

Quispamsis United Church

February 13th, 2022 - Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Musician: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Barb McBean

Centering Passage: *I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. Look to him, and be radiant; so, your faces shall never be ashamed. O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him. O fear the Lord, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want.*

-Psalm 34:4-5, 8-9

GATHERING TOGETHER

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

On this candle burns a simple flame, but we know that it points to so much more. It is the light of Christ that welcomes, warms, and guides us. The flame is not the Christ, but it points us to him. Let us follow that light as we learn and grow together.

Opening Music

I Need Thee Every Hour - Rober Lowery- arr. Cindy Berry

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):

Come, you who are hungry and feast on the Word.

We are welcomed into this Holy time by the one who opens the Word to us.

It is Christ who has invited us here. It is Christ who teaches and feeds us.

He is our Word. He is our Way. Bread of Life. Light of Hope.

Let us worship together.

Opening Prayer

Here we are, O God. We are ready to hear your Word. We are open to the movements of your Spirit. We know that what you have to show us will cause us to doubt. Help us to accept that doubt rather than deny it so that our questions will be honest. Remind us that doubt opens our minds to wonder and to dream. Inspire us by taking ordinary things like bread and filling them with your glory. May we be so transformed by your Word. We offer this and all our prayers in the strong name of Christ, our Brother. AMEN

Hymn:

We Have Come

VU 104

**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.**

**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.**

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Theme Conversation

Who might you be?

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

We do not like to doubt, O Christ, and sometimes your words confuse and confound us. Rather than ask questions and look like we do not know or understand, we often set aside those things that cause us to doubt and walk away from them, walk away from you. Forgive us our pride and encourage us to be seekers, to question, to come to know you more deeply. Forgive us our stubbornness when we refuse to let go of the literal meaning of the words, missing what is behind them. Open our minds. Expand them as we strive to encounter your Holy Mystery. We offer this and all our prayers in your strong name, O Christ. AMEN

Affirmation of God's Love

Confused as we might be by his words sometimes, Christ never stops offering himself with grace and love. Stubborn and prideful as we might be to go our own way sometimes, Christ never stops inviting us to walk with him. Thanks be to God for his persistent grace. AMEN

Reaffirmation of Faith (Unison):

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us. We are not alone.**

Thanks be to God.

Reading: John 6:35-59

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' They were saying, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?' Jesus answered them, 'Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' So, Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Anthem

Message

Message and Messenger

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

Let us Talents and Tongues
**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. R**

VU 468

Refrain:

**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**

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/ mail or deliver your giving's to our treasurer, Brion Crossman, 22 Country Crescent, Quispamsis, E2E 1T2

Offertory Dedication Hymn: For the Gift of Creation VU 538

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Help us to see our true potential, and then, O God, may we offer our whole selves to you. Remind us that we are co-creators, partners with you in this world. Bless the gifts that we bring of time, talent, and treasure. Bless us as we strive to build your kingdom of peace, love, and grace. We offer this and all our prayers in the strong name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. AMEN

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Hymn:

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

VU 481

**Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
The people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper ended. Oh, now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching, receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer its call.**

**With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
The tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
Embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us, with Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
Give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

The worship has ended, and now true service begins.

Fed by Christ's word, we are set on his Way. May we share the Bread of Life with all we meet.

Christ calls us out into a world that is hungry. As his hands and feet, we go.

We go to make Holy every time and every place where we share the Word together.

Benediction

Now go inspired by God, partnered with Christ, and guided by the Holy Spirit, to love a world that God so loves.

Choral Closing:

Behold, Behold

MV 115

**Behold! Behold! I make all things new,
beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold! Behold! I make all things new,
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way!**

Closing Music

Trumpet March - Jeremiah Clarke - arr. S. D. Wolfe