Quispamsis United Church

*Lent: Ashes & Promises*

*March 20th, 2022 - Third Sunday of Lent*

*Liturgical Colour: Purple*

*Presider: Rev. Richard*

*Musician: Stephen Alexander*

*Reader: Ashlee Orchard*

*Centering Passage: If you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress. As for what others do, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent. My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped.*

*-Psalm 17:3-4*

## GATHERING TOGETHER

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### Welcome

### Acknowledgement of Territories

### Celebrations & Announcements

### Lighting the Christ Candle

As we continue our Lenten journey, we carry with us this light, a light of hope, a light of wisdom, a light of love. Let us follow this light as we seek a deeper understanding of who we are as people of faith.

Opening Music Prelude on Hymn Tune "Webb" - arr. Roger C. Wilson

### 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 have come here seeking relief,

we have come here seeking the truth.

In this time we hear of those trapped,

and stories of those truly free.

In these stories Jesus the Christ comes to shine a light, to reveal the Good News of God’s great love,

While Peter the Rock slides into the comfortable shadows of denial.

### Prayer of the Day

You, O Christ stood before the High Priest and spoke truth boldly, as you did throughout your ministry. Yet even as we marvel at your courage and resolve, our eyes are drawn to Peter, our ears hearing his tale. How often, when confronted by hardship, does our faith falter? How easy is it for us to say, “I am not” when asked if we are a follower of the great, “I am”. Forgive us those times when we turn from You, forget You, deny You for fear of what others may say. Encourage us to speak truth boldly and the Good News without fear. It is in your name that we offer this and all our prayers. AMEN

### Hymn: O God how we have wandered VU 112

O God how we have wandered and hidden from your face,

In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.

But how in exile dwelling we turn with fear and shame,

As distant but compelling you call us each by name.

And now at length discerning the evil that we do,

By faith, we are returning with hope and trust, to you.

In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring,

In gladness there to greet us, with calf and robe and ring.

O God of all the living, both banished and restored,

Compassionate, forgiving, our peace and hope assured.

Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease,

Stretch out your hand of blessing, in pardon and in peace.

## LISTENING FOR TRUTH

### Theme Conversation

### Ash Liturgy (Responsive):

Throughout this season of Lent, we are all being asked to carry the ashes of last year’s Palm Sunday branches. When we waved those branches, we were declaring our faith, our trust, and our dedication to Christ.

These ashes are a symbol of promises: promises made, promises kept, and promises broken. Let us come before Christ honestly and humbly.

We raised our palm branches in celebration of you,

and on those same leaves have written our sin and brokenness, despite your having broken into our lives to show us a new way.

We carry the ashes of those palm branches as a reminder.

These ashes remind us of our fear. We want to follow you, but we are afraid of where you might lead us. We say we believe in you, but are afraid of what others will think of our faith. We want to be a part of building your kingdom, but are afraid that the work will be too big, too hard, too much.

We carry these ashes as a reminder of our fear.

Empty us of our fear. Fill us with your hope, for we long to share who you are with the world.

For a moment, let us focus on these ashes, lifting our prayers for guidance and promises to follow to Christ.

*(moment for reflective silence)*

### Sung Prayer of Illumination: Tree of Life VU 121 (vs 4) *QUC Recording*

Gentle Jesus, mighty Spirit,

come inflame our hearts anew,

we may all your joy inherit

if we bear the cross for you,

if we bear the cross for you.

### Reading: John 18:12-27

So, the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So, the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, ‘You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing round it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, ‘I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.’ When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, ‘Is that how you answer the high priest?’ Jesus answered, ‘If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?’ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, ‘You are not also one of his disciples, are you?’ He denied it and said, ‘I am not.’ One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, ‘Did I not see you in the garden with him?’ Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

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### Message Chained and Unchained

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

### Hymn: Bitter was the Night VU 132 (vs 1-3, 6-7)

Bitter was the night,

thought the cock would crow forever

Bitter was the night before the break of day.

Saw you passing by,

told them all I didn't know you.

Bitter was the night before the break of day.

Told them all a lie,

and I told it three times over,

Bitter was the night before the break of day.

Bitter was the night,

thought there'd never be a morning.

Bitter was the night before the break of day.

Biter was the night,

thought the cock would crow forever

Bitter was the night before the break of day.

### 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/ 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/ if you come for in-person worship, there is a plate as you enter the church where you can place your offering.

5/ mail or deliver your giving’s to our treasurer, Brion Crossman, 22 Country Crescent, Quispamsis, E2E 1T2

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### Offertory Dedication Hymn: For All Your Goodness VU 549

For all your goodness God, we give you thanks,

Thanks for the food we eat and for the friends we meet,

And each new day we greet, we give you thanks.

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### Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

You come into our lives, O Christ, and offer us the greatest gift of all: the freedom of the truth. Guide us in our lives to share boldly the good news of God’s great love. Bless these offering, given for the work of the church through gifts of time, talent and treasure, gifts to feed the community, and those given through PAR. May we be blessed and empowered as members of the body of Christ to bring the good news of love to a world that needs to hear it. AMEN

### Prayers of the People & Lord’s Prayer

### Hymn: Wherever you may Go MV 216 *QUC Recording*

Wherever you may go, I will follow,

And your people shall be my people too.

Wherever you may go, I will follow:

For I will be faithful, loyal and true.

Say the word and I will stay, I will never go away,

We will travel side by side

And God’s love will be our guide.

Wherever you may go, I will follow,

And your people shall be my people too.

Wherever you may go, I will follow:

For I will be faithful, loyal and true.

From beginning to the end I will always be your friend,

When you need me, I’ll be there,

You can trust my faithful care.

Wherever you may go, I will follow,

And your people shall be my people too.

Wherever you may go, I will follow:

For I will be faithful, loyal and true.

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## SENDING FORTH

### Commissioning (Responsive):

In the presence of Christ we have found relief and renewal.

His truth pierces our hearts.

We carry the Good News with boldness into the world, to free those trapped by guilt and fear.

We move unchained by the faith we have found.

Over us the love and grace of God is poured reminding us that we are precious, within us the light of Christ shines to show us the way, and before us the Holy Spirit goes to scatter the shadows that seek to find root in our hearts.

AMEN

### Benediction

Continue this journey - this path to the cross - inspired by God, encouraged by Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

### Choral Closing: Tree of Life VU 121 (vs 5)

Christ, you lead and we shall follow,

stumbling though our steps may be,

one with you in joy and sorrow,

we the river, you the sea,

we the river, you the sea.

### Closing Music Festival Voluntary - Jeremiah Clarke