

# Quispamsis United Church

December 5th, 2021 - Second Sunday in Advent

Peace Sunday

**Liturgical Colour:** Blue/Purple

**Presider:** Rev. Richard Bowley

**Musician:** Stephen Alexander

**Hymn Leaders:** Marilyn Robertson, Ashley Orchard & Heather Alward

**Reader:** Heather Alward

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**Centering Passage:** *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.*

John 14:27

**Welcome**

**Acknowledgement of Territories**

**Celebrations & Announcements**

## GATHERING TOGETHER

**Opening Music**

Prepare Thyself, Zion - J.S. Bach

**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 with hope.

*(light Hope candle)*

We pause on our journey for peace, but not one that we can find in rest or in silence.

**Nor any kind of peace that the world can give.**

But a peace that comes from Holy breath

**From Holy Spirit.**

We are as dry bones awaiting prophecy.

**We are a womb awaiting a miracle.**

This is the peace we seek.

**And so we light this candle for Peace, waiting for Christ to be born anew in us.**

*(light Peace candle)*

**A candle is burning, a candle of PEACE,  
A candle to signal that conflict must cease  
For Jesus is coming to show us the way  
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay**

**Call to Worship (Responsive):**

The hand of the Lord has brought us to this place.

**To hear the word and find strength. To join in song and breathe in the Spirit. To come together in prayer and find the peace that only comes from the Most High.**

We come seeking the prophecy that will unify us as one body.

**A prophecy that brings a new way to a people who have become lost and lonely, a new path from the valley of death to the dawn of new life.**

Let us open ourselves to what the Holy Spirit is saying.

**Let us worship who does and calls us to impossible things.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Creative God, in the beginning, you breathed life into a lump of clay and we, your children, began to walk this world. Throughout history you sent your prophets to breathe life anew into a people who have grown weary and worn. And through Mary you sent the one who would bring us life everlasting. Put your hand upon us, O Lord, and guide us to where you would have us go. Forgive us those times where we have followed you faithfully in one moment, but have shied away, breathless, at the sight of the pain and brokenness that you have called us to heal. Remind us that you are with us in those valleys of darkness just as much as you are in the brightest of days. In the name of Christ, the Prince of Peace, we offer this and all our prayers. AMEN

**Hymn:**

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

VU 2

- 1     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.**
  
- 2     Israel's strength and consolation,  
      hope of all the earth thou art,  
      dear desire of every nation,  
      joy of every longing heart.**
  
- 3     Born thy people to deliver;  
      born a child and yet a king;  
      born to reign in us for ever;  
      now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**4 By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

**Theme Conversation**

Peace in our Time

### **LISTENING FOR TRUTH**

**Prayer of Illumination (Unison):**

**Speak to us, O God. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. AMEN**

**Scripture Reading:** Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So, I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Herein is Wisdom.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem:** Carol for Peace

**Message** Breath of the Spirit

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

**Reaffirmation of Faith (Unison):**

**We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us. We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn:** Spirit God, Be our Breath MV 150

**Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.  
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.  
Our world seems inward, defensive, withdrawn...  
Spirit God, be our song.**

**Patient God: soothe our pride, calm our fear.  
Comfort us. When we know you are near  
we brow more certain, our vision is clear.  
Patient God, calm our fear.**

**Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer.  
Reaching out, joining hands as we share,  
we seek your guidance through friendship and care.  
Loving God, be our prayer.**

**Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.  
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.  
Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new dawn...  
Spirit God, be our song.**

### **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](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/ 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):**

**We are blessed over and over again with your continued working in and through us. Bless is again and these offerings given here today. Breathe again into us and show us that life knows no end, that your kingdom is coming, that we are your hands and feet in this world. AMEN**

### **Prayers for Ourselves and Others & Lord's Prayer**

Hymn:

Hark the Glad Sound

VU 29

- 1 **Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long:  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.**
  
- 2 **He comes, the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.**
  
- 3 **He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to bless the humble poor.**
  
- 4 **Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.**

## SENDING FORTH

### Commissioning (Responsive):

He is coming.

**The Holy Spirit moves in us, as it moved in the bones, as it moved in Mary. It has been moving since before we could have noticed. It is a part of us.**

It is in our heart. It is in our bones.

**Like Israel, we carry the promise of new life. Like Mary, we carry the promise of a new way.**

### Benediction

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

**Choral Closing:** Hope is a Star VU 7 (vs 2)

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth.**

**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** Fugue in G major - Dietrich Buxtehude