

# Quispamsis United Church

February 14th, 2021 – Transfiguration Sunday - Valentines Day

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Hymn Leader: Sue King

Reader: Marilyn Robertson

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**Centering Passage:** *Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgements are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.*

-Psalm 36:5-6

## Welcome

## Acknowledgement of Territories

## Celebrations & Announcements

### GATHERING TOGETHER

#### Lighting the Christ Candle

This candle blazes with the light of Christ. He shines from mountain tops and from within ourselves. Let us follow this light through the word and through our lives.

**Prelude**                    Deck Yourself, My Soul, With Gladness - Johann Walther

#### Greeting (Responsive):

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy at the Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

#### Call to Worship (Responsive):

From a world that only takes from you, come.

**So that we might discover grace given freely.**

From lives filled with “busy”, come.

**So that we might find new life in the one who calls us here.**

From the highways, roadways, and wrong-ways, come to the mountain top.

**So that we might see face to face The Way.**

Come and see what God is revealing in Word and in Deed.

**We come to worship the Lord!**

#### Prayer of the Day

Radiant Lord, you shine with purity, power, and truth. Your mercy reflects your compassion, your care, and your love. Forgive us those times where we have failed to share your light, or taken strides to hide your light shining within us. Transform us into your image as we seek to follow you. Use us to make your presence known throughout the world. In your strong name we pray. Amen.

**Hymn:** Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise  
**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

VU 264 (vs 1, 2, 4)

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render, O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.**

### **Theme Conversation**

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

**Reveal yourself to us, O Christ. On mountain top or in Holy Scripture, you show us your true nature, your glory. Move through the words that follow. Move through them and into us that we might know you more fully. Reveal yourself to us, O Christ, we pray. AMEN**

#### **Today's Scripture:** Luke 9:28-36, 43b-45

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and, in those days, told no one any of the things they had seen.

While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples, 'Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands.' But they did not understand this saying; its meaning was concealed from them, so that they could not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

This is the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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

**Message** What's right in front of us

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

**Hymn:** Let us Talents and Tongues Employ VU 468

**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**

**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**

### **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **Words of Instruction**

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion as a people divided by space but united in the Spirit. With me, I have bread and juice, and I hope that you have elements where you are as well. Know that as we celebrate together, as we share in this meal, the Holy Spirit moves in and through each of our spaces making what we do and what we share sacred.

#### **Invitation to the Table**

We gather on this Transfiguration Sunday to celebrate the Holy Sacrament of Communion. All you who are hungry, before you is the feast of the most high. All those who thirst, here is the cup of blessing, waiting to quench the thirst of the world.

Know that you are welcome here. Because regardless of where the table around which we gather sits, it is not our table, nor is it the table of Quispamsis United Church, neither is it the table of the Funday St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region, nor even is this the table of the United Church of Canada. This is the table of our brother and saviour Jesus Christ, who welcomes all regardless of age, race, gender, or sexuality. You who hunger for the Good News, may eat. You who thirst for justice, may drink.

**Gathering (*Responsive*):**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (*Responsive*):**

God of all times and all places, God of the infinite and infinitesimal, in the blazing splendor of your glory you called forth:

**light from darkness,**

**day from night,**

**land from oceans,**

**and life in all its dazzling array from lifeless matter.**

Among the living you made and called humankind imprinting upon us your image, to be bearers of your glory in the world. Even when we failed to shine, and hid your image within us, you continued to call us into fellowship with you and to fulfill your mission for us:

**through the prophets,**

**through the scriptures,**

**through the movement of the Spirit,**

and a people you redeemed for yourself. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Sanctus Benedictus**

MV 203

**O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.**

**All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.**

**Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.**

**And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!**

**Remembering the Meal**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. In him we see the fullness of your glory revealed in human form. Born into poverty, he fulfilled his mother's song, that you would fill the hungry with good things.

Declaring the nearness of your kingdom, he forgave sinners, fed the hungry, healed the sick, raised the dead, and gathered disciples to continue to declare the good news in word and deed, transfiguring the world in the power of your Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When he supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

#### **Memorial Acclamation**

MV 204

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again**

#### **Blessing of the Bread and the Cup (*Responsive*):**

Holy Spirit, come into this bread and this cup. Transform these ordinary objects

**as you change our hearts to shape and form your world with the joy you promise.**

Pour your grace upon us,

**so we overflow with your love.**

#### **Intercessory Prayers & The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Great Amen**

MV 205

**Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!**

**Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!**

#### **Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup**

This is the body of Christ, broken in love of the world.

This is the cup of blessing, the cup of the new covenant, poured out for all.

**Sharing of the Bread and the Cup (*Responsive*):**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Come now for all has been made ready.

*sharing the meal*

**Prayer after Communion (*Unison*):**

**Transforming God, we give thanks and praise to you that in tasting this bread, we find our place in the Body of Christ; in drinking of this cup, we receive again the assurance of your love. Grant us grace, that as we part ways we do not forget the significance of this meal, the life, death, and Resurrection of your son, and of your promises. Empower and encourage us to share our faith. In the name of Christ we offer this and all our prayers. AMEN**

**Minutes for Mission - Margaret's Story - <https://youtu.be/01bV5fYgFDQ>**

**How Can I Give?**

**HOW CAN I GIVE TO MY CHURCH WHEN THE CHURCH IS CLOSED?**

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

**Offertory Dedication Hymn: We Praise You, O God** VU 218 (verse 3)

**With voices united our praises we offer  
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,  
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praised!**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison):**

**Generous God, it is through your mercy and by your guidance that we have this ministry— the ministry of our talents and treasure, the ministry of our passion and purpose. Strengthen our hearts for your service, give us courage as we lay down our offerings before you and pick up our crosses to follow you. Bless what we give here today for the building up of you kingdom of love and grace. AMEN**

**SENDING FORTH**

**Hymn:                    Open My Eyes                    VU 371**

**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. R**

**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 wave notes 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**

**Commissioning (Responsive):**

On the mountain-top, Christ was transfigured by the glory of God's light.

**May we go from here transformed.**

The lives of Peter, James, and John were changed after their experience.

**May our encounter with the Holy this day enable us to live lives of praise, thanksgiving,  
and love.**

In his life and teaching, Christ changed the world.

**May we take up our cross,  
not as burden, but as blessing,  
and be a part of shaping the world with grace.**

## **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.

**Choral Closing:**    Go Make a Diff'rence                      MV 209 (Refrain Only)

**Go make a diff'rence, we can make a diff'rence**

**Go make a diff'rence in the world**

**Go make a diff'rence we can make a diff'rence**

**Go make a diff'rence in the world**

**Postlude**              Triumphant Finale - Thomas Bliss