

Quispamsis United Church

November 21st, 2021 - Reign of Christ Sunday

Communion Sunday

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Musician: Angela Murphy

Reader: Cindy Millican

Centering Passage: *Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'*

John 8:12

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting the Christ Candle

As the night closes in, and the darkness of the season abounds, we light this candle as a reminder that even a spark can push back the darkness. May we be that spark in the darkness for others as Christ has been the spark for us.

Prelude

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.

Prelude

Call to Worship (Responsive):

We come to hear the Word,

to have it written on our hearts.

We come seeking the Way,

through the world; through our faith; from darkness into light.

We come to worship God who brings truth and light to our lives.

Let us lift our hearts, our prayers, and our praise to God!

Opening Prayer

Our hearts belong to you, O God. We come this day to offer them to you. Receive them, we pray. Take them and make them your own. Write on them your law. Fill them with your love. In this way our hearts beat to the tune of justice, our blood flows to hands and feet that do your work in this world. In this way your law drives our very lives. Receive our hearts, we pray, and transform us for the building of your Kingdom. We offer this and all our prayers in the strong name of Christ, our center and our way. AMEN

Hymn: Rejoice the Lord is King VU 213

- 1 Rejoice the Lord is King!
Your risen Lord adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing
and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!**

- 2 Jesus the Saviour reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our sins,
he took his seat above. R**

- 3 God's kingdom cannot fail;
Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given. R**

- 4 Rejoice in glorious hope,
for Christ, the judge, shall come
to glorify the saints
for their eternal home.
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!**

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

We come before you, O God, because your promises are true, because we know that your love is deep and unending. We come because we - as individuals and as a people - have been bad at keeping our promises to one another, to you, and to the world. We waste our time and resources on things which do not give life. We doubt our abilities and hide our light away from the world. We flee from your call when it doesn't appeal to us. Forgive us for those times where we have ignored your call. Forgive us and call us back to your sustaining love. We ask this in the strong name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN

Assurance of God's Love

God knows the number of times that we have stumbled, fallen short, and gotten lost. But God's love is eternal. God's forgiveness is never ending. Because we are God's own. We are loved. We are forgiven. AMEN

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Theme Conversation Rediscovering Hope

Sung Prayer of Illumination Listen God is Calling

MV 97

**Listen, listen, God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness,
comfort, and joy.**

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness

 have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness—

 on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,

 you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

 as with joy at the harvest,

 as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,

 and the bar across their shoulders,

 the rod of their oppressor,

 you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors

 and all the garments rolled in blood

 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,

 a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;

 and he is named

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,

 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,

 and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Herein is Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Endings and Beginnings

Hymn:

Crown Him with many crowns

VU 211 (vs 1-3)

- 1** Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne:
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.
- 2** Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing
who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.
- 3** Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end;
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of Paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Words of Instruction & Invitation to the Table

Gathering (Responsive):

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Responsive):

Blessed are you Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love.

With your breath, you formed all that we are and all that is beyond us; the heavens tell your glory.

Through fear-filled days and aching nights when the powers of death have done their worst,
your love has never deserted us.

Even when we turn away from you, you are with us;

your presence never fails us, and your gifts of hope and new life transform us.

We praise you for the ways that you reveal your love to us:

sighs of yearning at creation, in a burning bush, is the person of Jesus Christ.

You were, you are, and you always will be

with us.

and so we rejoice with all your people of every time and place, and with angels and archangels,
to proclaim the glory of your name:

Sanctus Benedictus

MV 203

O holy, holy, holy God,

O God of time and space.

All earth and sea and sky above

bear witness to your grace.

Hosanna in the highest heav'n,

creation sings your praise.

And blessed is the One who comes

and bears your name always!

Remembering the Meal:

Mighty and tender God,(...)we may so offer ourselves to you that our lives may proclaim the
mystery of faith:

Memorial Acclamation

MV 204

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again**

Blessing of the Bread and the Cup

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit (...) all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

Great Amen

MV 205

**Amen, amen, O Holy One!
Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One!
Hosanna and Amen!**

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup:

This bread is the body of Christ, broken for the world.
This is the cup of blessing, poured out for all.

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup (Responsive):

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Let us share in the feast for all has been made ready.

Prayer after Communion (Unison):

Holy God, in this place, at this table, we have touched, we have tasted, and we have heard the signs of your love for us. Grant that we may go away from this house filled with our love for you and overflowing with your love for those who are around us and who share our lives. We offer this and all our prayers in the strong name of Jesus Christ. AMEN

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: Crown Him with many crowns VU 211 (VS 4)

**4 Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.**

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

Offertory Dedication Hymn: Grant us God VU 540

**Grant us God the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living,
we may offer faithfully.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

The gifts of your love and your law, O God, are beyond measure, without equal. Still we offer what we have and who we are in an effort to match our love to your own. Receive what we offer, bless what we give. May the gifts we bring and who we are be a part of the building of your Kingdom in this world. We seek this blessing in the name of Christ who gave all that he was to spread your word and your love. AMEN

Hymn:

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

VU 2

- 1 **Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.**

- 2 **Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

- 3 **Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

- 4 **By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

As we part, we carry the Word,

to friends and family; neighbours and strangers.

Going from here, we follow the way,

to those places most in need of our gifts.

We move from worship to service,

inspired by the Word, guided by the Light, we strive to be Christ's own people.

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: Peace be with you

MV 215

Peace be with you, peace forever,

peace be with you my friends.

Till we meet again, may God be with you.

Peace, peace, peace.

Postlude