

# Quispamsis United Church

December 31, 2023 – *New Year's Eve Morning*

*Presiders: Ruth Buckley & Doug McDonald*

*Music: Wendy Stewart and Sue King*

*Reader: Ethan Alward*

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## GATHERING TOGETHER

**Opening Music**    O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Instrumental)

**Welcome**

**Acknowledgement of Territories**

**Retrospective Slide Show (Yes! We were busy!)**

**Call to Worship (Responsive):**

God beyond time and space, take this time of worship and bless it.

**May the grace experienced as we gather today be multiplied to overflowing,  
So that your whole world sees the Light of Your Love.**

God of new surprise, take each of us here and bless us.

**Create in us clean hearts, refresh our spirits, and transform our whole beings,  
Until we reflect Your Love and compassion through and through.**

**In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us.**

**Opening Hymn:**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lowly exile here  
until the Son of God appear.**

VU 1

***Refrain***

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who orders all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and teach us in her ways to go. R**

**O come, O come, great God of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. R**

**O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,  
from every foe deliver them  
that trust your mighty power to save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave. R**

**O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. R**

**O come, O Dayspring, from on high,  
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight. R**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
O bid our sad divisions cease,  
and be for us the Prince of Peace. R**

**TIME FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART: Gifts and Angels**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

#### **Revelation 21: 3**

And I heard a great voice out of the heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

**Isaiah 7: 14 and 6 – 7**

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold a virgin shall conceive a son and shall call his name Immanuel.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a child is given, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God.

**Matthew 1:22-23**

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoke of the Lord by the prophet saying.

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel, which being interpreted is God with us.

**HYMN:****O Ancient Love****VU 17**

O ancient love, processing through the ages  
O hidden love, revealed in human form  
O promised love, the dream of seers and sages  
O living Love, within our hearts be borne  
O living Love within our hearts be borne

O homeless love, that dwells among the stranger  
O lowly love, that knows the mighty's scorn  
O hungry love, that lays within a manger  
O living love, within our hearts be borne  
O living love, within our hearts be borne

O gentle love, caressing those in sorrow  
O tender love, that comforts those forlorn  
O hopeful love that promises tomorrow  
O living love, within our hearts be borne  
O living love, within our hearts be borne

O suffering love, that bears our human weakness  
O boundless love, that rises with the morn  
O mighty love, concealed in infant meekness  
O living love, within our hearts be borne  
O living love, within our hearts be borne

**TIME OF REFLECTIONS:** God With Us

**HYMN**

Joy To The World

VU 59 (VS 1 &amp; 4)

**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****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.****OFFERING and DEDICATION:** Gifts of time, talent and treasure**OFFERTORY 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 can I give Him?  
Give Him my heart****PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O come, o come, Emmanuel

Come to our world with its cruelty and hatred;

Its division and its distrust;

Its greed and its selfishness.

Come with Your gentleness, to ease the pain of hostility.

Come with Your forgiveness, to dispel dissension and restore harmony.

Come with Your humility,

To cure the errors of pride and self-centeredness.

Come with Your peace to transform the world into Your Kingdom.

O come, O come, you Lord of might!

Come to those who act violently and quell their anger.

Come to those who oppress the weak, and establish kindness.

Come to those who revel in their powerfulness

and remind them of the power of love

Come with Your grace to establish Your Kingdom in the hearts of all.

O come , you Rod of Jesse!  
Come to our nation and bless us with peace and prosperity.  
Come to the lost and the least and the lonely in our land  
And let them know they are valued and loved by You.  
Come to those who have lost any sense of their worth  
And surround them with Your love.  
Come to the homeless, the forsaken,  
The poor in spirit and the disturbed in mind  
bringing Your peace.

O come, Key of David!  
Come to the Church and show it how to serve you as you wish to be served.  
Come to local congregations and enable them to reach out to the broader community with the  
hope they need.  
Come to the national church and bind it in unity to You, its highest authority.  
Come and make Your Gospel a living reality here, in our time and place.

O come, you Dayspring!  
Come to the sick and the suffering with the balm of Your healing.  
Come to the guilty and grieving with the offer of Your forgiveness and hope.  
Come to the distressed and dying with the promise of Your peace.  
Come to all who are in need,  
For You are sufficient for every need.

And now God, hear us as we share with You in a moment of silence  
the personal and private prayers of our hearts,  
for ourselves and those known to us.....

*Silence*

Be with each one of us and help us to trust Your ever present, unwavering Love. We humbly  
thank You.  
Be with this community of faith as we discern together our future and continue our work and  
worship in Your name.  
Be with us in this troubled and fragile world knowing that You continue to inspire us to be the  
Light.  
And be with us now as we pray the prayer Jesus, Emmanuel, taught us saying.....  
***Loving God, who is in heaven***  
***Hallowed be your name.***

*Your Kingdom come, Your will be done  
On Earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the Kingdom,  
The power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

**CLOSING HYMN**

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus  
**Come thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free  
From our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee**

VU 2

**Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art  
Dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart**

**Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king  
Born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring**

**By thine own eternal Spirit rule  
in all our hearts alone  
By thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne**

**COMMISSIONING (Responsive)**

Let us go from here, into this new year, with deep trust in God's sending,  
**that we may follow God's heart and not our own.**

Let us go forth bearing the name of Christ, Emmanuel,  
**that we become as Christ to those we meet.**

Let us go from here in the courage and strength of the Spirit,  
**that we may turn from fear and embrace the Spirit of Love.**

**BLESSING**

**And now, as we go, know that God *is* with us, in our homes, at our work and play, even while waiting in line.....May we see the face of Christ and may God's extravagant love shine through. Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

Auld Lang Syne (Instrumental)