

# Quispamsis United Church

December 11th, 2022 - Third Sunday of Advent

*Dancing with Joy*

**Liturgical Colour:** Blue/Purple

**Presider:** Rev. Richard Bowley

**Director of Music:** Stephen Alexander

**Reader:** Ben Alward

**Centering Passage:** *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.*

-Luke 1:38

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## GATHERING TOGETHER

**Opening Music**    Go Tell It On The Mountain - arr. Lloyd Larson

**Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle**

**Acknowledgement of Territories**

**Celebrations & Announcements**

**Introiti**

A Candle is Burning

VU 6 (vs 3)

**A candle is burning, a candle of JOY,**

**A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.**

**Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow**

**As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.**

**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):**

Let us begin this day by rejoicing!

**The Lord has done such wonderful things for us.**

Let us be glad!

**Though the way before us be uncertain.**

We know not what we will encounter on our way.

**Wherever we go, we journey together as people of the living God,**

And we go forth to touch the lives of all with Christ's healing touch.

**Let us begin this day with rejoicing!**

**Prayer of the Day:**

We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which Your Light is birthed into the world, your blessing poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviours that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again, let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

**Hymn:**

Will You Come And Follow Me

VU 567

**Will you come and follow me If I but call your name?  
 Will you go where you don't know And never be the same?  
 Will you let my love be shown, Will you let my name be known,  
 Will you let my life be grown In you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind If I but call your name?  
 Will you care for cruel and kind And never be the same?  
 Will you risk the hostile stare Should your life attract or scare?  
 Will you let me answer pray'r In you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see If I but call your name?  
 Will you set the pris'ners free And never be the same?  
 Will you kiss the leper clean, And do such as this unseen,  
 And admit to what I mean In you and you in me?**

**Will you love the 'you' you hide If I but call your name?  
 Will you quell the fear inside And never be the same?  
 Will you use the faith you've found To reshape the world around,  
 Through my sight and touch and sound In you and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true When you but call my name.  
 Let me turn and follow you And never be the same.  
 In your company I'll go Where your love and footsteps show.  
 Thus I'll move and live and grow In you and you in me.**

**LISTENING FOR TRUTH****Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy (Responsive):**

When darkness grows, Hope reminds us that it only takes a spark to scatter shadows.

**When darkness grows, Peace reminds us that we carry that spark and shine brightest together.**

*light HOPE & PEACE candle*

And when we share that light with one another, we experience the Joy at the core our creation.

**Because we were created to be in community, in relationship. Joy is finding one another.**

It's hearing God's call to serve, giving of ourselves eagerly for the building up of the kingdom.

**It's serving our kindred in this world and knowing that each hand reaching out is Christ's own hand, that each smile is Christ's own smile.**

Joy is being a mirror to reflects God's love light on the world,

**so that none are lost and alone in the dark.**

*light JOY candle*

We light this candle because our Joy in the Lord is overflowing within us and we cannot help but share the news:

**Christ is alive in us. Christ is coming soon.**

*Silent Reflection*

## **Theme Conversation**

**Sung Prayer of Illumination:**

Kindle a Flame

VU 19 X2

**Kindle a flame to lighten the dark and take all fear away**

**Reading:** Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gift of Music – Jammers**

Christmas is Coming – Jason Gray

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn:**

Hark The Glad Sound

VU 29

**Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long:  
let every heart prepare a throne;  
and every voice a song.**

**He comes, the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.**

**He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure;  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.**

**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](mailto: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:**

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):**

**Lord of Light, you gave yourself to this world by the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ. We thankfully rejoice and praise you for your peace and light shared with all nations. Now, center us on the King of Glory during these prayerful moments of giving. We present all that we are as your humble and willing servants in the name of the One who comes to us anew, Jesus the Living Christ. Amen.**

**Gift of Music – Jammers**

We Need Christmas – Matthew West

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

**Hymn:**

Joy To The World

VU 59

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:  
let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground:  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the earth with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

### **SENDING FORTH**

#### **Commissioning & Benediction (Responsive):**

Go forth faithfully!

**God is with us!**

Go forth boldly!

**Christ is with us!**

Go forth joyfully!

**The Holy Spirit is with us!**

Bring peace and hope to all you meet.

**And may God's eternal love shine through us, this Christmas season and always. Amen!**

#### **Choral Closing:**

Hope is a Star

VU 7 (vs 3)

**Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
telling the world that the Savior is born.**

#### **Refrain:**

**When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.**

#### **Closing Music**

Joy To The World - arr. John Ness Beck