

Quispamsis United Church

July 16th, 2023 - 7th Sunday After Pentecost
Marking the End of a Covenant: The Things We Return

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Cindy Millican

Centering Passage: *For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?*

-Mark 8:35-37

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting of the Christ Candle: There is a time for everything, and the time for the light of Christ to shine is at all times. We light this candle as a reminder that this unquenchable flame burns within us guiding us from endings on to new beginnings.

Opening Music Prelude on « St. Denio - Roger C. Wilson

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgment of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Introit:

Dance with the Spirit

MV 156

**Dance with the Spirit early in the morning,
Walk with the Spirit throughout the long day,
Work and hope for a new life a-bornin',
Listen to the Spirit to show you the way.**

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):

May God, who guides your moments, be with you all,

and also with you.

In this time of worship, let us lift up our hearts.

We lift them up to the one who knows our inward being.

Give thanks to God for the moments that led you here.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Hymn:

All Things Bright

VU 291

(Refrain at beginning and end)

Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful: in love, God made them all.**

**Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours, God made their tiny wings:**

**The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky:**

**The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.**

**The rocky mountain splendour, the lone wolf's haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies, the forest in the fall;**

**God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God our maker, who has made all things well. R**

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Creator God of beginnings and endings, and of every moment in between, your Holy Presence renews the face of the earth and guides the hearts of your people. We give you thanks for your gifts of encouragement in our times of deep need: the whispers on the winding way; light that scatters darkness; the feeling of hope that is so strong that doubt and despair cannot overcome it. You call to us and invite us to be partners in creation, revealing to us moments to build up, to embrace, and to share, and in those times where we waver, you send your Spirit to give us strength. And so it is that we join with every voice and tongue on earth and in the heavens to give you praise:

Song of Creation:

MV 203

**O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!**

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Remembering the Meal (Responsive):

Let us remember together that vision of God's reign shown to us in Jesus at table:

he shared food with followers and friends,
with saints and sinners,
with crowds of thousands on the hillside,
and a few friends in an upper room.

On the night before he died, he had supper with his companions.

He took a loaf of bread, and after giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

"Take, eat. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he passed it among them, saying:

"Drink this. Do this in remembrance of me."

Through this loaf and cup, Jesus lives within us.

In word and deed, Jesus lives among us.

Shepherding God, we rejoice in the gift of the moments of our lives where you have worked through us, embraced us, or showed us a way, and we remember the moments of Christ's life and death, as we gather together to proclaim his resurrection. We wait in hope for the moment of his return, even as he walks beside us. Grant that in praise and thanksgiving, we may so offer ourselves to you that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

Affirmation of Memory and Hope:

MV 204

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Returning Symbols: Towel & Basin

This towel and basin represents the ways that we seek wholeness together. Like Christ washing the feet of his disciples, we cleanse one another, moving from sin to grace. I return these symbols to you as you walk the paths of faith and growth together.

As members of the body of Christ, we will offer forgiveness as together we journey towards God's embrace.

Time for the Young & Young at Heart

Returning Symbols: Waters of Baptism

Through the waters of baptism, we have journeyed together. As this water is poured out, we are reminded that, like these waters, our lives flow together and sometimes part ways. May these waters welcome others into your midst and your family.

As a family, we will share the faith we have found as we grow together.

Prayer of Illumination:

You, O God, are our end and our beginning. In our lives, we experience the gift of your love, and in our scriptures, we receive the gift of your wisdom. Speak to us now as we turn to your Holy Word. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, the Word that walks among us. AMEN

Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. I know that whatever God does endures for ever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gift of Music He Is Lovely by Bob Fitts - Sue & Wendy

Message Honouring Our Moments

Returning Symbols: Bible

The word has guided so much of who we have been for one another. soon I will no longer walk with you through this word, and so I return this Bible to you.

We will tell the story. We will share the gospel. We will grow in faith.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

In the Bulb

VU 703

**In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

**There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

**In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

Minute for Mission: Ecumenical Youth Leadership Development Program
The Zimbabwe Council of Churches will be hosting an annual three-day youth leadership development program in 2023.

