

Quispamsis United Church

January 8th, 2023 - The Baptism of Jesus Christ

Liturgical Colour: White

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Barb McBean

Centering Passage: *I will tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to me, 'You are my son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.*

-Psalm 2:7-8

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 As With Gladness - arr. Cindy Berry

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgement of Territories

Dedicating a Service

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.

Gathering (Responsive):

God is with us always and calls us each by name.

When we pass through difficulties and stress,

God is with us and calls us by name.

When we are discouraged and feel lost and alone,

God is with us and calls us by name.

Blessed be God who knows us and calls us by name.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God of glory and majesty, you have called us by name. We pray in this moment for the courage and the strength to answer your call. As we open our ears to hear the story of your Son's baptism, open our hearts also, that we may experience again the renewing power of rebirth in the Holy Spirit. Inspire us in this time of worship, that we may claim our own identity as your beloved children. We pray in the name of our brother, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Hymn:

O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word

VU 84

**O radiant Christ, incarnate Word,
eternal love revealed in time:**

**come, make your home within our hearts,
that we may dwell in light sublime.**

**Our bartered, busy lives burn dim,
too tired to care, too numb to feel.**

**Come, shine upon our shadowed world:
your radiance bathes with power to heal.**

**Your glory shone at Jordan's stream,
the font where we were born anew.
Attune your church to know you near;
illumine all we say and do.**

**O Light of Nations, fill the earth;
our faith and hope and love renew.
Come, lead the peoples to your peace,
as stars once led the way to you.**

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Creator of the universe, we stand amazed at your power and glory. We are eager to worship you and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name. We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God. Renew us with the power of your ever-present love, and strengthen us to proclaim your justice throughout the world. AMEN

Assurance of God's Love:

The flames of the Holy Spirit do not destroy what is, but draws out what might be. May we be filled with such a Spirit so that we share the deep love that God has for us and for the world. You are loved. You are forgiven. You 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 3:1-17

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Anthem The Seven Joys of Mary - Senior Choir

Message The Beloved of God

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Renewal of Baptism:

Your grace brings us to big moments, loving God — moments we hold onto forever, and moments that hold onto us. Our lives are a series of before and after — births and deaths, rites of passage, relationships and experiences. Sometimes we know they mark a change, and sometimes we only see it later. Today we remember all you have done for us, pouring love on us, claiming us in baptism, offering us yourself, and we mark the moment when we commit our response to your grace. As we mark the moment and remember, make this a turning point in our life with you, and guide us as we seek to live in the kingdom of heaven, intentionally, here and now. May today be a before and after as we turn once again to your way of life, filled to overflowing with your blessing that we may share it with others. AMEN

All are invited to come forward and receive a reminder of their baptism.

Hymn:

I Have Called You

MV 161

**I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.**

**I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can claim, offer
Jesus' body given long ago.**

**I know you will need my touch as you go;
Feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of
doubt, hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.**

**I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children
whole; go and tell my precious people they are mine.**

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/ 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

**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):

Gracious God, we come today with joy for your baptism; we come with praise for your glory; we come with gratitude for your love. As we offer our gifts to you, given in this time or any time, send your Spirit upon us, that our hands and our hearts may do your work in the world. As we offer our lives to you, bless us with your strength, that we may join with you to work for the blessing of peace throughout the world. AMEN

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Hymn:

Christ Has No Body Now But Yours

MV 171

Refrain

**Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
To serve with the joy of compassion.**

**No hands but yours to heal a wounded world,
No hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,
No touch but yours to bind the broken hope of the people of God. R**

**No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,
To find the lost, to gaze with compassion,
No eyes but yours to glimpse the holy place of the city of God. R**

**No feet but yours to journey with the poor,
To walk this world with mercy and justice,
Yours are the steps to build a lasting peace for the children of God. R**

**Through every gift, give back to those in need,
As Christ was blessed, so now be a blessing,
With every gift a benediction be to the people of God. R**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

Each of us is precious in God's sight.

We go from this place, claiming our identity as children of God.

God has called each of us by name.

We go into the world to answer God's call. Alleluia!

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

Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus - arr. Phillip Keveren