

Quispamsis United Church

January 31st, 2021 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Musicians: Pat Vincent, Wendy Stewart and Ruth Buckley

Reader: Wendy Stewart

Centering Passage: *It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.*

-Psalm 92:1-4

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting the Christ Candle

This candle is more than a light, it is a symbol of Christ alive and moving in our midst. His light guides us, and his embrace warms us. Let us follow this light through worship and beyond.

Prelude Air from “Water Music” –GF Handel

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 have come to this time

sometimes out of habit, sometimes because it is what we “do” on Sunday mornings.

But our faith is so much more than routine.

It is part of who we are, part of what defines us.

And so we come to this time

to rediscover our faith and the part that we play in God’s continuous creating.

Let us worship God together!

Prayer of the Day

As we enter into this time, O God, we pray that you send your Spirit among us. Encourage us when we doubt, when we are unsure of why we are here or what we are doing. Inspire us with your word and kindle again the flame of passion for exploring our faith. Empower us to share our

faith with one another and with the world, because it is in the sharing that we are strengthened. We offer this prayer in the name of the one who challenges us and helps us find deeper meaning, Jesus Christ. AMEN

Hymn: Come and Find the Quiet Center VU 374

**Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace and simply be.**

**Silence is a friend who claims us cools the heats and slows the pace
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being face to face,
Making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
Raising courage when we're shrinking finding scope for faith begun.**

**In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain
Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain
There's a place for deepest dreaming, theres a time for heart to care
In the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!**

Theme Conversation

Prayer of Illumination (Unison):

Open to us your word, O God. Remind us that we are not just here to listen to stories, but that we come together as a community of faith seeking deeper truth. Walk with us, teach us, and show us the way. We ask this in the name of Christ, your word in our lives. AMEN

Today's Scripture: Luke 6:1-16

One sabbath while Jesus was going through the cornfields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them. But some of the Pharisees said, 'Why are you doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?' Jesus answered, 'Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and gave some to his companions?' Then he said to them, 'The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath.'

On another sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. The scribes and the Pharisees watched him to see whether he would cure on the sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him. Even though he knew what they were thinking, he said to the man who had the withered hand, 'Come and stand here.' He got up and stood there. Then Jesus said to them, 'I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?' After looking around at all of them, he said to him, 'Stretch out your hand.' He did so, and

his hand was restored. But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

This is the Word of our God.

Praise be to you, O Creator.

Anthem Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God VU 356

Message Rediscovering the Reason

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: Draw the Circle Wide MV 145

**Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: no one stands alone.
Standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

**God the still-point of the circle
Round you all creation turns
Nothing lost but held forever
in God's gracious arms R**

**Let our hearts touch far horizons
So encompass great and small
Let our loving know no borders
Faithful to God's call R**

**Let the dreams we dream be larger
Than we've ever dreamed before
Let the dream of Christ be in us
Open every door! R**

Minutes for Mission Building a World Where Everyone Belongs: Lynda's Story

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):

We give, O God, not out of habit or obligation, but because we are joyfully called to service in your name. Receive all that we are. Bless all that we are. Encourage and empower us as we continue to build a community of love and support. We ask this and all things in the strong name of Christ, our brother and saviour. AMEN

Praying For Ourselves And Others & The Lord's Prayer

SENDING FORTH

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**

Commissioning (Responsive):

Renewed in our faith

we will go from this place to share our faith with others.

Encouraged by our creator

we will go and heal what we can and share God's love freely.

Partnered with Christ

we will support one another as we move from worship to service.

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 Processional – GF Handel