

# Quispamsis United Church

October 3, 2021 - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Presider:** Rev. Richard Bowley

**Music Director:** Stephen Alexander

**Hymn Leader:** Sue King

**Reader:** Karen Young

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**Centering Passage:** Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.'

John 8:58

**Welcome**

**Acknowledgement of Territories**

**Celebrations & Announcements**

## GATHERING TOGETHER

### Lighting the Christ Candle

We gather around this light for much the same reason that Moses approached the burning bush: curiosity, wonder, questions, hope. In this light we may not find answers, but we will find a way, a call, and a partner. Let us follow this light from this moment of worship into a life of service.

### Opening Music

Let Us break Bread Together - arr. Cindy Berry

### 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 gather on Holy Ground.

**God's light burns within us, Christ's light burns before us.**

We gather to worship the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**God's light burns within us, Christ's light burns before us.**

Together we greet the great I AM. Together we listen for Holy whispers.

**God's light burns within us, Christ's light burns before us.**

Let us humble ourselves before this most Holy Presence.

**Let us worship God together!**

## **Opening Prayer**

Holy One, we come before you this day as Moses did: humbly and unsure of what we will find. You often enter our lives in ways we don't expect, sometimes as a burning bush, sometimes in a dream, and sometimes you seem an apparition on the waves. Our response is often to recoil in fear, not because we are afraid of you, but because we don't understand. And yet, each time you come to us, you offer us that assurance "it is I". Help us to discern your Holy Presence, and to boldly walk to you and with you. This we pray in the strong name of Christ our brother. AMEN

**Hymn:** Here, O My Lord VU 459 (vs 1-3)

- 1 Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;  
here would I touch and handle things unseen,  
here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,  
and all my weariness upon you lean.**
  
- 2 Here would I feed upon the bread of God,  
here drink with you the royal wine of heaven;  
here would I lay aside each earthly load,  
here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.**
  
- 3 This is the hour of banquet and of song;  
this is the heavenly table for me spread;  
here let me feast, and feasting, still prolong  
the fellowship of living wine and bread.**

## **Prayer of Confession (Unison):**

**Speak to us, O God, as you spoke to Moses so long ago. You came to him in the midst of an ordinary day and called him to be a part of your extraordinary work. You needed his hands, his feet, and his voice. We don't like to admit it, but we know you want the same from us: for us to walk among the broken, reach out to the lost and the lonely, speak up for the oppressed. Forgive us when we turn from your Holy Presence or ignore your sacred invitation. Forgive us when we say, "we aren't enough," when it is you who sees our true potential. Speak to us, O God, we pray in the name of Christ the Way. AMEN**

## **Assurance of God's Love**

God enters our lives not to frighten us, but to shake us from a waking dream and call us to join in the work of healing in this world. Let us open ourselves and see the one who is before us and know that we are called because we are loved. AMEN

## **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:** Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17

After a long time, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned under their slavery, and cried out. Out of the slavery their cry for help rose up to God. God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God looked upon the Israelites, and God took notice of them.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' He said, 'I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.'

But Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' He said further, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "I AM has sent me to you."' God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you": This is my name for ever, and this my title for all generations.

But Moses said to the LORD, 'O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.' Then the LORD said to him, 'Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak.' But he said, 'O my Lord, please send someone else.' Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, 'What of your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he can speak fluently; even now he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you his heart will be

glad. You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and will teach you what you shall do. He indeed shall speak for you to the people; he shall serve as a mouth for you, and you shall serve as God for him. Take in your hand this staff, with which you shall perform the signs.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**                      God With Us At Table Has Sat Down - Robert J. Stamps

**Message**                      You Are Because I Am

### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn:**                      All Who Hunger                      VU 460 (Verses 1 & 2)

**1**     **All who hunger, gather gladly;  
          holy manna is our bread.  
Come from wilderness and wandering.  
          Here, in truth, we will be fed.  
You that yearn for days of fullness,  
          all around us is our food.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
          Taste and see that God is good.**

**2**     **All who hunger, never strangers;  
          seeker, be a welcome guest.  
Come from restlessness and roaming.  
          Here, in joy, we keep the feast.  
We that once were lost and scattered  
          in communion's love have stood.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
          Taste and see that God is good.**

### **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Words of Instruction & Invitation to the Table**

**Gathering (Responsive):**

May the God of passion, of flame, of fierce love be with us.

**God's fire burns bright within and among us.**

Let us lift our hearts to the God who shaped us.

**We lift them to the Lord who knows us.**

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**

**Hymn:**

All Who Hunger

VU 460 (Verse 3)

**3 All who hunger, sing together;  
Jesus Christ is living bread.  
Come from loneliness and longing.  
Here, in peace, we have been led.  
Blest are those who from this table  
live their lives in gratitude.  
Taste and see the grace eternal.  
Taste and see that God is good.**

**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](http://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):**

**Who we are, what we have, the very potential of what we could be is a result of the love you, O God, the one called, "I AM", have poured out on the world. As you reveal to us who we might be by your power and in your service, we give back to you out of our time, talent, and treasure to do our small part of building your kingdom of love and peace. Bless us, what we give, and what we do as we strive to answer your call. We offer this and all our prayers in the strong name of our brother and Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN**

**Hymn:**

Lead on O Cloud of Presence

VU 421

- 1 Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come.  
In wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.  
Our slavery left behind us,  
new hopes within us grow.  
We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.**
- 2 Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears,  
but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears.  
We are not lost, though wandering,  
for by your light we come,  
and we are still God's people. The journey is our home.**
- 3 Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,  
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.  
We pray our sons and daughters  
may journey to that land  
where justice dwells with mercy, and love is law's demand.**

## SENDING FORTH

### Commissioning (Responsive):

We have been engulfed by the passion of God's deep love.

**We are not burned away, but we are changed.**

We are called to go and share God's grace and love with all.

**We might not feel worthy on our own, but God calls us anyway.**

Because with God before us, behind us, and by our side,

**our fears and doubts have no hold.**

**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.**

**Closing Music**                      Let All Things Now Living - arr. Cindy Berry

***\*\*\*Following worship, there will be a brief meeting where the congregation will vote on becoming a member of Affirm United.***

***All are invited to attend\*\*\****

***The Benediction will follow the congregational meeting.***