

Quispamsis United Church

December 24th, 2021 - Christmas Eve Late Service

Liturgical Colour: white

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Musician: Stephen Alexander

Hymn Leaders: QUC Choir

Reader: Emma Crowley

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 Chime preludes on 'Infant Holy, Infant Lowly' and 'Ukrainian Bell Carol' - arr.

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):

Where hope once sputtered dimly,

It blazes within and around us, for today, hope is born anew.

(Hope candle lit)

We searched the whole world for peace and were left wanting,

because the true peace comes to us in a child, a prince, a king!

(Peace candle lit)

Brought low by the world's problems, we were frozen by fear,

then we heard the angels' song, and we started to dance for the joy of the world.

(Joy candle lit)

Bound by chains of isolation, we were lost and lonely,

But a love that would not let us retreat into ourselves breaks into our world to set us free.

(Love candle lit)

And now we wait as God does something new and amazing among us.

We are waiting...

**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.**

-Tune of VU 7

Call to Worship (Responsive):

Something amazing is happening.

Where darkness once gathered, a new light is breaking.

Whispered words of angels - a child, a miracle - are spreading.

God has called us. A star has led us. Before us, a manger waits.

Let us go to this lowly place.

Let us worship the one who waits for us there.

Prayer of the Day

God of Wonder and Light, we are filled with both as we gaze upon the glory of what is to come. Give us minds to understand the love that has entered our lives again, give us hearts to spread that love around. Flood us with your holy light so that when we go from this place, all may see the wonders you have done and will do in this world and through your people. In the name of the Christ, Emmanuel, God with us, we pray. 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 2:1-7

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. 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.

This is the Good News.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Once In Royal David's City VU 62 (vs 1-2)

- 1** Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattleshed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2** 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.

Lighting the Christ Candle:

This is the light we have been waiting for.

This is the light we have been searching for.

Born in us and to the world this day, the divine breaks into our lives.

To live with us, to laugh with us, to support us, to save us.

(Christ candle lit)

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

-Tune of VU 7

Scripture: Luke 2:8-18

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!'

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.

This is the Good News.

This is the Joy of the world.

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.

Message

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

VU 48

- 1** Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!'
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'
Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'
- 2** 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
- 3** Hail, the heavenborn 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

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/ 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):

For all the gifts we give and receive, for all the blessings which are abundant in our lives, even in the midst of times like these, we give thanks. Bless what we give in time, talent, and treasure. Bless our hands and feet as we share the love of God with all. Bless us as well as we bring the light of Christ's birth to the dark places of this world. In his name we pray. AMEN

Anthem

Angels From the Realms of Glory

A Sung Communion Liturgy

(Tune: Greensleeves)

Words of Instruction

Invitation to the Table

Gathering

Lift up your hearts unto the Lord. Sing unto God your praises.
We gather on this holy night. We gather at this table.

***Lift, lift your hearts up high!
Sing praise to God, and glorify!
Praise, praise, the Prince of Peace,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

Thanksgiving

God called to us from age to age
through messengers and prophets,
When we would not our hearts give way,
the Word-made-flesh God sent us.

***This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

O Holy God of power and might!

Hosanna in excelsis!

Blessed be the one who in your name comes!

***Hosanna in the highest!
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

The Word-made-flesh, Emmanuel;

God, come to live among us!

He preached good news: the kingdom come!

A light shone in the darkness.

***Nails, spear shall pierce Him through!
The Cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail! Hail, the Word made flesh;
the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

Remembering the Meal

And on the night he was betrayed,
Christ took the bread and broke it.
And thanking God, he shared this gift.
“Remember, when you eat it!”

***Nails, spear shall pierce Him through!
The Cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail! Hail, the Word made flesh;
the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

He took the cup and raised it up.
“My life I pour out for you.
From sin, set free! Remember me!
We covenant anew.”

***Nails, spear shall pierce Him through!
The Cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail! Hail, the Word made flesh;
the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

Blessing of Bread and Cup

Pour out your Spirit, Holy God, upon these gifts, and bless them.
Make them for us the Bread of Life, the Cup of our Salvation!

***Raise, raise the song on high!
As Mary sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!***

Sharing the Meal

The meal of God for the flock of God,
Our thanks we offer, Most Holy.
Come now this gift of grace awaits,
For highest and lowly.

***Hail, hail the prince of peace,
whose table we find open.
Haste, haste, we come to you,
as members of your chosen.***

(sharing the bread and the cup)

Prayer after Communion

Thank God for Holy Mystery;
The blood, the body; the gift of life!
As we depart, let us take heart:
God's light will lead us always!

Raise, raise the song on high!

As Mary sings her lullaby:

***Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!***

Sharing in the Light of Christ & Lord's Prayer

Hymn:

Silent Night

VU 67

1 Silent night! Holy night!

**All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

2 Silent night! Holy night!

**Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.**

3 Silent night! Holy night!

**Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,' cry the angels.

For good news of great joy has come to us this day.

With this new light, kindled in our hands and in our hearts we must go,

to spread the word. The Prince of peace, the hope of the world is born and reign within us.

Darkness has no power anymore.

Light has broken in. A new day has dawned.

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: Go Tell It On The Mountains 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**

Closing Music Postlude on 'Adeste, Fideles - Sigvart Hofland