In partnership with Mission and Service, the program will host 50 youth from 10 provinces to increase young people's knowledge and skills as active citizens. Through involvement and education around policy reforms, electoral and budgetary processes, natural resource governance, and peace-building, youth will gain skills in nation-building processes.

The young people will take their skills and experiences from the program to their churches and communities. They will have the knowledge and resources to create their own plans of action, and opportunities to regularly meet or check in with other attendees.

The Zimbabwe Council of Churches will continue to engage young people in all of its programming to ensure the voices of youth are represented and heard.

Your gifts to Mission and Service help develop and continue programs where young people can flourish. Thank you for helping to give youth the space to learn and grow.

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>

Returning Symbols: Mulch

This mulch symbolizes the gifts that we have shared with one another as we have striven to build the kingdom of God in this place. I return it to you and pray that you continue to share your gifts with the wider community.

Through the promptings of the spirit, we will build one another up as we build the kingdom.

Offertory Dedication Hymn:

Praise God

VU 541

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit, One.**

Instruction and Invitation

For communion today, I will invite you to come forward. The choir will be served first, so form a line in the center behind them to receive your bread and your cup, and take them with you back to your seat using the side aisles. For those with mobility concerns or who would prefer to be served in your seat, please raise your hand and a server will come to you.

The meal has been prepared and as we come to this table, know that it is not I that invites you this day, nor is it Quispamsis United Church who welcomes you to this feast. We gather this day around the table of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is he who invites, and all are called into this place. It is he who welcomes and so none shall be turned away.

So come to this table, no matter when, no matter where you are, and know that you are welcome here. That whoever you are, as people of faith of a variety of ages, gender, nationality, or sexuality you are welcome at the table. All who are hungry, may feast, all who are thirsty may drink. Let us seek God's blessing on what we do here today.

Blessing What We Bring (Responsive):

Holy God, we pray for your Spirit.

**to bless what we bring that they may be used to bring healing and hope,
to bless our community as we strive to build your kingdom in this place,
to bless us so that - despite our doubts, fears, and misgivings - we might serve you
faithfully along life's way.**

And so we pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Guide us in our work as we follow your call. AMEN

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer – Sue King

Great Amen

MV 205

**Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!**

Returning Symbols: Coffee Mug

This mug represents the conversations, the prayers, the hospitality we have shared over our time together. I return this symbol and pray that you support one another, strengthening the bonds of faith and community.

As a community of faith forged by God's love, we will continue to care for one another as we work, pray, and grow.

Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Cup:

This is the body of Christ, bread for the journey, nourishment for our souls.

This is the blood of Christ, the cup of promise, poured out for all.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup (Responsive):

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Come now for all has been made ready.

****Those who wish may come forward to receive their bread and cup.*

Please take it with you back to your seats.

*Once all have their elements, we will eat and drink together as a community of faith and love****

Returning Symbols: Cup & Loaf

Together we have been strengthened by the cup and the loaf. In this strength, I return these symbols of a meal shared across millennia.

We will continue to sustain one another and welcome others to Christ's table.

Hymn:

Soil of God

MV 174

**Soil of God you and I, stand ready to bear
seeds of faith nourished by God's tender care.
Growing in everyone for here God is found.
All stand together, we are holy ground.**

**Soil of God you and I, now ready to be
Part of God's promise for others to see.
Open to everyone for here God is found.
All stand together, we are holy ground.**

**Soil of God you and I, now called to rebirth,
Joining as partners with all of the earth.
Living in harmony for here God is found.
All stand together, this is holy ground.**

Returning Symbols: Hymn Books

Throughout our relationship, music has been a central part of what we do together. As we prepare to part ways, I return these hymn books and pray that you continue the song of creation sung in this community of faith.

Voices join and leave the chorus, but the song goes on.

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

Though the time of worship has come to an end,

the time of service is just beginning!

Let us take the seeds of faith and plant them in our lives,

sowing fields of love in a community longing to be embraced.

Inspired by the word and fortified by the feast,

let us go into the 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've heard this day. AMEN

Choral Closing:

Sent Forth

VU 481 (vs 2)

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,

The tasks of our everyday life we will face.

Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,

Embracing God's children of each tribe and race.

With Your feast You feed us, with Your light now lead us;

Unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving

Give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.

Closing Music

The Trumpet of Faith - Lani Smith