

Quispamsis United Church

November 12, 2023 - 24th Sunday After Pentecost

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Rev Ian Manson

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Heather Alward

Centering Reflection: *"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."*

-Martin Luther King Jr.

GATHERING TOGETHER

Opening Music (Sun of My Soul - Benton Price) & Time of Prayer and Candle Lighting

Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Lighting of Affirm Candle & Acknowledgment of Territories

Celebrations

Introit:

Sing Your Joy

VU 253

**Sing your joy, proclaim God's glory!
Rise and sing the morning has come!
Bless our God and praise all creation;
Song of the earth and light from heaven:
God is alive! O praise our God!**

Call to Worship (Responsive):

We are a community of faith that has been created by the love of God.

**We are the people who have been set free by forgiveness in Jesus,
and who are called to reach out to the newcomers in our midst
and offer them the warm embrace of fellowship.**

We have come to proclaim the work of Jesus by extending
our hands to refugees, displaced persons and those seeking safety.

**With all our being, we praise God and tell of God's goodness
in our acts of kindness and love towards all. Let us worship God.**

Prayer of Approach (Unison)

Gracious God, you call us to love one another, to take care of one another, and to open our doors to one another. Open our eyes that we may see the needs of refugees; open our ears that we may hear people's cries for justice; open our hearts that we may assist people near and far. Show us where love, hope and faith are needed. Keep those in our world who have been forced to leave their homes safe in your care. Bring them to places of safety, and help them find new life. We ask these things in the precious and powerful name of Jesus. Amen

Opening Hymn:

**God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness
God who gives to life its goodness,
God creator of all joy,
God who gives to us our freedom,
God who blesses tool and toy:
teach us now to laugh and praise you,
deep within your praises sing,
till the whole creation dances
for the goodness of its King.**

VU 260

**God who fills the earth with beauty,
God who binds each friend to friend,
God who names us co-creators
God who wills that chaos end:
grant us now creative spirits,
minds responsive to your mind,
hearts and wills your rule extending
all our acts by Love refined.**

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**God of mercy,
you call us to love our neighbours and serve your purposes.
We confess that this is easier said than done.
When things get complicated, we lose patience and turn away.
When we are unprepared for a challenge,
we excuse ourselves from taking part.
Forgive us, O God.
Renew our willingness to put ourselves on the line for your love.**

(Silent Contemplation)

Words of Assurance

Time for All Ages

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

O God, by your gifts of Word and Spirit, open our minds to greater understanding, our hearts to deeper love, and our wills to eager service, through Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

Readings: Hebrews 13: 1-2

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Leviticus 19: 33-34

When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

Matthew 22: 34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, ' "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

Sung Response to Scripture

VU 956

Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light unto my path.

Gift of Music

We Praise You O God – Senior Choir

Message

A Conversation with Alham and Zahab

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

O For a World

VU 697

**O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.**

**O for a world where goods are shared
and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared,
equality achieved.**

**We welcome one world family
and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity
and gives our vision voice.**

**The poor are rich, the weak are strong,
the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong,
who perishes will rise.**

**O for a world preparing for
God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more,
and all but love will cease.**

Life and Work of the Church

Sharing of Gifts and Talents

Offertory Dedication Hymn:

We Praise You, O God

VU 218

**With voices united our praises we offer,
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

God of purpose and promise, we offer our time, talent and money to help fulfill your purposes on earth. Bless our gifts and our actions so that the promise of your love will be made real, here and elsewhere. Amen.

Sung Invocation to the Prayers of the People:

O God Hear our Prayer

VU 948 (2X)

**O God, hear my prayer, O God, hear my prayer:
When I call answer me.**

**O God, hear my prayer, O God, hear my prayer:
Come and listen to me.**

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn:

Go, Make a Difference

MV 209

Refrain

Go make a difference. We can make a difference.

Go make a difference in the world.

Go make a difference. We can make a difference.

Go make a difference in the world.

**We are the salt of the earth, called to let the people see
the love of God for you and me.**

We are the light of the world, not to be hidden but be seen.

Go make a difference in the world. R

**We are the hands of Christ reaching out to those in need,
the face of God for all to see.**

We are the spirit of hope; we are the voice of peace.

Go make a difference in the world. R

So let your love shine on, let it shine for all to see.

Go make a difference in the world.

And the spirit of Christ will be with us as we go.

Go make a difference in the world. R

Commissioning (Responsive):

Let us go from here to heed the call to love and serve.

Let us seize the opportunities that come our way to be Christ's hands and feet in the world.

Let us show love to each neighbour or stranger we meet in the week ahead.

Let us do our part to bring justice and healing to the world.

Benediction

Choral Closing:

Go Now in Peace
Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere
You may go.

VU 964 (2x)

Closing Music

Vivace from Voluntary in B flat - Maurice Greene