

Quispamsis United Church

December 24th, 2022 - Christmas Eve Early

Walking in Wonder

Liturgical Colour: Blue/Purple

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Heather Haché

Centering Passage: *Say among the nations, 'The Lord is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity.' Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.*

-Psalm 96:10-13

GATHERING TOGETHER

Opening Music Carol Medley

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Introit:

A Candle is Burning

VU 6 (vs 5)

**We honor Messiah with Christ's candle flame
Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim
O Come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night
As God comes among us, the Christian's true light.**

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):

A mother and father seek rest for the night after a long journey

their Hope is not in vain, but a barn is the best they can find.

The night is quiet now, like the whole world is waiting

because God -Christ - is so close, we can feel that Holy Presence just on the edge of our next breath.

But in the distance, we can hear the faint songs of angels growing in intensity as the moment approaches,

and in their songs, we hear of such Joy as the world has never known.

The world - not ready, yet long waiting - stands at the cradle. Kings wait with shepherds, the rich alongside the poor.

all stand equal in a Love that is poured out on the world, over all and given freely to each

[light HOPE, PEACE, JOY, & LOVE candles]

And now that moment has come. Born in us and in the world is a light that cannot go out.

Born in us and in the world is a light to push back the darkness.

[light CHRIST candle]

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Reading: Luke 2:1-3

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

The Story Begins

Prayer for Hope:

God of wonderful possibilities, we come to you in this time with Hope. We look to the future and see what can be, a world where all people are fed, sheltered, and cared for. A world that is not only worth hoping for, but worth striving for. Walk with us through this season, help us to turn our hope to action. We ask this in the name of Christ who moves through us. AMEN.

Hymn:

O Little Town of Bethlehem

VU 64

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.**

**O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessed gift of heaven.
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

Reading: Luke 2:4-6

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

The Story Continues

Prayer for Peace:

We pray, O Prince of Peace, for a world that truly lives into your kingdom. In the birth of a single child, you offer us a glimpse of the trust you have in your people. The trust to live out the dream you have for this world where all people join hands in love, not hate, peace and not war. Guide our hands and feet to make that dream a reality. AMEN.

Hymn:

Once in Royal David's City

VU 62

**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle-shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven, who, with God is over all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
There among the poor and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**For he is our lifelong pattern; daily, when on earth he grew;
he was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

Reading: Luke 2:7

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Story Continues

Prayer for Joy:

In Joy, we come before you again O God of the dance that is creation. Born to us each year is a reminder of not only our hope for the future, of a world living in peace, but also a call to not live in fear, to celebrate both the life we are given in creation and the new life afforded by the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We rejoice this day as we await the coming of your son in our lives. AMEN.

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.**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity.
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! R**

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. R**

Reading: Luke 2:15-19

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The Story Continues

Prayer to Welcome Christ (Responsive):

We come together today for light,

though not the twinkling kind.

We come together to receive a gift,

but not one we find under a tree or in Santa's sled.

We come together with family,

but it is one that goes beyond these walls, beyond our country, and across the whole world.

Here, today a light is born anew in each of us, the gift of salvation is offered without requirement,

and we join hands with our neighbors to welcome the Christ child or hope, our peace, our joy, and our eternal love. Welcome Jesus our brother into our lives. AMEN

Hymn:

Go Tell It On The Mountain

VU 43

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. [Refrain]**

**The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth. [Refrain]**

**Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning & Benediction (Responsive):

Go now in wonder. Go to bring light to those in darkness, joy to those who can find no joy, and comfort to a world that is greatly in need.

We go with the songs of angels in our ears, and the love of God in our hearts. We go to spread the word—the babe of Bethlehem is born for all.

Choral Closing:

Hope is a Star

VU 7 (alt verse)

**Christ is the light that shows us the way
Guiding us on from the night to the day.**

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

Christmas Sing-Song

Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way
Bells on bobtails ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight

[Chorus]

Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh, hey
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh

Rudolph the Red - Nosed Reindeer

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
Had a very shiny nose
And if you ever saw it
You would even say it glows
All of the other reindeer
Used to laugh and call him names
They never let poor Rudolph
Join in any reindeer games

Then one foggy Christmas Eve
Santa came to say
"Rudolph, with your nose so bright
Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"
Then how the reindeer loved him
As they shouted out with glee
"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
You'll go down in history"

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

You better watch out
You better not cry
You better not pout
I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is coming to town

He's making a list
He's checking it twice
He's gonna find out who's naughty or nice
Santa Claus is coming to town

He sees you when you're sleeping
And he knows when you're awake
He knows if you've been bad or good
So be good for goodness sake

You better watch out
You better not cry
You better not pout
I'm telling you why
'Cause Santa Claus is coming to town

We Wish You a Merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Good tidings we bring to you and your kin
We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

We wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year!