

# *Quispamsis United Church*

*January 29th, 2023 - Fourth Sunday of Epiphany*

*Liturgical Colour: Green*

*Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley*

*Director of Music: Stephen Alexander*

*Reader: Jacob Bowley*

***Centering Passage:*** *Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses, but our pride is in the name of the Lord our God.*

*-Psalm 20:7*

## **GATHERING TOGETHER**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle:** In this season of revelation we light this candle, a symbol of Christ in our midst, to show us the way.

**Opening Music**     Prelude on Hymn Tune "Bunessan" (Morning Has Broken)  
                                - Edward Broughton

**Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle**  
**Acknowledgement of Territories**  
**Celebrations & Announcements**

**Introit:**                                        Come all you people                                        MV 2 (x2)  
                                **Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;**  
                                **Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;**  
                                **Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;**  
                                **Come now and worship the Lord.**

### **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):**

People of God, why have you come?

**We hope for a glimpse of the goodness of God, expressed in word and deed in this place.**

Followers of Jesus, what is your greatest fear?

**That there is something more we need to be or have to receive God's grace, we are afraid that we are not enough just as we are.**

Children of God, what does your heart desire?

**To know that we are not alone, that God is with us.**

God has sent the Holy Spirit to assure us of these things and so many more.

**As we worship; God is seen, we are assured, God is here!**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Mysterious God, beyond our complete knowing, yet as close to us as our breathing, in humble awe we pray. We pray for your vision of justice and mercy to be made real in our world even now. We pray for your vision of enough; enough sustenance, enough warmth, enough healing for all of your children. We pray for the grace to let go of that which is death dealing as we embrace your vision for life, that we might follow you safely through the obstacle course. Giving thanks for a presence that defies definition in this life and beyond. AMEN

**Hymn:**

Spirit, Open My Heart

MV 79

**Refrain:**

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.**

**As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,**

**Spirit, open my heart.**

**God replace my stony heart with a heart that's pure and tender.**

**All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. R**

**Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.**

**In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory. R**

**May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister brother.**

**In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another. R**

### **LISTENING FOR TRUTH**

**Prayer of Confession (Unison):**

**Loving God, you provide us with all we need and call us into relationship, yet too often instead of resting in the truth of your grace and living our lives in thankfulness, we live in fear. Fear that we do not have enough, fear that we are not enough, fear that we need to act or do or be a certain way. This is because too often we equate success with the world's standards instead of focusing first on you. Forgive us and reorient us that we may put your call on our lives first and foremost in all we do. This we pray in the name of the one who showed us your way, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **Assurance of God's Love**

God calls us as we are. Though we are broken, God calls us precious. Though we are prone to sin, God calls us into loving relationships. Though we are wayward and lost, God calls us home. We are loved, we are forgiven, we are called. AMEN

### **Time for All Ages**

#### **Prayer of Illumination**

Wondrous Spirit, gather our minds that they may be one with you. Open our ears that they may hear your Word. Soften our hearts that they may receive your wisdom. Speak to us for we, your servants, are listening. AMEN

#### **Reading: Matthew 6:7-21**

'When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

'Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

'And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Praise be to you, O Christ.**

### **Anthem**

For Those Tears - solo Stephen Alexander

**Message** Moving Beyond Sunday Morning

### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**Hymn:** Take my Life and Let It Be VU 506

**Take my life and let it be consecrated, all for thee;  
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love,  
take my feet, and let them be swift and purposeful for thee.**

**Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee;  
take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine;  
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love: and I will pour at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

**Moment for Community:** Christian Life & Growth

#### 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](mailto: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](http://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/ Mail or deliver your giving's to our treasurer, Brion Crossman, 22 Country Crescent, Quispamsis, E2E 1T2

4/ 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.

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

6/ As we consider the greater work of the United Church consider giving to Mission and Service Fund through your regular offering or at <https://united-church.ca>

**Offertory Dedication Hymn:**

What Can I do

MV 191 (x2)

**What can I do? What can I bring?  
What can I say? What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.  
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison):**

**Amazing God, we owe our whole selves to you. Not just an hour, not just a day, but the whole of our lives. You gift us with a world and holy breath, and invite us to be co-creators, and so we give back to you out of our time, talent, and treasure. May what we give and do be a joyful part in weaving your tapestry of grace. Bless us and what we offer for that work and for the glory of your name. This we pray in the name of Christ our brother and our guide. AMEN**

**Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn:**

May the God of Hope Go With Us

VU 424

**May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

**Refrain:**

**Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;  
working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

**May the God of healing free the earth from fear,  
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.  
May the God of love keep our commitment clear  
to a world restored, to human life renewed. R**

**SENDING FORTH**

**Commissioning (Responsive):**

God goes with us as we leave.

**We are not alone!**

Go into the world.

**We go to share who we are for God's glory.**

In doing just this we allow others to glimpse the kingdom of God.

**We go to live as God's people given to this 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. AMEN

**Choral Closing:**

I Am Walking

MV 221 (x2)

**I am walking a path of faith  
I am walking a path of faith  
I am walking a path of faith  
Lead me home. Lead me home.**

**Closing Music**

Trumpet Tune - Robert Lau