

# Quispamsis United Church

June 20th, 2021 - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost/Father's Day

**President:** Rev. Richard Bowley

**Music Director:** Stephen Alexander

**Hymn Leader & Reader:** Ruth Buckley

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**Centering Passage:** *'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.*

-John 15:1-4

**Welcome**

**Acknowledgement of Territories**

**Celebrations & Announcements**

## GATHERING TOGETHER

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

We light this candle which shines on all of us near and far as a reminder that Christ's light shines on each of us as well. In that light, the gifts that we have been given are revealed. Let us follow this light into worship and see how we might best share of ourselves.

**Prelude**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus - arr. Robert J. Hughes

**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):**

Together we answer the call, to lead, to teach, to heal.

**By the Spirit, we have been gifted.**

To this place we come to sing, to pray, to breathe deep of God's love.

**By the Spirit, we have been gifted.**

In this time, we give thanks, lay down our burdens, and lift high the cross.

**By the Spirit, we have been gifted, and so we lift our voices in praise as worship, united by this same Spirit.**

## **Prayer of Approach**

God of Inspiration and Revelation, who plants in us the seeds of service, and nurtures us as we grow in faith, we come to you this day eager for a reminder of your creative purpose, a glimpse of your will in our lives. In word, pray, and song, send your Spirit into our lives and reveal to us the gifts that we bring, the gifts that we can share. Open our eyes to also see the gifts that others bring, and help us to recognize that each of us brings something integral to the building of your kingdom. Speak to us, O God, we pray. We offer this and all our prayers in the name of your Son and our Saviour, Jesus Christ. AMEN

**Hymn:** I Am A Child of God MV 157

**I am a child of God,  
I am a glimpse of God's new creation.  
I am a child of God,  
I am a child of God.**

**I am an endless prayer,  
I am a yearning for contemplation,  
I am an endless prayer,  
I am an endless prayer.**

**I am an angry voice,  
I am compassion and consternation,  
I am an angry voice,  
I am an angry voice.**

**I am a cry for peace,  
I am commitment and dedication,  
I am a cry for peace,  
I am a cry for peace.**

**I am a song of joy,  
I am the moment of jubilation,  
I am a song of joy,  
I am a song of joy.**

## **Theme Conversation**

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

**God of Unity and Community, we admit that there have been times in our lives, both in the church and beyond it, where we have been a dividing force. Sometimes we shut down the ideas of others because they do not line up with our own. Sometimes we ignore the strengths of those around us, because we want to be seen as strong. Forgive us for closing our eyes and ears to the movements of your Spirit in those with whom we share our lives. Help us to see our own weaknesses, so that we might unite with others and be strong together. We ask this and all things in the strong name of our brother and teacher, Jesus Christ. AMEN**

## **Assurance of God's Love**

The Good News is that from God we receive all the blessings and gifts in this life, and it is also from God that we receive the call to find and follow a new way. Let us walk that way united, knowing that we are so loved by God. AMEN

### **Today's Scripture:** Ephesians 4:1-16 (The Message)

In light of all this, here's what I want you to do. While I'm locked up here, a prisoner for the Master, I want you to get out there and walk—better yet, run!—on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. And mark that you do this with humility and discipline—not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences.

You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness.

But that doesn't mean you should all look and speak and act the same. Out of the generosity of Christ, each of us is given his own gift. The text for this is,

He climbed the high mountain,  
He captured the enemy and seized the plunder,  
He handed it all out in gifts to the people.

Is it not true that the One who climbed up also climbed down, down to the valley of earth? And the One who climbed down is the One who climbed back up, up to highest heaven. He handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with his gifts, filled earth with his gifts. He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.

No prolonged infancies among us, please. We'll not tolerate babes in the woods, small children who are easy prey for predators. God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love.

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

**Praise be to you, O Christ.**

**Anthem**

How Deep the Father's Love - Stuart Townsend (Senior Choir)

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**Hymn:** Three Things I Promise MV 176 (Verses 1, 2, 3 & 6)

1. **Three things I promise, Holy God,  
in age and youth, in life and death:  
to bless your Name, and cling to Christ,  
and listen for the Spirit's breath.**
2. **Your love unfolded time and space,  
and life, and all that life became,  
and so, with thankful heart and voice,  
through good and ill, I bless your Name.**
3. **I follow, serve, and cling to Christ  
amid out culture's tides and trends,  
for here your Name is most revealed:  
Majestic Love, and Best of Friends.**
6. **Revive and guide me, Living God,  
as day by day, until my death,  
I bless your Name, and cling to Christ,  
and listen for the Spirit's breath.**

### How Can I Give?

#### HOW CAN I GIVE TO MY CHURCH DURING A PANDEMIC?

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](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/ 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: Doxology**  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison):**

All that we have, all that we are, all that might be comes from you, belongs to you, O God. In this moment, we offer a portion back to you. Take what we are, and bless us for the work that we must do. Take what we give, and bless it for the building of your kingdom. We offer our gifts, ourselves, and this prayer in the name of Christ who calls to us. AMEN

**Prayer for Ourselves & Others and The Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn:** Today we all are called to be VU 507 (Verses 1, 2 & 4)

- 1 Today we all are called to be  
disciples of the Lord,  
to help to set the captive free,  
make ploughshare out of sword,  
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,  
make love and peace our fast,  
to serve the poor and homeless first,  
our ease and comfort last.
  
- 2 God made the world and at its birth  
ordained our human race  
to live as stewards of the earth,  
responding to God's grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud,  
we sow not peace but strife,  
our discord spreads a deadly cloud  
that threatens all of life.
  
- 4 May we in service to our God  
act out the living Word,  
and walk the road the saints have trod  
till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we  
give thanks in one accord  
to God who calls us all to be  
disciples of the Lord.

## SENDING FORTH

### **Commissioning (Responsive):**

With all that God has blessed us with, we can be a force for positive and hope-filled change in our lives. How should we do that work?

**We will go to share our gifts with our church family.**

That is a great start, but then where?

**We will go to share our gifts with our community.**

And when we have brought God's love to neighbours, friends, and strangers near to us?

**We will go to share our gifts with the world.**

God's love knows no limits. Neither are there limits on how we can reflect that love, and bring light to the world.

### **Benediction**

Now go with the love of God in your hearts, the Peace of Christ in your hand, and the power of the Holy Spirit at your backs to share the good news you've heard this day. AMEN

**Choral Closing:**                      May God's Sheltering Wings                      MV 214

**May God's sheltering wings**

**His gathering wings protect you**

**May God's nurturing arms,**

**Her cradling arms sustain you**

**And hold you in Her love,**

**And hold you in His love.**

**Postlude**                      Trumpet Recessional - Donald F. Callender