

# Quispamsis United Church

July 23rd, 2023 - 8th Sunday After Pentecost

Marking the End of a Covenant: The Things We Carry With Us

**Liturgical Colour: Green**

**Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley**

**Director of Music: Stephen Alexander**

**Reader: Ben Alward**

**Centering Passage:** *'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'*

-Luke 2:29-32

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## GATHERING TOGETHER

**Lighting of the Christ Candle:** We come together today to celebrate the ministry that we have shared and to look forward to what might yet be. May the light of Christ help us to see what we have done together as well as light the way before us.

### Opening Music

**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.**

### Call To Worship (Responsive):

We call to one another. We call to God.

**We seek wholeness as a people.**

We wait for one another. We wait for God.

**We find love in this holy longing for the other.**

We come, to seek, to find, to be made whole.

**We come to worship together.**

**Opening Prayer:**

We come this day O God longing for communion with you, for a glimpse of your purpose for each of us. Send your Spirit of revelation into our midst and guide us through this time that we may come out the other side renewed in our passion to follow on your way. We ask this and all things in the name of Christ, our companion on the way. AMEN

**Hymn:**

Come, Let us Sing

VU 574

**Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,  
Tender and true, tender and true,  
Out of the heart of the Father above,  
Streaming to me and to you:  
Wonderful love, wonderful love,  
Dwells in the heart of the Father above.**

**Jesus the Savior this Gospel to tell  
Joyfully came, joyfully came,  
Came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,  
Sharing their sorrow and shame:  
Seeking the lost, seeking the lost,  
Saving, redeeming at measureless cost.**

**Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;  
Why do they roam? Why do they roam?  
Love only waits to forgive and forget;  
Home, weary wanderers, home!  
Wonderful love, wonderful love,  
Dwells in the heart of the Father above.**

**Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love!  
Come and abide, come and abide,  
Lifting my life till it rises above  
Envy and falsehood and pride:  
Seeking to be, seeking to be,  
Lowly and humble, a learner of thee.**

## LISTENING FOR TRUTH

### Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Hear us, O God of Wisdom and Guidance, as we lift up to you the many ways we have been lost on the way. Forgive us those times where you have called out to us, offering us a path through to the dawn, and we have chosen to linger in the darkness. Forgive us the comfort that we have found in the blanket of shadow thinking that our brokenness, our weakness cannot be seen. Forgive us those times when moving could bring us to wholeness, and instead, we choose to remain in place. Reveal to us what waits beyond the dawn of your new day. Encourage us to shed our shadows and embrace your love light. Empower us to walk boldly the path to which we have been called. We offer this and all our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our light, life, and love. AMEN

### Sung Assurance of God's Love:

Take, O Take me as I am

MV 85

Take, O take me as I am.

Summon out what I shall be.

Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

### The Things We Carry With Us

#### 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: Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message** Longing for Morning

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**Hymn:**

I can feel you near me God

MV 48

**I can feel you near me God I can feel you near  
Yes I know you're with me God I feel you here  
I can feel you near me God I can feel you near  
Yes I know you're with me God Heaven is here.**

**Refrain:**

**And I'll jump for joy I'm singing Alleluia  
Jump for joy for you  
I will jump for joy I'm singing Alleluia  
Jump for joy for you.**

**I can feel you loving me yes I know you care  
God I know you're loving me always everywhere  
I can feel you loving me yes I know you care  
God I know you're loving me I know you're there. R**

**Minute for Mission:** Learning the Gospel at Camp

Lindsay Vautour, the United Church's Engagement and Stewardship Associate, started attending a United Church camp at the tender age of five. There, she not only met lifelong friends and gained job skills as a counsellor, but it also helped chart her course to eventually work for The United Church of Canada.

"Coming from a financially tight background, I'm extremely grateful for the assistance available that let my brother and me attend camp every summer. I met so many different people from different cultures and regions, and got to learn their journeys in faith. I still keep in contact with some camp friends over 20 years later," she says.

"One of my most prominent memories was with a fellow 13-year-old camper who told me that she loved camp because she could be herself without any expectations. She said, 'I'm not the weird kid or the foster kid here, I'm just me,'" she recounts. "That's something I resonate with because I wasn't particularly popular in school, but popularity never mattered at camp, and it's beautiful to know that that's a widely shared perception."

Children come together at United Church camps across Canada to learn the gospel in a safe and supportive environment. Through campfire stories, hiking, music, canoeing, and so much more, campers gain confidence while enjoying unique activities and exploring their curiosity. At camp kids learn soft skills like self-confidence, patience, and organization as well as hard skills in sports, crafting, and music.

Without the generosity of supporters, children who attend camp wouldn't be able to continue having such affirming and defining experiences. Your gifts through Mission and Service are deeply appreciated.

### **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:**

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.**

### **Prayer of Dedication (Unison):**

**We long for you, O God, and so we offer all that we are to you. We give our time, our talent, our treasure. We give our very selves over to you, longing for unity with the Holy. Bless what we give and who we are as we strive to build your kingdom of love and peace in this world. We ask this and all things in the strong name of Christ our brother. AMEN**

## PARTING OF WAYS

### Release from Covenant:

Rev. Richard, we release you from the covenant that we made together. No longer will we turn to you for our pastoral care. No longer will you reach out to us to offer guidance and leadership. We part changed forever for the relationship we have shared, transformed by the ways that the Spirit has worked in and through us together.

### Prayer for Ministry Together and Apart & 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):

We go, from this time of ending.

**eager to find new beginnings.**

We remember that, with God, every destination

**is an opportunity to start again.**

Now let us go from worship to service,

**into the world where God is already at work.**

### Benediction

Go now - as always - 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**