

Quispamsis United Church

December 26th, 2021 - First Sunday of Christmas

Liturgical Colour: White

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Music Provided by: QUC Choir

Centering Passage: *To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy upon us.*

Psalm 130:5-6

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

A JOURNEY JUST BEGUN

Opening Music O Come All Ye Faithful VU 60

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.

God of God,
light of light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb,
very God, begotten, not created: [Refrain]

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

**See, how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; [Refrain]**

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

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.

(light Christ Candle)

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

Hymn: The First Noel

VU 91

**The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

[Refrain:]

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]**

**And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]**

**This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]**

**Then entered in those wise men three
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. [Refrain]**

**Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought. [Refrain]**

HOPE

Prayer of Hope

Giver of Hope, what you have to offer is like the wings of a butterfly or a falling snowflake: delicate and precious. Help us to be gentle bearers of the hope of this season that, as we share it, darkness is dispelled, despair chased away, and new life in you celebrated. We ask this in the name of the one who is our hope. Jesus Christ. AMEN

Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Light a Candle for Hope (Responsive):

You are the hope of the world, God.

You are the guiding light in our lives.

Open our eyes to your world.

Open our hearts to your presence.

Open our lives to your hope

that we might be the eyes, hearts, and handed off hope everywhere we go.

(Hope Candle is lit)

PEACE

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 in love, not hate, peace and not war. Guide our hands and feet to make that dream a reality. AMEN.

Reading: John 14:25-27

'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Hymn: It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

VU 44

**It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold,
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.**

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the love song which they bring.
O hush the noise and cease your strife,
and hear the angels sing.**

**For, lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.**

Lighting a Candle for Peace (Responsive):

You, O Christ, are the peace that we long for.

Peace,

Peace in our hearts.

Peace in our lives

Peace in our families.

Peace in the world.

(Peace Candle is lit)

JOY

Anthem

Cantata

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

Prayer for Joy

In Joy, we come before you again, O God of the dance that is creation, and like Mary joyfully offer ourselves to bear your light in the world. Born to us each year is a reminder of not only our hope for the future, of a world living in peace, but also a call to not live in fear, to celebrate both the life we are given in creation and the new life afforded by the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We rejoice this day as we celebrate the coming of your son in our lives. AMEN.

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

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.**

Light a Candle for 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!

May the Joy that we feel in your presence 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

(Joy Candle is lit)

LOVE

Prayer for Love & Lord's Prayer

Lord of delight and surprises, you come to us each day with opportunity, love, support. You pour your blessings on us, reminding us of your compassionate presence with us. Help us to be people of loving service. Help us to see the ways in which you enter our lives and enable us to serve you by serving your people. As we have come to you this day, bringing our concerns for healing and hope, remind us that you are with us all and that your healing mercies are given. Give us the courage to be faithful stewards of your creation and bring us together with one another in celebration and service. (...) Lift us up, bring us forward, give us peace. For we ask this in Jesus' Name who taught us to pray saying:

Responsive Reading: Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good;

his steadfast love endures for ever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

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!**

Light a Candle for Love (Responsive):

This is the love that we are searching for:

like a light that no darkness can quench,
like a call to follow that rises above the din,
like an embrace when we are lonely to remind us we are not - never - alone.

(Love Candle is lit)

Hymn: Silent Night VU 67

**Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

A JOURNEY JUST BEGUN

Commissioning (Responsive):

Loaded up with gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, we continue our journey of faith with Christ to share these gifts with the world.

Guide us, O God, on all our roads so that whether they are winding or straight, broken or smooth, each and every one leads us right into your waiting arms.

Benediction

Let's go celebrate with the love of God in your hearts, the way of Christ at your feet and the breath of the Holy Spirit. Share what you have heard!

Choral Closing: Joy To The World VU 59

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**