

Quispamsis United Church

December 12th, 2021 - Third Sunday in Advent

Joy Sunday

Liturgical Colour: Blue/Purple

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Musician: Stephen Alexander

Hymn Leader: Ruth Buckley

Reader: Sherry Kiervin

Centering Passage: For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Isaiah 55:12

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

GATHERING TOGETHER

Opening Music

Go Tell It on the Mountain - arr. Lloyd Larson

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.

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy (Responsive):

We started in hope

(Light purple candle)

We paused for peace

(light purple candle)

Today we find ourselves now so filled with joy that we want to leap

Because God is near, we are animated. Feeling God's presence, we seek our maker's face.

Listening closely for God's word, we learn that we are not the only ones in creation who cry out with joy

The mountains sing God's praises, the trees clap in eagerness to worship God.

Our hearts swell with even more with the joy of the Lord

And so, we light this candle for Joy, overflowing with anticipation as we move closer to the dawn.

(light the pink candle)

**A candle is burning, a candle of JOY,
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow
As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow**

Call to Worship (Responsive):

We come today to continue on the road.

It is a journey of faith, of preparation, of Joy.

We enter into this time to be transformed.

We enter into this time to ready our hearts.

Let us open ourselves to a Joy that comes with Christ breaking into our lives.

Let us worship our God together.

Prayer of the Day

Transforming God, you restore us. When we are lost, you find us. When we are broken, you hold each piece close and mend us with your love. When we are far off, you run to us and welcome us home. Help us, in the midst of this worship, to know the joy of our relationship with you. Remind us - in every moment and with every breath - that who we are is a gift to this world, that we are precious to you. Remind us that a part of your divine spark shines in us. Forgive us those times where we have looked in the mirror and not recognized you looking back. Forgive us when we have not treated our kindred in this world like beloved companions. We seek your grace even as we listen for your call. Hear us this day, O God, as we pray in the name of your son and our saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Anthem

Carol for Joy

Theme Conversation

Christmas Pageant Part I: Mary and Joseph

Hymn: Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy

VU 73 (vs 1 & refrain)

**1 The virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
and they say that his name is Jesus.**

**He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.**

**He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.**

Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!

**He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.**

Christmas Pageant Part II: The Animals

Hymn: Jesus, Our Brother

VU 56

- 1 Jesus, our brother, kind and good,
was humbly born in a stable rude,
and the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus, our brother, kind and good.**

- 2 'I,' said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
'I carried the mother uphill and down,
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town;
I,' said the donkey, shaggy and brown.**

- 3 'I,' said the cow, all white and red,
'I gave him my manger for his bed,
I gave him hay to pillow his head;
I,' said the cow, all white and red.**

- 4 'I,' said the sheep with curly horn,
'I gave him my wool for his blanket warm,
he wore my coat on Christmas morn;
I,' said the sheep, with curly horn.**

- 5 'I,' said the dove, from the rafters high,
'I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry,
we cooed him to sleep, my mate and I;
I,' said the dove, from the rafters high.**

- 6 Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
in the stable dark were glad to tell
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.**

Christmas Pageant Part III: The Angels

Hymn: Angels we Have Heard On High

VU 38 (vs 1, 3, & 4)

- 1 Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. R

4 See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise. R

Christmas Pageant Part IV: Shepherd

Hymn: While Shepherds watched their flocks

VU 75 (vs 1-4 & 6)

1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

2 'Fear not,' said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind.

3 'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

4 'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
and in a manger laid.'

6 'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace!
Good will to all from highest heaven
begin, and never cease.'

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Christmas Pageant Part V: Wise Ones and Star

Hymn: We Three Kings

**We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts, we traverse afar
Field and fountain,
moor and mountain
Following yonder star**

*O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy Perfect Light.*

**Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and Sacrifice
Alleluia, Alleluia
Earth to heav'n replies. 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. 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/ 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: In the bleak midwinter

VU 55 (vs 4)

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him -- give my heart.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

This day we give not only of our treasures but our very selves for the building of your kingdom. We do this joyfully knowing that you bless all that we give, all that we are. We thank you for the opportunity to serve you in our lives and our neighbours throughout creation. We thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ. We offer this and all our prayers his strong name. AMEN

Prayers for Ourselves and Others & Lord's Prayer

Christmas Pageant Part VI: Conclusion

Hymn: Go Tell It on The Mountain

VU 43

Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.**

**1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. R**

**2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth! R**

**3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. R**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

Go now and bring the Joy that comes with Christ to a world seeking relief.

With the Word we have been given we will go. We will go with dancing and with song.

Be a beacon of Joy in your life and the lives around you.

With the Joy that Christ brings out in us, we will kindle the same light in others.

Benediction

So, go with the love of God in your hearts, the way of Christ at your feet and the breath of the Holy Spirit, to a world that is craving a miracle.

Choral Closing:

Hope is a Star

VU 7

**Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Savior is born.**

**When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

Closing Music

Postlude on "Joy to the World" - Hugo Gehrke