

# Quispamsis United Church

*Lent: The Stones we Carry*

*February 28th, 2021 – Second Sunday of Lent*

*Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley*

*Hymn Leaders: Marilyn Robertson, Heather Alward, Ashlee Orchard*

*Reader: Diane Tonge*

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**Centering Passage:** *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.' For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, 'Peace be within you.' For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.*

*Psalm 122:6-9*

**Welcome**

**Acknowledgement of Territories**

**Celebrations & Announcements**

## GATHERING TOGETHER

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

Christ's light shines on us, on what we do. We cannot hide who we are from God any more than we can hide from ourselves. This light reveals us, convicts us, forgives us, and guides us on. Let us follow this light to the end and beyond. AMEN

**Prelude** Trumpet Voluntary - William Goodwin

**Greeting (Responsive):**

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):**

I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'

**Here in this place, in this time, I find a refuge. I find shelter.**

May there be peace in this time.

**We long for peace in our lives, peace in our souls.**

For the sake of the Lord, we come seeking the word and wisdom.

**Let us worship God together!**

*-adapted from Psalm 122*

**Opening Prayer**

Convicting Christ, you stand in the midst of Holy Scripture, in the midst of our lives, reminding us that we are broken, but also that we are forgiven. Guide us in this time through your word and your life as we seek wholeness as individuals, as your church, and as creation. Enable us to acknowledge our brokenness and to embrace your grace freely given. We offer this and all our prayers in your name, O Christ, you who are our brother and saviour. AMEN

Hymn: Spirit, Open My Heart

MV 79

Refrain:

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.**

**God replace my stony heart with a heart that's pure and tender.  
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. R**

**Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory. R**

**May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister brother.  
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another. R**

### Theme Conversation

#### Stone Liturgy (Responsive):

God, Help us to reach for your Son's light and love

**when we are tempted to wrap ourselves in shadows and hide.**

Give us the forethought to understand that when we strive to hide who we are or what we have done, we only succeed in damaging our relationship with you.

**Give us the courage to confess the personal acts of waywardness that unjustly separate us from each other and from you...**

*(silent reflection)*

Forgive us for the times where we have lied to you, to ourselves, to the world, and lead us toward abundant life.

**When we are tempted by the obscuring veil of shadows, may we search for and cling to your light and be uplifted by your ever-present grace. Amen.**

#### Today's Scripture: Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why

should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."

This is the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**Praise be to you, O Christ.**

**Sung Response:** VU 956

**Your word is a lamp to my feet,  
and a light unto my path.**

**Message** Restless Spirit, Relentless Christ

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

**Hymn:** Spirit of Gentleness (vs 1, 2, & 4) VU 375

**Spirit, spirit of gentleness.  
Blow through the wilderness, calling and free.  
Spirit, spirit of restlessness. Stir me from placidness.  
Wind, wind on the sea.**

**You moved on the waters, You called to the deep,  
Then You coaxed up the mountains from the valley of sleep,  
And over the eons You called to each thing,  
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."**

**You swept through the dessert, You stung with the sand,  
And You goaded your people With a law and a land,  
And when they were blinded With their idols and lies,  
Then You spoke through Your prophets To open their eyes.**

**You call from tomorrow, You break ancient schemes,  
From the bondage of sorrow The captives dream dreams;  
Our women see visions, Our men clear their eyes.  
With bold new decisions Your people arise.**

**Minutes for Mission**

Aria's Story: A Fresh Start

<https://youtu.be/aDnW2zl2MPw>

**How Can I Give?**

### **HOW CAN I GIVE TO MY CHURCH WHEN THE CHURCH IS CLOSED?**

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/ mail or deliver your giving's to our treasurer, Brion Crossman, 22 Country Crescent, Quispamsis, E2E 1T2

**Offertory Dedication Hymn:** In Gratitude and Humble Trust VU 544

**In gratitude and humble Trust we bring our best today  
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.  
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son,  
teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison):**

**We come to your house, O Lord, not with offerings of grain, but with our very selves. We offer the treasures born from our labours, our talents: fruit born of the Spirit, and our time, a gift first given by you, O God. Bless all that we are and all that we give as we strive to build your kingdom of love and peace. We offer this prayer in the name of Christ, our Teacher and our Saviour. AMEN**

**Prayers four Ourselves and Others & Lord's Prayer**

## SENDING FORTH

**Hymn:** I the Lord of Sea and Sky VU 509

**I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin, My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?**

**Refrain:**

**Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord.  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My word to them, Whom shall I send? R**

**I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them, My hand will save  
Finest bread I will provide, Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give My life to them, Whom shall I send? R**

**Commissioning (Responsive):**

In God's house, we find joy and renewal!

**Now we go to God's world to offer support and care.**

From Christ we have received a peace unlike any other.

**Now we go to share who we are and all that God has given us with the world.**

In the word we have found hope. In the Spirit we have found wisdom.

**Now we go from worship to service.**

**Benediction**

Go now with the love of God in your hearts, the peace of Christ in your hands, and with the power of the Holy Spirit at your backs to share the Good News you have heard this day.

**Choral Closing:** We Shall Go Out With Hope of Resurrection Verse 1 VU 586

**We shall go out with hope of resurrection;  
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;  
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;  
tales of a love that will not let us go.  
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;  
we'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed;  
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
within the vision of new life who sets us free.**

**Postlude**

Marcia Religiosa - Gluck