

Quispamsis United Church

June 25th, 2023 - 4th Sunday After Pentecost

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Stephen Alexander

Centering Passage: *When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'*

-Luke 4:16-21

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting of the Christ Candle: Isaiah speaks of a people reborn in God's light and love. We light this Christ candle today to remind ourselves that in Christ we are made new, that each day we are invited to kindle this flame within us to walk in the ways of the Holy Spirit.

Opening Music Pastorale - Arcangelo Corelli

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Introit:

We Are One

VU 402 (vs 1)

**We are one as we come,
as we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips
there's a sense that God is near.
We are one as we sing,
as we seek, we are found;
and we come needful of God's grace
as we meet, together in this place.**

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 come to worship God

Who proclaims good news to the poor, binds up the broken-hearted, frees the prisoner and comforts those who mourn.

We come to worship Christ

Who bestows a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy Instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

We come to worship the Holy Spirit

Who rebuilds ancient ruins and restores broken places.

Opening Prayer:

Transforming God, you restore us. When we are lost, you find us. When we are broken, you hold each piece close and mend us with your love. When we are far off, you run to us and welcome us home. Help us, in the midst of this worship, to know the joy of our relationship with you. Remind us - in every moment and with every breath - that who we are is a gift to this world, that we are precious to you. Remind us that a part of your divine spark shines in us. Forgive us those times where we have looked in the mirror and not recognized you looking back. Forgive us when we have not treated our kindred in this world like beloved companions. We seek your grace even as we listen for your call. Hear us this day, O God, as we pray in the name of your son and our saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN

Hymn:

O, For A Thousand Tongues

VU 326

**O for a thousand tongues to sing my great redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace.**

**Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.**

**He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.**

**Hear him, you deaf, you voiceless ones, your tongues again employ;
you blind, behold your Saviour comes, and leap, you lame, for joy!**

**My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honours of your name.**

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

We are tempted, O God, to throw in the towel. When life is hard, when the road is winding, when structures we rely on have fallen apart, we are tempted to walk away, to give up. Forgive us those times when you are calling to us, and we are hesitating to answer, or even ignoring your calls. Forgive us when we would prefer paths of ease when the difficult way could lead to something amazing. Remind us that you will be there to give us strength when life gets too heavy; that you will guide us on the way when we get lost; that you will be our sure foundation when everything else feels like shifting sand beneath our feet. Encourage us, we pray. We offer this and all our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our partner in life and faith. AMEN

Assurance of God's Love:

God reaches into the broken parts of creation and stirs us to action. God also reaches into those same broken parts to embrace us through trials. Even when we hesitate, are wayward and wandering, God never stops encouraging us, inspiring us, empowering us, and loving us to wholeness. Thanks be to God for such a love as this. AMEN

Time for the Young & Young at Heart

Sung Prayer of Illumination:

Open our Hearts MV 21 (X2)
**Open our hearts,
open our minds.
Open our lives to you,
O loving God.**

Reading: Isaiah 61:1-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; but you shall be called priests of the Lord, you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. Because their shame was double, and dishonour was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message Rekindled to Rebuild

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

Hark The Glad Sound

VU 29

**Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne;
and every voice a song.**

**He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.**

**He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure;
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.**

Minute for Mission: Your Gifts Help to Restore Lost Languages

These days, most of us have access to technology that allows us to learn the world's common languages. But countless languages—including many Indigenous languages—can only be learned from their few remaining speakers.

Revitalizing a lost language, as one of our partners in Nunavut is doing, is an important way to preserve not just the language but also the culture that surrounds it.

The Inuinnaqtun language is the cultural foundation of the Inuinnait people, who live in the central Canadian Arctic. The literal meaning of the word Inuinnaqtun is “to be like an Inuinnaq (a person).” Today, fewer than 600 people can still speak Inuinnaqtun fluently. Many lost the language when they were removed from their communities and sent to residential schools.

Pitquhirnikkut Ilihautiniq/Kitikmeot Heritage Society in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, is working hard to keep Inuinnaqtun alive. One-on-one language immersion sessions with mentors inspire reconnection. Through everyday conversations at home and on the land, mentorship is helping to heal the wounds of systemic oppression.

In partnership with Mission & Service, Inuinnaqtun language mentors get resources to allow them to spend 300 hours a year working with their apprentices to begin to restore the language.

Your gifts to Mission & Service help partners continue to restore language and culture. Thank you.

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:

For The Gift of Creation

VU 538

**For the gift of creation,
the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit
by which we live,
we thank you and give you
the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed
by the gifts that we give.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

This day we give not only of our treasures but our very selves for the building of your kingdom. We do this joyfully knowing that you bless all that we give, all that we are. We thank you for the opportunity to serve you in our lives and our neighbours throughout creation. We offer this and all our prayers in the strong name of Christ our companion on the way. AMEN

Prayers of the People & Inclusive Prayer of Jesus

**Blessed One, our father and our mother,
Holy is your name.
May your love be enacted in the world.
May your will be done
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For all that we do in your love,
and all that your love brings to birth,
and the fullness of love that will be
are yours, now and forever. Amen**

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):

Go now and bring the joy and love that comes with our encounter with Christ to a world seeking relief.

With the Word we have been given we will go. We will go with dancing and with song.
Be a beacon of God's love in your life and the lives around you.

With the light that Christ brings out in us, we will kindle the same light in others.

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 great news you've heard this day. AMEN

Choral Closing:

Take up This Song

MV 213 (faith)

Take up this song of faith, and go into the world.

Take up this song of faith in every moment.

**In every moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives,
Lay them down in faith, lay them down, and take up this song.**

Closing Music

Trumpet Tune Bonduca - Henry Purcell