

Quispamsis United Church

January 21, 2024 - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Rev Ian Manson

Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Leslie Reid

Centering Reflection: *“If we can learn to see humanity in ourselves and in one another, we can mitigate so much of the self-inflicted pain we feel.”*

- Simran Jeet Singh

GATHERING TOGETHER

Opening Music & Time of Prayer and Candle Lighting

He Shall Feed His Flock - Handel

Piano - Kathryn McIntyre

Flute - Stephen Alexander

Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Lighting of Affirm Candle & Acknowledgment of Territories

Celebrations

Introit:

**The light of Christ has come into the world,
The light of Christ has come into the world. (2x)**

Call to Worship (Responsive):

To the lonely people of the world, God says,

Come, and I will make you welcome.

To the troubled people of our community, God says,

Come, and I will give you peace.

To our neighbours who seek life and light, God says,

Come and see. See who I am. What I do. And what I give.

Prayer of Approach (Unison)

We come, O God, seeking to bear witness to your love and grace. Open our spirits to those who are yearning for meaning and peace. Nudge our reluctant hearts to reach out to others in your name. Grant us courage to bear witness to your power and make all people welcome.

Opening Hymn:

I Am the Light of the World

VU 87

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.*

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found
their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun: R

To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth
and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above! R

To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see God's children everywhere! R

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 colours of the earth! R

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Gracious God, in every age you have raised up men and women to proclaim your glory and share your word. But we confess that we are indifferent to following in their footsteps. You call us to share the good news of your love, but sometimes we are silent. You call us to welcome strangers into our midst, but often we are aloof. You call us to go forth and share

your light with the world, but frequently we are afraid. Forgive us. Strengthen us. Grant us courage.

(Silent Contemplation)

Words of Assurance

Time for All Ages

Sung Introduction to Scripture: Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

VU 272 (Vs 1)

**Open your ears O faithful people,
Open your ears and hear God's word.
Open your hearts O faithful people,
God now speaks to you.**

Reading: John 1: 43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gift of Music

Message "Come and See"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

I Heard the Voice of Jesus
**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down**

VU 626

**your head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down, and drink, and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.**

Life and Work of the Church

Mission Stories – Making a Home for Refugees: ChrisAnn Alvarez's Work - Video

Sharing of Gifts and Talents

Offertory Dedication Hymn: Lord, You Give the Great Commission VU 518 (Vs 3)

**With gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to you,
Not just to serve your cause, but share your love with neighbours too.**

**O God who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your son,
help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Holy God, accept these gifts we offer to you now, symbols of the lives we offer you in service. Bless what we bring, and use them to further your work in the world. Amen.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn:

Will You Come and Follow Me
Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

VU 567

Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside

and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Commissioning (Responsive):

The season of Epiphany celebrates God's light breaking into the world in Jesus, and so:

**May the light of God lead us,
the light of Christ embrace us,
and the light of the Holy Spirit enliven us
So that we and all creation know both hope and peace
this day and each coming day.**

Benediction

Choral Closing

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song VU 641 (Vs 1)
**Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.
I'll tell everybody about you wherever I go.
For our life and our peace and our love is yourself.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.**

Closing Music

The Heavens Declare His Glory – Beethoven