

# Quispamsis United Church

December 24th, 2021 - Christmas Eve Early Service

**Liturgical Colour:** white

**Presider:** Rev. Richard Bowley

**Musician:** Stephen Alexander

**Hymn Leaders:** QUC Choir

**Reader:** Robert Orchard

---

**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.*

*Psalm 130:5-6*

**Welcome**

**Acknowledgement of Territories**

**Celebrations & Announcements**

## GATHERING TOGETHER

**Opening Music**

Christmas Sing-a-long - Jingle Bells, Rudolph, Deck the Halls

**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.**

**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 the Holy Presence just on the edge of our next breath.**

But in the distance, we 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, overall and given freely to each**

*(light HOPE, PEACE, JOY & LOVE candles)*

And now the 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)*

**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.**

**Call to Worship (Responsive):**

The time is now! Tonight is the night!

**We come excited for what tonight will bring.**

Familiar songs are playing, telling of a star and angels on high.

**The angels call us. A star leads us. To the manger we come.**

With awe and joy let us worship

**Prayer of the Day**

God, we are eager to hear this story again, to be among those who come and see what is happening and wonder about what it all means. Help us to hear the story tonight and remember what Christmas is all about. This we pray in the name of the baby in the manger. AMEN

**Hymn:**

O Come All Ye Faithful

VU 60 (vs 1, 3, & 4)

- 1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:  
come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**
  
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest: R**
  
- 4 See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; R**

## LISTENING FOR TRUTH

**Scripture:** Luke 2:1-5

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. 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.

**(Unwrapping Christmas)**

**Anthem**                      Angels From the Realms of Glory

**Scripture:** Luke 2:6-7

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

**(Unwrapping Christmas)**

**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.**

**Scripture:** Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

**(Unwrapping Christmas)**

**Scripture:** Luke 2:15-18

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.

**(Unwrapping Christmas)**

**Hymn:**

Away in a Manger

VU 69

**1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

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

**Scripture:** Matthew 2:1-2, 7-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**(Unwrapping Christmas)**

**Hymn:** Angels we have heard on High VU 38

- 1 Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**
- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song? R**
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. R**

**4 See him in a manger laid,  
whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while our hearts in love we raise. 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):**

**You gave us so much, God! What can we do? How can we respond? We will love as best as we can. We will give of ourselves to help others. We will follow you wherever you go. We will give you our very selves. Bless this gift, God. Help us, with Jesus, to build your kingdom of love and peace. AMEN**

### **Prayers for Ourselves and Others & Lord's Prayer**

### **Sharing the light**

**Hymn:** Go tell it on the mountain VU 43

### **Refrain**

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

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

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

**2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Saviour's birth! R**

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

## **SENDING FORTH**

### **Commissioning (Responsive):**

What amazing things we have seen this afternoon

**Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds and a bright star shining**

The baby came again, Jesus came to bring light and love

**And now we are called to go and share hope, love, peace and Joy**

with all we meet in him this night

**For this Birthday is for the whole world**

### **Benediction**

Let's go celebrate with the love of God in your hearts, the way of Christ at your feet and the breath of the Holy Spirit. Share what you have heard!

### **Choral Closing:**

Hope is a Star

Tune of VU 7

**Night closes in, and darkness abounds,**

**Yet just ahead waits a light to be found.**

**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**

Santa Claus is Coming to Town