

Quispamsis United Church

Lent: The Stones we Carry

February 21st, 2021 – First Sunday of Lent

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Reader: Larry Watson

Centering Passage: *O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill? Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart; who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbours;*

-Psalm 15:1-3, 5b

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting the Christ Candle

The light of Christ shines not for itself, but for all around. We gather around this light to find warmth and hope. Let us reflect this light that others might experience the same.

Prelude

Come, your hearts and voices raising - Healey Willan

Greeting (Responsive):

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):

We come to kneel at the feet of Christ

to hear the story, to learn the way.

We come having walked different roads to get here

but in Christ we are unified and made whole.

We come to learn, not to benefit ourselves,

but to benefit the world, and all our neighbours in it.

Let us lift our voices in praise and turn our ears to Christ.

Let us worship God together!

Opening Prayer

Compassionate Christ, you meet us on the road from where we have been to where we think we are going. You care for us when we feel alone, and you seek us out when we are lost. Send your spirit into this time and open your scriptures to us. Help us to embody your love and share it with others that we meet along the way. We offer this and all our prayers in your name, O Christ.

AMEN

Hymn: I Love to Tell the Story

VU 343

**I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else could do.**

Refrain:

**I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.**

**I love to tell the story;
'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy Word. [Refrain]**

**I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story
that I have loved so long. [Refrain]**

Theme Conversation

Stone Liturgy (Responsive):

God, Help us to reach for your loving-kindness

when we are tempted to cradle our selfishness.

Give us the forethought to understand that our acts of greed can lead us to secure personal privileges and benefits at the expense of the rights and needs of others.

Give us the courage to confess the personal acts of selfishness that unjustly separate us from each other and from you...

(silent reflection)

Forgive us for the self-seeking acts that we have committed, and lead us toward abundant life.

When we are tempted by the seduction of selfishness and weighed down by the burden of greed, may we search for and cling to loving-kindness and be uplifted by your ever-present grace. Amen.

Today's Scripture: Luke 10:25-42

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

This is the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Sung Response: Your Word is a Lamp VU 956
 Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light unto my path.

Message The Better Part

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: Deep in our Hearts MV 154

**Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.**

**Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
Deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
Deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.**

**Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
Deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
Deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.**

**Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.**

Minutes for Mission Jason's Story <https://youtu.be/DFq5UtHbdUg>

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 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: In Gratitude and Humble Trust VU 544
**In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

As people created to be in community with one another, we give of our time, talent, and treasure for the care and support of those with whom we share this life. Receive all that we give and all that we are, O Compassionate God. Bless all that we offer to your service and the building up of your kingdom of love and peace. We ask this and all things in the strong name of Christ, our brother. AMEN

Prayers for Ourselves and Others & Lord's Prayer

SENDING FORTH

Hymn: Love is the Touch MV 89

**Love is the touch of intangible joy;
love is the force that no fear can destroy;
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:
God is where love is, for love is of God.**

**Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:
God is where love is, for love is of God.**

**Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;
love is the will to be whole once again;
love is the trust of a friend on the road
God is where love is, for love is of God.**

**Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son:
love is the kingdom their will has begun;
love is the path which the saints all have trod:
God is where love is, for love is of God.**

Commissioning (Responsive):

We stand now, partnered with Christ

to be a part of the story, to share in the journey.

We go from these places to our varied lives

united by the Spirit, seeking to bring wholeness to the world.

We take what we have learned that we might share it with others

supporting neighbours known and unknown, near and far.

Let us lift our hands in care, and turn our feet to Christ's way.

May our lives be lived in service to God.

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: We Shall Go Out With Hope of Resurrection Verse 1 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.

Postlude

Italian Hymn - Edward Broughton