

# Quispamsis United Church

December 19th, 2021 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

Love Sunday

**Liturgical Colour:** Blue/Purple

**Presider:** Rev. Richard Bowley

**Musician:** Stephen Alexander

**Hymn Leader:** Sue King

**Reader:** Larry Watson

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**Centering Passage:** *I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.*

*Psalms 131:1-4*

**Welcome**

**Acknowledgement of Territories**

**Celebrations & Announcements**

## GATHERING TOGETHER

**Opening Music**                      In dulci jubilo - J.S. Bach

**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.**

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

In the beginning we were created from a yearning for relationship, created out of love.

**In the course of history, God came among us to walk, to live, to laugh, and to love.**

We've been waiting...

**We've been hoping...**

*(light Hope Candle)*

seeking the Holy on our way...

**seeking a peace beyond compare...**

*(light Peace Candle)*

singing praise to the one gave life its breath.

**jumping for joy as we bask in God's love light.**

*(light pink Joy Candle)*

It is because of that love that we continue to gather; continue to wait.

**And so we light this fourth candle for Love, a love that goes back farther than the beginning, and reaches beyond all our tomorrows.**

*(light Love Candle)*

**A candle is burning, a candle of LOVE,  
A candle to point us to heaven above  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth  
For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.**

### **Call to Worship (Responsive):**

We have been looking for a sign. Emmanuel—**God with us.**

We have been waiting for a savior. Emmanuel—**God with us.**

The time is near—can it be? Emmanuel—**God with us.**

Come let us worship the God of sign, wonder, and promise.

### **Prayer of the Day**

Speak to us, O God, as you spoke your word at the dawn of creation; as you spoke through your angel to Mary. Remind us that we have a holy calling to be a part of the shaping of your world, of bringing light to creation. We pray this knowing that so often in our lives we do not want the responsibility of sharing your word. But we pray for you to speak to us and through us because even though it frightens us that we might be important, that you might need us, we know that there is more to our time in this life than moving from day to day. We have a deeper calling as we take part in the transforming of the world. Inspire us, encourage us, we pray, and show us the part that we can play in bringing Christ's light into this world. We offer this and all our prayers in his strong name. AMEN

### **Hymn:**

O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word

VU 84

- 1 O radiant Christ, incarnate Word,  
eternal love revealed in time:  
come, make your home within our hearts,  
that we may dwell in light sublime.**
  
- 2 Our bartered, busy lives burn dim,  
too tired to care, too numb to feel.  
Come, shine upon our shadowed world:  
your radiance bathes with power to heal.**

**3 Your glory shone at Jordan's stream,  
the font where we were born anew.  
Attune your church to know you near;  
illumine all we say and do.**

**4 O Light of Nations, fill the earth;  
our faith and hope and love renew.  
Come, lead the peoples to your peace,  
as stars once led the way to you.**

## **LISTENING FOR TRUTH**

**Theme Conversation**                      The Power of Love

**Prayer of Illumination (Unison):**

**Speak to us, O God. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. AMEN**

**Scripture Reading:**                      John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."' ) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Herein is Wisdom.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

**Message**                      What We've Been Waiting For

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Reaffirmation of Faith (Unison):**

**We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us. We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn:**                      What Child is this

VU 74

**1     What child is this, who laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**2 Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading. R**

**3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of Kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him. R**

### **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/ 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:**                      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):**

**Here we are, O God. You have called us and blessed us with the mission of bringing your son into the world, and so we offer all that we are for that work. Receive our time, talent, and treasure, receive us, we pray. Bless all of it as we strive to bear your light into a world that longs for a way. We ask this and all things in name of the Way born in us, Jesus Christ. AMEN.**

## SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

### Words of Instruction & Invitation

#### The Gathering (Responsive):

God is with us

**We are not alone**

Christ is present here

**The Spirit moves within us**

Let us give thanks to God

**In memory and in hope**

#### The Great Thanksgiving (Responsive):

Blessings be to you, Creator God, Who in the beginning brought light and life to the world and who continues to bring it love and light everlasting.

**Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages, your ancient promise still brings us hope.**

Over the ages you have called (...) would surround the world.

**They came in the midst of our despair and filled us with hope.**

And then you came to a young woman named Mary and laid out the promise in a new way

**Promising her a son, who would be called Jesus Promising her that in her son the world would be changed**

And now as we prepare for that child to be born, we echo the ancient cry:

**O come, O come Emmanuel**

And also, we lift our voices in song, singing together the praises of ages:

#### Sanctus Benedictus

MV 203

**O holy, holy, holy God,**

**O God of time and space.**

**All earth and sea and sky above**

**bear witness to your grace.**

**Hosanna in the highest heav'n,**

**creation sings your praise.**

**And blessed is the One who comes**

**and bears your name always!**

#### The Story Remembered (Responsive):

Yet even now, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, we remember the life that this baby will live.

**We remember how he broke the bonds of human tradition to show all what the Banquet of Love could be as he ate openly with the despised and the outcast of his world.**

And we remember one special meal, foretaste of the banquet that is to come, that he ate with his closest friends.

**Gathering them together in an upper room to share the story of liberation, he prepared them to be liberated.**

And at the end of the meal he took bread, blessed and broke it, then passed it to them saying:

**Take and eat. This bread is the body of Life, broken by the world. Eat it in remembrance and in hope.**

After that he took the cup, blessed it, and passed it to them saying:

**This cup is the sign of the New Covenant. Whenever you drink it remember me, for I shall not eat or drink again until the time of the heavenly banquet.**

Remembering the birth and life of the child in the stable, we remember also his death and his resurrection.

**We remember how he poured his love out on all he met, and how even death could not hold back his love. We look forward to his return and the coming reign of peace, love, and justice.**

And now, let us remember, and let us bring before God all those prayers that we have carried with us to this place...

With hope and joy we sing the mystery of faith:

**Memorial Acclamation**

**MV 204**

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!  
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again**

**The Spirit Transforms:**

God, you poured your Spirit (...) have the courage to make the Christmas promise a reality. And the people all sang:

**Great Amen**

**MV 205**

**Amen, amen, O Holy One!  
Hosanna and Amen!  
Amen, amen, O Holy One!  
Hosanna and Amen!**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup:**

The Bread we break is the Bread of Life. The Cup we Share is the Cup of Promise.

**Sharing of the Bread and the Cup (Responsive):**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Come and eat, the banquet awaits.

**Prayer After Communion (Unison):**

**God of pregnant expectations, God of Christmas promise, God of child-like hope, we have come to your table. In our eating and drinking you have filled us with hope in a world of despair. May we be beacons of your love as we wait for the day when the world will be changed. Grant that this meal that we have shared stirs in us a hunger for peace and justice in our community and around the world. Amen**

**Hymn:**

Joy to the World

VU 59

- 1 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.**
  
- 2 Joy to the earth! the Saviour 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.**
  
- 3 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.**
  
- 4 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 (Responsive):**

Look, a young woman is with child and shall bear a son. He shall be called Emmanuel.

**We go forth with anticipation and longing.**

Share the good news—Emmanuel—God with us, is coming.

**We go with joy and hope, trusting in the promises of God.**

### **Benediction**

So, go with the love of God in your hearts, the way of Christ at your feet and the breath of the Holy Spirit, to a world that is craving a miracle.

**Choral Closing:** Hope is a Star VU 7

**Love is a flame that burns in our heart,**

**Jesus has come and will never depart.**

**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** Come Thou, Saviour of Our Race - Vetter