

# Quispamsis United Church

January 10th, 2021 – 1st Sunday after Epiphany

Baptism of Christ

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Reader: Sue King

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**Centering Passage:** *O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt-offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

-Psalm 51:15-17

**Welcome**

**Acknowledgement of Territories**

**Announcements**

## GATHERING TOGETHER

### Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this candle as a reminder that the Christ light burns within us. It renews us, calls us on, and shows us the way. Let us follow it through worship and beyond.

### Prelude

Pastorale on "Forest Green" - Richard Purvis

### 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):

We come to this time, broken.

**We long for God's mending love to enfold us.**

We come to this space, lost.

**We long for Christ to call to us as he did and does others.**

We come with a yearning.

**We long to be filled to bursting by the Holy Spirit, moving and living by Holy Wisdom.**

Let us bring before God all in us that is broken, lost, and yearning.

**Let us worship together, seeking to be made new in the light of Christ and the living waters.**

### Prayer of the Day

Help us, O God, to understand, to come to know that you do not revel in perfection, that you do not desire us to come to you whole and complete. Remind us that this place, this holy time of worship is for the broken in heart, and spirit; that the mending and yearning for wholeness is a blessed offering. Guide us through this time of worship as we seek wholeness in you, as we let the light of Christ shine in and through us, as we follow the whispers of the Spirit. This we pray in the name of Christ, who lives and walks amongst us yet. AMEN

**Hymn:**

How Firm a Foundation

VU 660 (Verses 1, 3 & 4)

- 1**     **How firm a foundation, you servants of God,  
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!  
What more can be said than to you has been said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**
- 3**     **'When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.**
- 4**     **'When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:  
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.**

### **Theme Conversation**

#### **Prayer of Illumination (Unison):**

**God of Revelation, as we open this Holy Book, we pray that you open your Word to us. Help us to see ourselves in these stories, mirroring the good, the bad, the broken, and the blessed parts of who we are. Make what we hear real to us, words alive in our lives today. We offer this prayer seeking your wisdom in the name of Christ, our teacher and our guide. AMEN**

**Today's Scripture:**     Luke 3:1-22

#### **The Proclamation of John the Baptist**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ’

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

### **The Baptism of Jesus**

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the Word of our God.

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

**Anthem**                      Can you see the Light? – Don Besig – Sung by Sue & Wendy

**Message**                      Vipers, Stones, and Fire

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

**Offertory Hymn:**        I Have Called You by Your Name        VU 161 (Verses 1, 2 & 4)

1.        **I have called you by your name, you are mine;  
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.  
I will not abandon you;  
all my promises are true.  
You are gifted, called, and chosen;  
you are mine.**
  
2.        **I will help you learn my name as you go;  
read it written in my people, help them grow.  
Pour the water in my name,  
speak the word your soul can claim,  
offer Jesus' body given long ago.**
  
4.        **I have given you a name, it is mine;  
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.  
With my wonder in your soul,  
make my wounded children whole;  
go and tell my precious people  
they are mine.**

## 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:** As With Gladness Men of Old                      VU 81 (verse 3)

**As they offered gifts most rare,  
at the manger crude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison):**

**We come before you, O God, with our broken spirits longing for your embrace, with hearts open ready to be filled by your grace. Receive this offering of our very selves as well as all those gifts we give of money, service, and time. Bless every part of our lives and the work that we do together, use us and our gifts to bring your love and grace to the world. We ask this and all things in the strong name of Christ, our companion on the way.  
AMEN**

**Praying For Ourselves And Others & The Lord's Prayer**

### SENDING FORTH

**Hymn:**                      In the Darkness                      VU 92 (Verses 1, 2 & 4)

- 1        In the darkness shines the splendour  
          of the Word who took our flesh,  
welcoming, in love's surrender,  
          death's dark shadow at his crèche.  
Bearing every human story,  
Word made flesh reveals his glory.**
  
- 2        Light of nations, veiled in history,  
          born of woman's flesh and blood,  
calling to the depths of mystery  
          restless hearts that seek the good.  
Healing every human story,  
Word made flesh reveals his glory.**

4 All God's people, sing in jubilation  
of the birth that sets us free,  
telling of the revelation:  
Jesus, God's epiphany.  
Celebrate the human story!  
Word made flesh reveals our glory.

**Commissioning (Responsive):**

In God we are made whole, given new life.

**We walk boldly to the world to share God's endless love.**

In Christ we find a new way to walk this world.

**It is not an easy way, but on this journey we are not alone. Christ walks with us.**

In the Holy Spirit we are given strength and courage beyond what we can normally muster.

**And with that Spirit, we face the world, broken and dark, with arms filled with love and light.**

**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:** I Am the Light of the World VU 87 (verse 4)

**Refrain:**

**I am the Light of the World**

**You people come and follow me.**

**If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery**

**Of what you were meant to do and be.**

**To bring hope to every task you do,**

**To dance at a baby's new birth,**

**To make music in an old person's heart,**

**And sing to the colors of the earth! R**

**Postlude** For the Beauty of the Earth – Kocher/Wilson