

Quispamsis United Church

December 25th, 2022 - Christmas Day Service

Carols and Prayers

Liturgical Colour: White/Gold

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Musicians: Sue King & Wendy Stewart

Centering Passage: *O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!*

-Psalm 95:6-7

GATHERING TOGETHER

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Opening Music

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):

What a journey it has been!

We started seeking the Christ, but look what we found on the way.

We began with Hope...

Hope that on this journey we would not be alone, supported by the Holy, supported by one another.

We discovered Peace...

A Peace unlike anything we have experienced; a peace flowing from the divine, binding is together

We were filled with Joy...

Joy that comes from the depths of our souls because God chose to live and walk among us.

And on the road to Christ we found Love...

God's love for us, our love for one another, love for creation and all that moves within it.

These discoveries were gifts for the Christ-child,

Born anew in us each and every day. He is a light that shines from within to show us the way.

Let us celebrate all that we have found on this Holy journey.

Prayer of Hope:

God of Light and Life, what you have to offer is like the wings of a butterfly or a falling snowflake: delicate and precious. Help up to be gentle bearers of the hope of this season that, as we share it, darkness is dispelled, despair is chased away, and new life in you is celebrated. Encourage us as we kindle the sparks of hope in our world into a raging flame of faith. We ask this in the name of the one who is our hope. Jesus Christ. AMEN

Time for Sharing: Favourite Moment from the Season of Advent

Hymn:

O Come All Ye Faithful VU 60 (vs 1, 3, 5)
**O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels:**

[Refrain:]

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest: R**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: R**

Prayer of Peace:

We pray, O Prince of Peace, for a world that truly lives out your kingdom. In the birth of a single child, you offer us a glimpse of the trust you have in your people. The trust to live out the dream you have for this world where all people join hands in love, not hate, peace and not war. Guide our hands and feet to make that dream a reality. AMEN.

Time for Sharing: Something You Learned About Yourself Or Your Faith

Hymn: Away in A Manger VU 69

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

Reading: Luke 2:8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gift of Music

Prayer of Joy (Responsive):

For the mothers who are ready to tear tyrants from their thrones, so that their children may live and love;

For fathers that stand beside their children to offer their strength and support, Alleluia God!

For children discovering the world anew each day,

For the way the world is made new to us in unexpected ways.

May the Joy that we feel in your presence, O God, fill us with life abundant,

So that, when the time is right, that Joy can be birthed, new, into your Creation.

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Alleluia! AMEN

Time for Sharing: Your Favourite Part of Christmas Morning (so far)

Hymn:

Angels from the Realms of Glory
**Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.**

VU 36 (vs 1-3)

Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.

Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born King.

Prayer of Love:

God of Limitless Love, who we are, is bound up so much in the deep love that you have for creation. Out of love, you spoke creation into being. Out of love, you breathed life into your people. Out of love, you sent prophets to share your word. Out of love, you entered the world in the form of Jesus Christ so that you might embrace us yourself. We give thanks for this love and for the way it shapes our lives. May we reflect that love on the world. We offer this prayer with deep gratitude in the name of Christ our brother. AMEN

Time for Sharing: In What Ways Have People Been Christ For you?

Hymn: In The Bleak Midwinter VU 55 (vs 1, 2, 4)

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.**

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

Prayers of the People & Prayer of Christ

Time for Sharing: How Are You Going To Share Christ In The Year Ahead?

Hymn: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice VU 35

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say:
News! News!
Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Joy! Joy!**

**Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
and we are blest for evermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!**

SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Go now with the Hope God gives, that breathes life into tomorrow.
Go with the Peace God gives, and bring justice to the world.
Go with the Joy God gives, and make a happy Hallelujah!
Go with the Love God gives, and share it with creation.
Go in Christ, and may Christ go with you! AMEN

Closing Music