

Quispamsis United Church

February 20th, 2022 - Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Musician: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Ruth Buckley

Centering Passage: *Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. He heals the broken-hearted, and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. The Lord lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.*

-Psalm 147:1-6

GATHERING TOGETHER

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

We stand together in a light that reveals truth: truth in our world and truth in ourselves. Let us open ourselves to that freeing light as it guides us into this time of praise together.

Opening Music

Prelude on the Hymn Tune "Slane" - Lloyd Larson

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):

You who are thirsty, come and drink deep of the living waters.

From where do these waters flow? And where do they go?

The living waters are the Holy Spirit, flowing from God to the world.

May we drink, and be renewed.

Opening Prayer

Draw us in, O God of Wisdom and Strength, and inspire us with your Word. We come to you today seeking encouragement, a reminder that you are still working, that your Spirit is still moving. Show us that we are your hands and feet serving this world. Show us that we are the conduits through which the Holy Spirit sends its power. Transform us as we encounter your Son, Jesus Christ, who draws out the best that we have to share with the world, for it is in his name that we lift our prayers to you this and every day. AMEN

Hymn:

Spirit of the Living God

VU 376

Spirit of the living God,

fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God,

fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God,

fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God,

move among us all;

make us one in heart and mind,

make us one in love;

humble, caring, selfless, sharing.

Spirit of the living God,

fill our lives with love.

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Theme Conversation Black History Month - Patricia Watson, Bedford United Church (Video)

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Your love and grace, O God, are like rivers of flowing waters. They weave through creation, traveling in and through your people. Forgive us those times where we have striven to block the flow of your love and grace, and those times where we could have been the ones to share it freely with your children. Forgive us those times where we have looked in the mirror and seen anything less than someone created in love, worthy of grace. Inspire in us a confidence in ourselves and in the Holy Spirit that works and moves in us. Guide us to share the gifts we have been given, the love you have poured out, and the grace that is overflowing in our lives with the world around us. Hear us, O God, as we pray. AMEN

Affirmation of God's Love

Though we might try, nothing we can do can stem the flow of God's love. We are a people soaked to the bone in grace. Thanks be to God for the width and depth of forgiveness that we are afforded in our lives. 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 7:37-52

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." ' Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

When they heard these words, some in the crowd said, 'This is really the prophet.' Others said, 'This is the Messiah.' But some asked, 'Surely the Messiah does not come from Galilee, does he? Has not the scripture said that the Messiah is descended from David and comes from Bethlehem,

the village where David lived?' So, there was a division in the crowd because of him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

Then the temple police went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, 'Why did you not arrest him?' The police answered, 'Never has anyone spoken like this!' Then the Pharisees replied, 'Surely you have not been deceived too, have you? Has any one of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, which does not know the law—they are accursed.' Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before, and who was one of them, asked, 'Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?' They replied, 'Surely you are not also from Galilee, are you? Search and you will see that no prophet is to arise from Galilee.'

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Anthem I Feel the Spirit *Raise the Roof! (QUC Choir)*

Message Faith, Rivalry, and Hope

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: Like a Healing Stream MV 144

**Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth... like a healing stream.**

**Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation,
yearning for an end to want and need... like a gentle rain.**

**Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,
calling for an end to hate and war... like a river strong.**

**Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide! Like a mighty sea...
Like a river strong... Like a gentle rain... Like a healing stream.**

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):

The gift of the Holy Spirit flows in and through us, drawing out our best. And so we offer all that we are to you, O God. Our time is yours so that we might create with you. Our talents are yours, so that we might serve your world. Our treasures are yours, so that we might build your kingdom together. Bless all that we offer, O God, as we move and grow with the Holy Spirit in our lives. We offer this and all our prayers in the strong name of our brother and Saviour, Jesus Christ. AMEN

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Hymn: I See a New Heaven VU 713

**I see a new heaven, I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
Where the fountain of life flows and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.**

**There, there on the banks of a river bright and free,
Yielding her fruit, firm in her root,
The Tree of Life will be. R**

**There, there where death dies and our lives are born again,
Body and soul, struggling but whole
Life flowers after the rain. R**

**There, there where the darkness brings visions from above.
There where the night, bearing new light,
Reveals the promise of love. R**

**There, there where we work with the love of healing hands.
Labour we must, true to our trust
To build a promised new land.” R**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

With your thirst for grace slaked, go and bring justice to the world.

With Christ we will bring healing, hope, and love to all we meet.

As living waters flow, may the Holy Spirit guide you to wherever God is already at work.

Renewed, may we share our faith boldly.

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

Every Time I Feel the Spirit - arr. Phillip Keveren