

Quispamsis United Church

April 16th, 2023 - Second Sunday of Easter

Liturgical Colour: White

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Heather Haché

Centering Passage: *I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord. I have not hidden your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.*

-Psalm 40:9-10

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting of the Christ Candle: We light this candle with joy this day, because in this season we celebrate that the Light of Christ has overcome the darkest of darkness. It shines not just in this place, but in our lives, and through each one of us. May this light - within us and before us - guide us in our worship and in our lives.

Opening Music When Morning Gilds the Skies - Joseph Barnby

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Introit:

This is the Day

MV 122 (x2)

This is the day that God has made, we will rejoice and be glad!

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Singing hallelu, Singing hallelu, Singing hallelu,

We will rejoice and be glad!

Singing hallelu, Singing hallelu, Singing hallelu,

We will rejoice and be glad!

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 Christ's kingdom there is a great communion where seekers and believers, wonderers and wanderers, people of certainty and people of uncertainty

Seek to follow Christ's way.

In Christ's kingdom there is a great communion, where Marthas and Marys, Peters and Thomases, disciples of every kind

Grow in Christ's way.

In Christ's kingdom there is a great communion. Stop and take notice of the people gathered today: the faces, the possibilities, the questions and answers, the hopes and dreams and doubts.

All Worshiping God, which is Christ's way

Prayer of Approach:

Gracious and loving God, we come before you today, humbled that you, through Christ, would invite us to be part of your great work. As we gather together, we remember his words, when he commanded his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We recognize that this task is not ours alone, but that we are called to partner with you in this great work. May your Holy Spirit guide us every step of the way, through worship and service, filling us with your wisdom and your power, and leading us to those who are lost and in need of your grace. We ask all of this in the name of the risen Christ. AMEN

Hymn:

Crown Him With Many Crowns
**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.**

VU 211

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

We confess, O God, that too often we hesitate to go into the world and share the invitation to your grace. Our fears and doubts distract us from moving forward in your name. We worry about how we will look or sound to a world that doesn't know you. Yet your call is so clear, go forth and share the grace, love, and joy that we have found through Christ. Give us courage and the boldness to not hide our relationship with you, but glorify your name in our words and actions. AMEN.

Assurance of God's Love

Even when we are anxious to answer the call, Christ still calls to us. Even when we feel less than worthy, God's love is still poured out on us. Even when we aren't sure which way to go, the Holy Spirit reaches through us and offers us a way. Thanks be to God!

Time for All Ages

Prayer of Illumination (Unison):

Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the light of eternity. Kindle our hearts with the presence of your Spirit, that we may hear your words of comfort and challenge in the reading of the scriptures, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Message A Commissioned People

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

Lord of the Dance

VU 352

**I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.**

Refrain:

**Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

**I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on. R**

**I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and they left me there on a cross to die. R**

**I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. R**

**They cut me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he. R**

Moment for Community: Affordable Living - Barb McBean (Outreach)

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: In Gratitude and Humble Trust VU 544

**In gratitude and humble Trust we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

We come before you today with grateful hearts, knowing that all we have comes from you. We dedicate these gifts to your service, asking that they be used to further your kingdom building here in this place. May your Holy Spirit continue to guide us in our giving, as we seek to follow your call to love and serve others. Bless us. Bless these gifts. This we pray in the name of Christ who calls to us still. AMEN

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Hymn:

Go to the World

VU 420

**Go to the world! Go into all the earth;
Go preach the cross where Christ renew's life's worth,
Baptizing as the sign of our rebirth. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**Go to the world! Go into every place;
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace;
Go seek God's presence in each time and space. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray;
The nights of tears give way to joyful day.
As servant Church, you follow Christ's own way. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
For I am with you till the age shall end,
When all the hosts of glory cry 'Amen!' Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

We have glorified God as we worshiped.

In our midst this day, there has been good news proclaimed

Now we are commissioned to be part of the building of the kingdom

To take our place in the great communion in Christ.

We now leave this sanctuary of worship and renewal

With the faith that breaks open tombs, to share the Joy, love and hope found in Christ.

Christ's way has led us here, Christ now leads us out into the world.

And we will follow in faith!

Benediction

Go now with the love of God in your hearts, the Peace of Christ in your hands, and with the power of the Holy Spirit at your backs to share the great news you've heard this day. AMEN

Choral Closing:

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

VU 179 (vs 2)

Refrain:

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, give praise to God's Name.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:

Jesus has died and is risen. R

Closing Music

Dona Nobis - Mozart