

Quispamsis United Church

February 7th, 2021 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Hymn Leader: Ruth Buckley

Reader: Heather Haché

Centering Passage: *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances. I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word.*

-Psalm 119:105-107

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting the Christ Candle

This candle that we light, this flame that we gather around is a reminder of the light of Christ that burns in each of us, that draws us to one another and to this time. May it guide us through worship and word, into wonder.

Prelude Largo from "Xerxes" - G.F. Handel

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):

We enter into this time seeking the Christ.

We call to him, and he comes to us.

He comes offers us healing and hope.

We come and offer our whole selves.

In him we are made whole, and we come to this place to find ourselves and one another.

We come to this place to discover the Spirit alive in our Lives. Let us worship together.

Prayer of the Day

Wondrous God, in the stories of Christ you remind us of the strength and courage that comes from faith in you, from trust in you. Even in those times when we doubt and question, may we have a faith that turns us to you for guidance and truth. May we set aside whatever obstacles get in the way of truly following you and serving this world. We ask this and all things in the strong name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN

Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling VU 333

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**

- 2 Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

- 3 Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Theme Conversation

Prayer of Illumination (Unison):

Come, O Spirit of revelation and truth and open the word to us. Remind us that yours is a living word, that each time we come to this book, it can surprise us. Though these passages are ancient, each reading can offer something new. Help us to find our path through this word and this worship so that when we go from here we are carrying something amazing to share. We ask this and all things in the name of Christ our teacher and our friend. AMEN

Today's Scripture: Luke 7:1-17

After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, 'He is worthy of having you do this for him, for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us.' And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, 'Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore, I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, "Go", and he goes, and to another, "Come", and he comes, and to my slave, "Do this", and the slave does it.' When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, 'I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.' When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, 'Do not weep.' Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, 'Young man, I say to you, rise!' The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, 'A great prophet has risen among us!' and 'God has looked favourably on his people!' This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

This is the Word of our God.

Praise be to you, O Creator.

Anthem I Heard the Lord Call My Name (solo by Stephen Alexander)

Message Surprised by Faith

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: When Hands Reach Out MV 169

**1 When hands reach out beyond divides
and hope is truly found,
Each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound,
And bells of peace, of peace shall sound,
and bells of peace shall sound,
Each chain of hate will fall away
and bells of peace shall sound.**

- 2** When fear no longer guides our steps
and days of war are done,
God's dream for all shall live anew;
our hearts will heal as one,
Our hearts will heal, will heal as one,
our hearts will heal as one,
God's dream for all shall live anew;
our hearts will heal as one.
- 3** When race and creed blind us no more,
a neighbour's face we'll see,
And we shall dance the whole world
round, for love will set us free,
For love, yes love will set us free,
for love will set us free,
And we shall dance the whole world
round, for love will set us free.

Minutes for Mission - Arwa's Story <https://youtu.be/6lCDCww8sno>

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: As With Gladness Men of Old

VU 81 (verse 3)

**As they offered gifts most rare,
at the manger crude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

When we put our trust in you, O Christ, we find that we have everything we need. Accepts all that we have, all that we are; bless them and use us for the building up of your kingdom of love and peace. May we be agents in the sharing of your Good News. Amen.

Praying For Ourselves And Others & The Lord's Prayer

SENDING FORTH

Hymn:

We Are Pilgrims

VU 595 (Verses 1, 2, 3 & 6)

- 1 We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**

- 2 Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

- 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**

- 6 Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

Commissioning (Responsive):

Empowered by the Spirit, we will carry the word from this place.

Led by the light of Christ, we will share God's love.

Encouraged by God, go and bring healing and hope where you can.

We are partners and co-creators, and we can help change the world.

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: I Am the Light of the World VU 87 (verse 4)

Refrain:

I am the Light of the World

You people come and follow me.

If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery

Of what you were meant to do and be.

To bring hope to every task you do,

To dance at a baby's new birth,

To make music in an old person's heart,

And sing to the colors of the earth! *R*

Postlude A Joyful Trumpet - Patricia Lou Harris