

# Quispamsis United Church

April 30th, 2023 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

**Liturgical Colour:** White

**Presider:** Rev. Richard Bowley

**Director of Music:** Stephen Alexander

**Reader:** Leslie Reid

**Centering Passage:** *'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'*

-Matthew 10:40-42

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## 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** Psalm 23 "Brother James Air" - Gordon Young

**Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle**

**Acknowledgement of Territories**

**Dedication of Service**

**Celebrations & Announcements**

**Introit:**

This is the Day

MV 122 (X2)

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

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

**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):**

Come, you who have been set apart, chosen as the hands and feet of God.

**We come at the Spirit's call.**

Come, you who have been gifted, blessed as partners in the building of the kingdom.

**We come to rediscover the Word.**

Come, you who have found the light within and want to let it shine in your life.

**We come to encounter the Christ that we might share him with others.**

Let us join our hearts and minds in worship

**of the one who calls us, gives us strength, and shows us the way.**

**Prayer of Approach:**

Transforming God, we come to you from a world where people strive to set themselves above others. Power and prestige seem to drive the world, and often we become confused. We know that without your hands to shape us, we would not be, that without your holy breath to give us life, we could not live. Reorient us in this time of worship that when we go from this place, our plans have been reshaped to your will, our voices shouting praises to you as we share the good news. We offer this and all our prayers in the strong name of our brother and saviour, Jesus Christ. AMEN

**Hymn:**

Worship the Lord

VU 401

**Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)  
worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,  
raising our hands (raising our hands)  
in devotion to God who is one!**

**Raising our hands as a sign of rejoicing,  
and with our lips ours togetherness voicing,  
giving ourselves to a life of creativeness,  
worship and work must be one!**

**Praying and training that we be a blessing,  
and by our workmanship daily confessing:  
we are committed to serving humanity,  
worship and work must be one!**

**Called to be partners with God in creation,  
honouring Christ as the Lord of the nation,  
we must be ready for risk and for sacrifice,  
worship and work must be one!**

**Bringing the bread and the wine to the table,  
asking that we may be led and enabled,  
truly united to build new communities,  
worship and work must be one!**

**Now in response to the life you are giving,  
help us, O Father, to offer our living,  
seeking a just and a healing society,  
worship and work must be one! R**

### **LISTENING FOR TRUTH**

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

**Forgive us, O God, for all the ways that we try to make your message to us fit into the worldview that we hold instead of letting your word be the lens through which we see everything. Forgive us when we are gifted for service, yet fail to respond to your call and commissioning to spread your love. Forgive us when we claim a personal relationship with you but fail to let that relationship impact our lives even a little. Merciful God, encourage us, inspire us, guide us we pray as we strive to be your disciples and live into the call you have given us. Hear us, O Christ, as we pray. AMEN**

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

**God's word often confronts us, our choices, and our preferences. But in all things, it calls us to wholeness. By God's love, we find new life. By Christ's call, we find new purpose. By the Holy Spirit's promptings, we find a new 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: Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18**

**Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.**

In Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet and had never walked, for he had been crippled from birth. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. And Paul, looking at him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said in a loud voice, 'Stand upright on your feet.' And the man sprang up and began to walk. When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, 'The gods have come down to us in human form!' Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates; he and the crowds wanted to offer sacrifice. When the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting, 'Friends, why are you doing this? We are mortals just like you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. In past generations he allowed all the nations to follow their own ways; yet he has not left himself without a witness in doing good—giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, and filling you with food and your hearts with joy.' Even with these words, they scarcely restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gift of Music**      Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord! (Senior Choir)

**Message**            More than a History Lesson

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

**Hymn:**

God of the Bible

MV 28 (VS 1, 2, & 4)

**God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,  
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,  
you are our centre, daylight or darkness,  
freedom or prison, you are our home.**

**Refrain:**

**Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.  
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.**

**God in our struggles, God in our hunger,  
suffering with us, taking our part,  
still you empower us, mothering Spirit,  
feeding, sustaining, from your own heart. R**

**Hope we must carry, shining and certain,  
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,  
bonding us gladly, one to the other,  
till our world changes, facing the Cross. R**

### **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](mailto: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/ 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 bring all that we are before you, O God, because all that we are and all that we have comes from you. Receive our gifts of time, talent, and treasure with our thanks. Bless us and the gifts we bring as we strive to share the good news of your great love with those around us. AMEN**

### **Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer**

Hymn:

God of Grace and God of Glory  
God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your power;  
now fulfil your church's story;  
bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour.

VU 686

Lo, the hosts of evil round us  
scorn your Christ, assail your ways;  
fears and doubts too long have bound us;  
free our hearts to work and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness,  
bend our pride to your control;  
shame our wanton selfish gladness,  
rich in goods and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places;  
gird our lives that they may be  
armoured with all Christ-like graces,  
pledged to set all captives free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
that we fail not them nor thee.

### SENDING FORTH

#### Commissioning (Responsive):

Go from this place eager to walk the path of Christ, doing the work that God is doing in the world.

**We leave this place, led by the Holy Spirit.**

Go from this place to heal, to hold close, to lift up a world that needs your gifts.

**We leave this place, inspired by the Word.**

Go from this place and proclaim the Good News of Christ risen, creation renewed, hope reborn.

**We leave this place, hand in hand with the Holy One, to share the story of our 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**

Gigue - Gordon Young