

# *Quispamsis United Church*

*February 12th, 2023 - Sixth Sunday of Epiphany*

***Liturgical Colour: Green***

***President: Rev. Richard Bowley***

***Director of Music: Stephen Alexander***

***Reader: Karen Young***

***Centering Passage:*** *How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.*

*-Psalm 84:1-2*

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## **GATHERING TOGETHER**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle:** In this season of revelation we light this candle, a symbol of Christ in our midst, to show us the way.

**Opening Music**                      Great is Thy Faithfulness - arr. Stuart Landon

**Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle**

**Acknowledgement of Territories**

**Celebrations & Announcements**

**Introit:**

Come all you people

MV 2 (x2)

**Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;**

**Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;**

**Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;**

**Come now and worship the Lord.**

**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.**

**Call to Worship (Responsive):**

God, who is the great gardener, has planted seeds in all of us,

**we come to nurture these good seeds.**

Jesus is calling us to bear spiritual fruit,

**we come to learn and be shaped by the ways that Christ reigns.**

The Holy Spirit moves in us, encouraging us to grow

**we come to root ourselves as we grow in the Spirit.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Amazing God, you spoke to our hearts and called us here today. We give thanks to you for gathering us together, bringing us from the busyness and stress of life into this place in which we experience your peace and presence. As we tend to our souls and our relationship to you, we ask that you draw near, that you water us with your Word, that we may more clearly see you at work in our lives and in our world. Speak to us of the ways in which you would have us grow that our lives would more fully reflect the life of Jesus Christ. This we pray in His name. AMEN

## **Hymn:**

Come, You Thankful People Come  
**Come, you thankful people, come,  
raise the song of harvest-home!  
All is safely gathered in,  
safe before the storms begin;  
God, our maker, does provide  
for our needs to be supplied:  
come to God's own temple, come,  
raise the song of harvest-home!**

VU 516

**All the world is God's own field,  
harvests for God's praise to yield;  
wheat and weeds together sown,  
here for joy or sorrow grown;  
first the blade, and then the ear,  
then the full corn shall appear:  
Harvest-giver, grant that we  
wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**For our God, one day, shall come,  
and shall take this harvest home,  
from the field shall in that day  
all offences purge away;  
giving angels charge at last  
in the fire the weeds to cast,  
but the fruitful ears to store  
in the garner evermore.**

**Even so, God, quickly come  
to your final harvest-home!  
Gather all your people in,  
free from sorrow, free from sin;  
there for ever purified,  
in your presence to abide:  
come, with all your angels, come,  
raise the glorious harvest-home.**

### **LISTENING FOR TRUTH**

#### **Prayer of Confession (Unison):**

**Holy God, you are like the patient farmer waiting until the time is right to pick the harvest. You know how often we like to think of ourselves as a pure wheat field, growing only the finest produce in your name, but the reality is we fall far short from a perfect crop. Along with the good golden grain, the fields of our hearts and lives are full of weeds. For the times when we have let these invading species choke our growth in you we are sorry. Patient farmer, tend to us that we may be strengthened in your way and grow strong in your life. We offer this and all our prayers in the name of Christ, our brother. AMEN**

#### **Assurance of God's Love:**

God's seeds of love have already been sown in your midst. Through the loving warmth of the Son, the love of God has already been poured out for you. You are God's beloved ones. Redeemed and forgiven. So, live and Grow in the light of Christ and bear much Good Fruit. AMEN.

#### **Time for All Ages**

#### **Prayer of Illumination:**

Wondrous Spirit, gather our minds that they may be one with you. Open our ears that they may hear your Word. Soften our hearts that they may receive your wisdom. Speak to us, for we your servants are listening. AMEN

#### **Reading: Matthew 13:24-43**

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So, when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along

with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’

He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.’

He told them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.’ Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet:

‘I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world.’

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’ He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Praise be to you, O Christ.**

**Gift of Music**      Be Unto Your Name - Words and Music by Lynn DeShazo and Gary Sadler

**Message**            The Word in the words

### **RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

**Hymn:**

Beyond the Beauty and the Awe  
**Beyond the beauty and the awe,  
beyond the fear and dread,  
we long, O God, to hear your word,  
to taste your transformed bread.**

MV 80

**Our lives feel torn between the world  
whose needs are grimly real  
and empty talk of peace and joy  
with distant, vague appeal.**

**Oh, teach us how to hear your voice  
despite the traffic's din;  
to keep the blasts of rancour out  
and let your Spirit in.**

**In sound or silence, sight or smell,  
may we some token find  
that makes your living presence known  
to body, soul, and mind.**

**Then help us live as Jesus taught,  
as light and salt and yeast,  
that others may be brought to share  
your promise and your feast.**

**Moment for Community:** Ministry & Personnel

### **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](mailto: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/ Mail or deliver your giving's to our treasurer, Brion Crossman, 22 Country Crescent, Quispamsis, E2E 1T2
- 4/ 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.
- 5/ if you come for in-person worship, there is a plate as you enter the church where you can place your offering.
- 6/ As we consider the greater work of the United Church consider giving to Mission and Service Fund through your regular offering or at <https://united-church.ca>

**Offertory Dedication Hymn:**

What Can I do

MV 191 (X2)

**What can I do? What can I bring?  
What can I say? What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.  
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison):**

**Take what we offer, money given here today, through PAR, or other means; and gifts given through your Spirit working in this community, transform them into action for your Kingdom. Bless us that with these gifts given freely we may freely offer food to the hungry, warmth to the cold, comfort to the hurting and a way for the lost. This we pray in Christ's name. AMEN**

**Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn:**

To Show By Touch and Word

VU 427

**To show by touch and word devotion to the earth,  
to hold in high regard all life that comes to birth,  
we need, O God, the will to find  
the good you had of old in mind.**

**Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most,  
our hearts to long for truth till pride of self is lost.  
For every challenge that we face  
we need your guidance and your grace.**

**Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule, and norm,  
and let our lives portray your word in human form.  
Now come with us that we may have  
your wits about us where we live.**

**SENDING FORTH**

**Commissioning (Responsive):**

Go into God's world with confidence and joy.

**The Holy Spirit will guide us as we go.**

Be those people who plant seeds of comfort and hope.

**From our tiny seeds sown with love Christ can make a big impact.**

Live boldly the Kingdom values for the world is in such need.

**We go to be like yeast spreading God's love and hope throughout the world.**

**Benediction:**

Go now with the love of God in your hearts, the peace of Christ in your hands, and with the power of the Holy Spirit at your backs to share the Good News you have heard this day. AMEN

**Choral Closing:**

I Am Walking

MV 221 (x2)

**I am walking a path of faith  
I am walking a path of faith  
I am walking a path of faith  
Lead me home. Lead me home.**

**Closing Music**

Trumpet Voluntary (Allegro Moderato) - William Goodwin