;**  
**now be with us, in your grace,**

#### ***Refrain***

***O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.***

**May the star that shone that night,**  
**making your poor stable bright,**  
**fill our hearts with love and light, R**

**Through the New Year let it stay,**  
**leading us upon your way,**  
**making Christmas every day, R**

**Now and ever may we find**  
**your good news to fill our mind:**  
**peace and love to humankind, R**

**Commissioning (Responsive):**

Go from here with hope and peace in your hearts.

**Let us celebrate the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love we've been go given.**

Let us go from here to share the special story of Jesus' birth.

**Let us leave here with the knowledge that we are truly loved.**

**Benediction**

**Choral Closing:**

**Rejoice, Rejoice!**

**Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**Closing Music:** Sleepers Wake by Johann Walther.