

# Quispamsis United Church

September 24, 2023 - 17th Sunday After Pentecost

**Liturgical Colour: Green**

**Guest Speaker: Kelley A. McIntyre (KRPF/SPRK)**

**Director of Music: Stephen Alexander**

**Reader: Sue King**

**Participants: Worship Committee: Ruth Buckley, Doug McDonald, Sue King  
Diane Tonge: Outreach Committee**

**Centering Reflection:** "The ache for home lives in all of us. A safe haven where we can be ourselves without fear of being judged."

– Maya Angelou

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## GATHERING TOGETHER

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Opening Music:** All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name - Oliver Holden

### Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

**Acknowledgment of Territories**

**Celebrations & Announcements**

**Introit:** The Church is Wherever God's People are Praising VU 579  
**The church is wherever God's people are praising,**  
**Singing God's goodness for joy on this day.**  
**The church is wherever disciples of Jesus**  
**remember his story and walk in his way.**

### Call to Worship (Responsive)

Loving God, we seek you today as the one who has no blockade, no detours, no dead-end sign when it comes to love.

**We come, a people yearning for your love to be stronger in us to so we can widen the road and welcome others to join us.**

We come, seeking the Spirit that draws us in together, to commune, to sing, to pray and follow your direction.

**Let us worship God together. Amen**

### **Prayer of Approach and Invocation**

God of our Journey, today as we learn more about our community, we come seeking your inspiration and encouragement. We want to be people who celebrate one another and become lighthouse for those in need. We come to learn from your word and apply it in our community and in your world. We ask this and all things in the name of Christ, the one who is teaching us to love. AMEN

### **Opening Hymn:**

Sing Your Praise to God Eternal VU 244  
**Sing your praise to God eternal,  
sing your praise to God the Son,  
sing your praise to God the Spirit,  
living and forever One.**  
**God has made us, God has blessed us,  
God has called us to be true.  
God rules over all creation,  
daily making all things new.**

**Join the praise of every creature,  
sing with singing birds at dawn;  
when the stars shine forth at nightfall,  
hear their heavenly antiphon.**  
**Praise God for the light of summer,  
autumn glories, winter snows,  
for the coming of the springtime  
and the life of all that grows.**

**Praise God on our days of gladness  
for the summons to rejoice;  
praise God in our times of sadness  
for the calm, consoling voice.**  
**God our Maker, strong and loving,  
Christ our Saviour, Leader, Lord,  
living God, Creator Spirit,  
be your holy name adored!**

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

**Holy God, you alone are just and pure. Sometimes it is so obvious how often you are in our lives. Other times we lose sight of you through discord, hardship, stress, ill health, or helplessness. We forget to pray or ask for prayer for the very things in front of our eyes. Give us the wisdom to seek you when we fall or feel discouraged. Forgive us for our absence Lord. Help us to pray for each other both in our homes, our work and in our community. In all things we thank you that you hear us, Amen.**

*(Silent Contemplation)*

### **Words of Assurance**

### **Time for All Ages**

### **Prayer before Sunday School**

#### **Statement about Scripture Hearing the Word**

Scripture is our song for the journey, the living word,  
passed on from generation to generation,  
to guide and inspire,  
that we might wrestle a holy revelation for our time and place  
from the human experiences  
and cultural assumptions of another era.  
God calls us to be doers of the word and not hearers only.

*Taken from A Song of Faith. 2006 United Church of Canada*

### **Prayer of Illumination (Unison)**

**May the Spirit open our hearts and minds to hear and do,  
the essence of what we hear and discern today,  
In Jesus name we pray Amen.**

### **Readings:**

Psalm 149 Sing to God a New Song

*Refrain:*

*Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

Sing to God a new song;  
**give praise in the assembly of the faithful.**  
Let Israel rejoice in its Maker;

**let the children of Zion exult in their Sovereign!**

Let them praise God's name with dancing;

**let them sing God's praise with tambourine and harp! R**

For you, O God, take delight in your people;

**you crown the humble with victory.**

Let the faithful exult in their glory;

**let them sing for joy as they feast. R**

Let God's praise be on their lips,

**the two-edged sword in their hands,**

to bring the nations to justice,

**and call to account the peoples,**

to bind their rulers with fetters,

**their great ones with bonds of iron,**

to execute on them the sentence decreed.

**This is the glory of all God's saints! R**

#### **Romans 13: 8-14**

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

#### **Matthew 18: 15-20**

'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree

on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message :** Presentation by Kelley McIntyre - Programs of Kennebecasis Regional Police Force

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

**Hymn:**

Through the Heart of Every City  
**Through the heart of every city  
runs the flow of human need.**  
**'Mid this glass and steel are pulsing  
smoldering wick and bruised reed.**  
Has our church a word to offer,  
some hope shining from our creed?  
**Walking through the concrete furrows  
Jesus sows the Word as seed.**

VU 584

Through the passing generations,  
in their spirit, flesh and bone,  
Jesus Christ becomes incarnate:  
holy hearts are living stone  
building here a house of refuge  
as a temple, as a home.  
So within the city's shadow  
Jesus' planted Word has grown.

Through our worship and our witness,  
Jesus, grant that we may still  
hear the heartbeat of compassion  
calling us to do your will.  
You, our vine, and we, your branches,  
deadened not by any chill,  
working for that final city  
where the harvest is fulfilled.

## Offering Our Gifts

**Offertory Dedication Hymn:** For All Your Goodness, God VU 549  
**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.**

## Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Ever-present God, with this offering we present also ourselves:  
all that we have been, all that we are, and our resolve to walk in your way. Accept us and our offering, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

### SENDING FORTH

**Closing Hymn:** Blessed Assurance VU 337  
**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.**

#### *Refrain*

**This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long.**

**Perfect submission, perfect delight!  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending, bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. R**

**Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love. R**

**Commissioning (Responsive):**

Today loving God, we have heard the needs of our community, and your desire for us to reach out and be your presence to all we meet.

**Strengthen us and lead us in your path of love to return to our homes, our work, our volunteering, and all that we attend to.**

We leave with your word in our hearts, and love in our hands to offer all that we can in your name. **Amen**

**Benediction**

**Choral Closing:**

The Church is Wherever

VU 579 (Vs 2)

**The church is wherever God's people are helping,  
caring for neighbours in sickness and need.**

**The church is wherever God's people are sharing  
the words of the Bible in gift and in deed.**

**Closing Music**

Fuga -J.S. Bach