

Quispamsis United Church

October 16th, 2022 - Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Chris Young

Centering Passage: *Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'*

-Matt 4:8-10

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting the Christ Candle:

This light tells us many stories, one of despair, because before this light there was darkness; one of clarity because in this light we see who we truly are; one of hope, because by this light a way forward is revealed. Let us follow this light into worship and beyond.

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Opening Music Lord, Hear Us Pray - Steven Scott

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):

In our lives we are pulled in so many different directions.

Schedules, tasks, responsibilities, plans on plans on plans seek to claim our lives.

This day, in this place, let us quiet our minds and come to God in praise..

This day, in this time, we open our hearts and spirits to God.

Blessed be the God of creation who has called us here.

Praise be to God who sustains and nurtures our lives.

Opening Prayer

Shepherding God, you have been with us in every moment of every day of our lives. You have given us our very breath. We pray that you continue to guide us through this time, through this day and into the days ahead. In your word your people hear again the story of your faithfulness to them and we are reminded of that same constancy in our own lives. To you we give ourselves because in you we have our being. Inspire us to share the faith that we have found. This we pray in the name of Christ our brother and our guide. AMEN

Hymn:

Here I am Lord

VU 509

**I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin, My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?**

Refrain:

**Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord.
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peoples pain.
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them, Whom shall I send?**

**I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide, Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them, Whom shall I send?**

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God we are so human, we forget the things that are important, and focus on the unimportant and so we waste so much time and energy on things that do not really matter. When we stop and look, we discover how faithful you are in guiding us and in supporting us in the best way. So God, for the times that we forget to stop and acknowledge your presence with us, we are sorry, help us to start fresh. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen

Assurance of God's Love

God knows that we are flawed, that we make mistakes, that we stumble and fall, that we get lost along the way, and God loves us anyway. At every turn and at every moment, God offers us a way back, God offers us an embrace. Thanks be to God for such a love as this. AMEN

Theme Conversation

Prayer of Illumination (Unison):

Guide us, O Great Shepherd, through your Word as you guide us through life. Give us the insight to see ourselves in the story, but also the wisdom to know how to grow from the story. Inspire us. Encourage us. Empower us. This we pray in the name of Christ, our teacher. AMEN

Reading: Joshua 24:1-16

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac; and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in its midst; and afterwards I brought you out. When I brought your ancestors out of Egypt, you came to the sea; and the Egyptians pursued your ancestors with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. When they cried out to the Lord, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and made the sea come upon them and cover them; and your eyes saw what I did to Egypt. Afterwards you lived in the wilderness for a long time. Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan; they fought with you, and I handed them over to you, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you. Then King Balak, son of Zippor of Moab, set out to fight against Israel. He sent and invited Balaam son of Beor to curse you, but I would not listen to Balaam; therefore he blessed you; so I rescued you out of his hand. When you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, the citizens of Jericho fought against you, and also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; and I handed them over to you. I sent the hornet ahead of you, which drove out before you the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. I gave you a land on which you had not laboured, and towns that you had not built, and you live in them; you eat the fruit of vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant.

'Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.'

Then the people answered, 'Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore, we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

But Joshua said to the people, 'You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.' And the people said to Joshua, 'No, we will serve the Lord!' Then Joshua said to the people, 'You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.' And they said, 'We are witnesses.' He said, 'Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.' The people said to Joshua, 'The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.' So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem. Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God; and he took a large stone, and set it up there under the oak in the sanctuary of the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message The Gift of Choice

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

I have called you by your name

MV 161

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.

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.

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 all Your Goodness
**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.**

VU 549

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

**You, O Generous God, have gifted us with everything in our lives, down to the very air that we breathe. Out of the many blessings we have found we give back our time, our talent, our treasure, our very selves for the building up of your Kingdom. Bless us and all that we bring as we live into this work. We offer this and all our prayers in the strong name of Christ our partner and guide.
AMEN**

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Hymn:

Today we all are called to be
**Today we are all called to be
Disciples of the Lord,
To help to set the captives free,
Make plow-share out of sword,
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst,
Make love and peace our fast,
To serve the poor and homeless first,
Our ease and comfort last.**

VU 507

**God made the world and at its birth
Ordained our human race
To live as stewards of the earth,
Responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud,
We sow not peace but strife,
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud
That threatens all of life.**

**Pray justice may come rolling down
As in a mighty stream,
With righteousness in field and town
To cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore
An earth where conflicts cease,
A world that was created for
A harmony of peace.**

**May we in service to our God
Act out the living word,
And walk the road the saints have trod
Till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we
Give thanks in one accord
To God who calls us all to be
Disciples of the Lord.**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive)

In all the choices that we make this day, this week, and in our lives,
**may we choose to lift up our neighbours,
may we choose to love the world we have been given,
may we choose to serve God.**

Benediction

Go now with the love of God in your heart, the peace of Christ in your hands, and with the power of the Holy Spirit at your backs to share the Good News you have heard this day. AMEN

Choral Closing:

Peace Be With You
**Peace be with you, peace forever,
peace be with you my friends.
Till we meet again,
may God be with you.
Peace, peace, peace.**

MV 215

Closing Music

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God - Benedetto Marcello