

Quispamsis United Church

February 27th, 2022 - Transfiguration Sunday

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Liturgical Colour: White

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Musician: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Ethan Alward

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

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Invitation to the Table & Words of Instruction

Lighting the Christ Candle

Christ's light goes before us in all things, illuminating the truth and revealing all that we might want to hide. May we stand boldly in the light of Christ, eager to be seen and claimed by the one who knows us entirely, the good, the bad, and the blessed. Guide us, O Christ, through this time of worship into lives of faithful service.

Opening Music

Prelude on the hymn tune 'Ein feste Burg' - Harold DeCou

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.

Gathering (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 and opens our souls to receive the Spirit.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Responsive):

You called for the sun on that first morning, Mighty One, and before it set, rivers began to carve mountains, clouds carried rain to meadows, creatures explored their new homes. You called to those created in your image to listen to the songs of your heart, but we tore your hopes into pieces, scattering them to the wind as our own brokenness blinded us to your love. You sent the company of prophets throughout the centuries, all of them not keeping silent, but pointing to you, but we kept our distance from them, as we drew ever closer to death. You refused to give up on us, and so became one of us, so your Glory might overshadow our fears.

With the company of believers, with those who stand at some distance, we cry out our praise to you:

Holy, holy, holy are you, Abba our God.

The heavens above and the earth below calls out to you in praise.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One whose light illumines our lives.

Hosanna in the highest!

Hymn:

Immortal invisible

VU 264

**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.**

**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.**

**To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life. thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.**

**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.**

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Theme Conversation

What does Faith look like?

Remembering the Meal (Responsive):

You alone are holy, God our Lord, and Jesus Christ, our Saviour, is your Beloved. He set aside his glory, putting on the garb of humanity, descending into our barren valleys to share the good news of hope. He could have had all the power required to defeat the reign of darkness, with a devouring fire or mighty tempest, but did so by dying on the cross. You took grace, rolled it up and struck the grave, so Jesus could come out of death as it parted before him.

But before conquering death, Jesus shared a meal with his friends in an upper room. He took a loaf of bread, thanked you as we have thanked you, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember me." Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying: "Drink. This cup is the promise of God, made in my blood. Each time you drink from this cup, remember me."

As we remember that he is your Beloved, as we seek to listen to him in every moment, we point to that faith which is a mystery:

Christ died, his face wracked with pain;

Christ was raised, his face transfigured by hope;

Christ comes to us, his face filled with delight as he approaches.

Reading:

John 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does

not observe the sabbath.’ But others said, ‘How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?’ And they were divided. So, they said again to the blind man, ‘What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.’ He said, ‘He is a prophet.’

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, ‘Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?’ His parents answered, ‘We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.’ His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, ‘He is of age; ask him.’

So, for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, ‘Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.’ He answered, ‘I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.’ They said to him, ‘What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?’ He answered them, ‘I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?’ Then they reviled him, saying, ‘You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.’ The man answered, ‘Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.’ They answered him, ‘You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?’ And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ He answered, ‘And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.’ He said, ‘Lord, I believe.’ And he worshipped him. Jesus said, ‘I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.’ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, ‘Surely we are not blind, are we?’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, “We see”, your sin remains.

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Message

What we want to see

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

Open My Eyes

VU 371 (*QUC Choir*)

**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.**

**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.**

**Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see,
Open my ears, illumine me,
Spirit divine!**

**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.**

**Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see,
Open my heart, illumine me,
Spirit divine!**

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/ if you come for in-person worship, there is a plate as you enter the church where you can place your offering.

5/ 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.**

Blessing of the Gifts and the Elements (Unison):

The faithful are gathered in this place, as well as the company of wonderers, 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, saying to our kindred, 'tell us what we can do for you!' As the cup of Grace fills us, may we inherit your Spirit of hope, so much as we can give twice as much away. Bless us, this day, and these gifts, we pray. AMEN

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

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.

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:

Let There be Light

VU 679

**Let there be light,
let there be understanding,
let all the nations gather,
let them be face to face.**

**Open our lips,
open our minds to ponder,
open the door of concord
opening into grace.**

**Perish the sword,
perish the angry judgment,
perish the bombs and hunger,
perish the fight for gain.**

**Hallow our love,
hallow the deaths of martyrs,
hallow their holy freedom,
hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come,
your Spirit turn to language,
your people speak together,
your Spirit never fade.**

**Let there be light,
open our hearts to wonder,
perish the way of terror,
hallow the world God made.**

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

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

The Trumpet of Faith - Lani Smith