

# Quispamsis United Church

November 19, 2023 - 25th Sunday After Pentecost

**Liturgical Colour: Green**

**Presider: Rev Ian Manson**

**Music: Angela Murphy**

**Reader: Diane Tonge**

**Centering Reflection:** *“Human greatness does not lie in wealth or power, but in character and goodness.”*

- Anne Frank

---

## GATHERING TOGETHER

**Opening Music & 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):**

Be alert. Stay awake.

**God inspires us with an inspiring vision of the future, filled with justice, compassion and peace.**

Stay awake. Be alert.

**God asks us to lend our strength so that God’s dreams for the world can take root and grow.**

**Prayer of Approach (Unison)**

God of creation, even when we are tired and weary,

frustrated and discouraged, you speak to us and offer us hope.

Awaken us to the power and gifts you pour into us for the good of creation.

**Grant that we may be trustworthy in all things,  
and bear faithful witness to your Word and Way. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn:**

**Come, Let Us Sing**

VU 222

**Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,  
we have stood silently too long;  
surely the Lord deserves our praise,  
so joyfully thank God for our days.**

**O thirsty soul, come drink at the well;  
God's living waters will never fail.  
Surely the Lord will help you to stand,  
strengthened and comforted by God's hand.**

**You dwell among us and cause us to pray,  
and walk with each other following your way;  
our precious brothers and sisters will grow  
in the fulfilling love they know.**

**Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing  
to the desire of all living things.  
Come, all you creatures, high and low,  
let your praises endlessly flow.**

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

**You have given us so much, O God.  
Yet we know we have squandered  
some of the gifts and abilities you have given us.  
We have hidden some of our talents,  
and have been afraid to explore, risk and grow.  
Be patient with us, grant us courage,  
and help us embrace the pathways that are before us.**

*(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: Matthew 25: 14-30**

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

### **Sung Response to Scripture**

VU 956

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

### **Message**

"Gifts of Abundance"

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

I Have Called You By Your Name  
I have called you by your name, you are mine;  
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.  
I will not abandon you;  
all my promises are true.  
You are gifted, called, and chosen;  
you are mine.

MV 161

I will help you learn my name as you go;  
read it written in my people, help them grow.  
Pour the water in my name,  
speak the word your soul can claim,  
offer Jesus' body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go;  
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.  
Like the woman reaching out,  
choosing faith in spite of doubt,  
hold the hem of Jesus' robe,  
then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine;  
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.  
With my wonder in your soul,  
make my wounded children whole;  
go and tell my precious people  
they are mine.

Life and Work of the Church

Mission and Services Stories Kindergarten in a Refuge Camp

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:** God of Grace and God of Glory VU 686

**God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your power;  
now fulfil your church's story;  
ring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour.**

**Lo, the hosts of evil round us  
scorn your Christ, assail your ways;  
fears and doubts too long have bound us;  
free our hearts to work and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days.**

**Cure your children's warring madness,  
bend our pride to your control;  
shame our wanton selfish gladness,  
rich in goods and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**

**Set our feet on lofty places,  
gird our lives that they may be  
armoured with all Christlike graces,  
pledged to set all captives free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
that we fail not them nor thee.**

**Commissioning (Responsive):**

Let us leave here to be kingdom builders this week.

**Let us find a way to offer our time and talent to a project worthy of God's hope for the world God loves!**

**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**