

Quispamsis United Church

February 19th, 2023 - Transfiguration Sunday

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Liturgical Colour: White

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Bob Crowley

Centering Passage: *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.*

-Psalm 27:1, 4

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 Jesus, Lover of My Soul - arr. Joyce Jones

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Invitation to the Table

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):

May the God of rivers be with you.

May the God of mountaintops be with you.

People of God, open your hearts to the One who calls you.

We offer them to God, who names us as the company of the Beloved.

Rejoice in the One who sends us into the valleys of service.

We sing glad songs to God, who blesses us on mountain tops.

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!

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

Remembering the Meal:

Holy are you, (...) 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**

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 16:24-17:8

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Gift of Music Shine, Jesus Shine

Message In this Moment

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

Be Thou My Vision

VU 642

**Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.**

**Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight;
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou my heavenward, O power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.**

Moment for Community: Outreach Committee

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/ 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.**

Blessing of the Gifts and the Elements (Unison):

The faithful are gathered in this place, as well as the company of wanderers as you pour out your Spirit upon the offerings we bring and the gifts of the tables spread before us. As we are fed by the Bread, may we find the courage to go from this sacred space into all the broken places of our world, offering our very selves for the mending and healing. As the cup of Grace fills us, may we inherit your Spirit of hope, a hope that grows and spreads as we share that grace. Bless us and these gifts, we pray. AMEN

Prayers of the People & 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:

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ...This is the body of Christ, bread broken in love for you.

Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life Christ gives...The cup of joy, flowing as a gift of God's spirit into our lives.

Words of Instruction

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 let us share in the feast before us.

sharing the meal

Hymn:

We Shall Go Out

VU 586

**We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
we'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed;
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of new life who sets us free.**

**We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story
including all in circles of our love.**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

Holy God, in this place, at this table,

we have touched, we have tasted, and we have heard the signs of your love for us.

Grant that we may go away from this time filled with our love for you

and overflowing with your love for those who are around us and who share our lives.

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

Fanfare and Trumpet Tune - Purcell