

Quispamsis United Church

July 10th, 2022 - Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Musician: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Sally Allanach

Though scripture and music will change from week to week, the order of service will remain the same for the most part from June 19th - July 17th

All Prayers for this service have been adapted from various parts of the First Letter of Peter

Centering Passage: *'You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.*

-Matthew 5:43-45

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting the Christ Candle

This light is not new. It has been shining since the dawn of creation. And yet everyday it burns bright and new in our hearts and in our lives. It is the light of Christ, the light of God's grace and love that has drawn us into this time of worship, and guides us through our lives. Let us follow and embody this light.

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Opening Music

Pastorale- Charles Wesley

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):

The Apostle Peter greets us, the people of God in this community.

In the name of God. In the name of Christ. In the name of the Spirit.

He greets us to share his experience of Christ, and a way that we might follow.

We have come to listen, to learn, to follow.

Let us worship God together.

Opening Prayer

God of all Creation, thank You for the life and ministry of Peter and all your apostles and prophets who penned the Scriptures for our learning. As we study and reflect on Your Word, we pray that You would give us a teachable spirit and a desire to learn the truth of the gospel of Christ. Guide us into all truth, equip us with discernment, prevent us from being self-serving in our interpretation, and we pray that we may grow in grace and in knowledge of our companion on the way, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Hymn:

To Show By Touch and Word

VU 427 - QUC Recording

**To show by touch and word devotion to the earth,
to hold in high regard all life that comes to birth,
we need, O God, the will to find
the good you had of old in mind.**

**Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most,
our hearts to long for truth till pride of self is lost.
For every challenge that we face
we need your guidance and your grace.**

**Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule, and norm,
and let our lives portray your word in human form.
Now come with us that we may have
your wits about us where we live.**

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Prayer for Reconciliation (Responsive):

Risen Lord Jesus, what is it that keeps us from recognizing you?

When we are so full of ourselves, it is all too easy to block you right out of our lives.

Maybe it's the way we interpret Scripture that obscures the signs pointing to you.

Perhaps we are guilty of being slow of heart when we don't recognise you in our neighbour, or in the guise of the poor or the dispossessed.

Our eyes and ears have become so crammed with the sights and sounds of living that we simply fail to see you or to recognize your voice.

Risen Lord Jesus, help us to empty ourselves of all that hinders our awareness of your presence with us. Fill us with the joy of knowing your continuing presence, so that, like those travellers on the road to Emmaus, we too, hasten to share this great good news with others. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love:

We know that we have been born anew through the living and enduring word of God. In this we recognize God's great love for the world revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus who came into the world not to condemn it but to save it.

Thanks be to God!

Theme Conversation

Prayer of Illumination (Unison):

Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the light of eternity. Kindle our hearts with the presence of your Spirit, that we may hear your words of comfort and challenge in the reading of the scriptures, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading: 1 Peter 4:1-19

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention (for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin), so as to live for the rest of your earthly life no longer by human desires but by the will of God. You have already spent enough time in doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry. They are surprised that you no longer join them in the same excesses of dissipation, and so they blaspheme. But they will have to give an account to him who stands ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does.

The end of all things is near; therefore, be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are

reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief-maker. Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. For the time has come for judgement to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

And 'If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?' Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

A Stranger Love

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

My Soul Cries Out

MV 120

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?**

Refrain

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn!**

**Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. R**

**From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. R**

**Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. R**

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:

Grant Us, God, The Grace

VU 540

**Grant us God the grace of giving
with a spirit large and free.
That ourselves and all our living,
we may offer faithfully.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Receive these gifts this morning, O God, author of every good gift. Out of the bounty of our hearts, we respond with faithful generosity and love. May these gifts become blessings for others as they have been blessings for us. AMEN.

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Hymn:

Guide me O Thou Great Jehovah

VU 651

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more.
Feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through;
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer, be thou still my Strength and Shield.
Be thou still my Strength and Shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee.
I will ever give to thee.**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

May grace and peace be ours in abundance,

in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

May we be thankful for simple things,

for friendship, for health, for daily bread, for good news.

May we rise above the corruption of power

and become participants in the divine nature.

May we go from this place

to pursue goodness, wisdom, holiness and love.

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:

Teach Me, God, To Wonder (vs 4 & refrain)

VU 299

**Teach me God to know you,
hear you when you speak,
See you in my neighbour
when we meet.**

**Praise to you be given,
love for you be lived,
Life be celebrated,
joy you give.**

Closing Music

Trumpet Voluntary - Henry Heron