

# Quispamsis United Church

February 11, 2024 - *Transfiguration Sunday*

***Liturgical Colour: White***

***Presider: Rev Ian Manson***

***Music: Stephen Alexander***

***Reader: Robert Orchard***

***Centering Reflection:*** “The mountaintop is much more comfortable, and the pull to stay there is incredible. But the desert is where Christ leads us.”

- *Very Rev. Michael D Kinman*

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## GATHERING TOGETHER

### Opening Music & Time of Prayer and Candle Lighting

*(There Is a Balm in Gilead – arr. Jason Krug)*

### Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

### Lighting of Affirm Candle & Acknowledgment of Territories

### Celebrations

#### Introit:

**The light of Christ has come into the world,  
The light of Christ has come into the world. (2x)**

#### Call to Worship (Responsive):

God is present in mountaintop experiences and in the everyday routines of life.

**God’s light shines in the darkness and offers guidance and hope.**

We see God’s radiance in the face of Christ and in his invitation to live with justice, compassion and peace.

**Let us worship God with thanks and praise.**

**Prayer of Approach (Unison)**

God of grace and God of glory,  
you reveal your presence to the world  
on mountain tops and lowly plains,  
in classrooms and hospital beds,  
in homes and churches,  
in the silence of nature and the sounds of cities.  
Yours is the presence that pushes past our fears,  
that transforms our doubts,  
and that offers us the light and life we need.  
Be present with us this day, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Opening Hymn:**

Open My Eyes that I May See  
Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.

VU 371

*Refrain*

*Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear. R

Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
open my heart and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share. R

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

God of patience and purpose,  
we confess we don't expect you to surprise us.  
We think we know what you require of us,  
and so we're reluctant to explore new opportunities  
And new ways of being.

**Forgive us when we are set in our ways.  
Work in us by your Spirit  
to keep us open to new encounters with you and your people.**

*(Silent Contemplation)*

### **Words of Assurance**

**Sung Introduction to Scripture: Open Your Ears, O Faithful People** VU 272 (Vs 1)

**Open your ears O faithful people,  
Open your ears and hear God's word.  
Open your hearts O faithful people,  
God now speaks to you.**

### **Readings:**

#### **Exodus 24: 12-18**

The Lord said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.' So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, 'Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.'

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

#### **Mark 9: 2-9**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Gift of Music**          Shine, Jesus Shine!

**Message**                      “Voices, Visions and Visitations”

### **RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

**Hymn:**

We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding  
**We have come at Christ's own bidding  
to this high and holy place,  
where we wait with hope and longing  
for some token of God's grace.  
Here we pray for new assurance  
that our faith is not in vain,  
searching like those first disciples  
for a sign both clear and plain.**

VU 104

**Light breaks in upon our darkness;  
splendour bathes the flesh-joined Word;  
Moses and Elijah marvel  
as the heavenly voice is heard.  
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder  
how the Law and Prophets meet:  
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,  
stands transfigured and complete.**

**Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,  
fearful lest our faith decline,  
we like Peter find it tempting  
to remain and build a shrine.  
But true worship gives us courage  
to proclaim what we profess,  
that our daily lives may prove us  
people of the God we bless.**

## Life and Work of the Church

### Sharing of Gifts and Talents

**Offertory Dedication Hymn:** As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought VU 518 (Vs 3)  
**With gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to you,  
Not just to serve your cause, but share your love with neighbours too.  
O God who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your son,  
help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

### Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Gracious God, you have given us life  
and blessed us with all we need for abundant living.  
Bless the gifts we offer today,  
so that others may see Christ's grace at work in what we offer the world.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Communion Hymn** One Bread, One Body VU 467

#### Refrain

*One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless;  
and we, though many, throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.*

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,  
woman or man, no more. R

Many the gifts, many the works,  
one in the Lord of all. R

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,  
gathered to one, for all. R

### Sacrament of Holy Communion

Glory to God in the highest.

**And on earth, hope and peace to all!**

Blessed are you, Gracious God....

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus, who taught us when we pray to say:

## The Lord's Prayer

### Sharing of the Bread and Cup

#### Post-Communion Prayer (Unison):

For the bread we have eaten, for the wine we have tasted, we give you thanks, Holy One. Now send us forth, united in courage, peace and love, to give light to those in need, and be Christ's hands and feet in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### SENDING FORTH

#### Closing Hymn:

Let us Talents and Tongues Employ  
Let us talents and tongues employ,  
reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

VU 468

#### *Refrain*

*Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!*

Christ is able to make us one,  
at the table he sets the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless,  
love in word and in deed express. R

Jesus calls us in, sends us out,  
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God (Immanuel) everywhere! R

#### Commissioning (Responsive):

This Sunday marks the close of the season of Epiphany, yet God's light continues to break into the world in Jesus, and so:

May the light of God lead us,  
the light of Christ embrace us,  
and the light of the Holy Spirit enliven us  
So that we and all creation know both hope and peace

**this day and each coming day.**

**Benediction**

**Choral Closing**

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song  
**Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.  
I'll tell everybody about you wherever I go.  
For our life and our peace and our love is yourself.  
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.**

VU 641 (Vs 1)

**Closing Music**

Trumpet Tune - Robert Lau