

# Quispamsis United Church

January 15th, 2023 - Second Sunday of Epiphany

**Liturgical Colour:** Green

**Presider:** Rev. Richard Bowley

**Director of Music:** Stephen Alexander

**Reader:** Ruth Buckley

**Centering Passage:** *Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling-place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.*

-Psalm 91:9-12

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## GATHERING TOGETHER

**Lighting of the Christ Candle:** In this season of revelation we light this candle, a symbol of Christ in our midst, to show us the way.

**Opening Music**                      Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee - arr. Harold DeCou

**Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle**

**Acknowledgement of Territories**

**Celebrations & Announcements**

**Introit:**                                      Come all you people                                      MV 2 (x2)  
**Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;**  
**Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;**  
**Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;**  
**Come now and worship the Lord.**

**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):**

As God's beloved children we come,

**having been blessed by God's grace, we come.**

Knowing the joy of life with Christ we come,

**to celebrate with others who know this joy, we come.**

We come to learn from Christ and grow in faith,  
as we offer our praise to God who is faithful and sure.

### **Prayer of the Day**

God of strength, your son Jesus withstood many temptations because his love for you was greater than his earthly desires. Make our love for you so strong, that we might withstand anything that stands between us and your love. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN.

### **Hymn:**

Jesus Tempted in the Desert

VU 115

**Jesus, tempted in the desert, lonely, hungry, filled with dread:**

**"Use your power," the tempter tells him;**

**"Turn these barren rocks to bread!"**

**"Not alone by bread," he answers,**

**"Can the human heart be filled.**

**Only by the Word that calls us is our deepest hunger stilled!"**

**Jesus, tempted, at the temple, high above its ancient wall:**

**"Throw yourself from lofty turret; angels wait to break your fall!"**

**Jesus shuns such empty marvels,**

**Feats that fickle crowds request:**

**"God, whose grace protects, preserves us,**

**We must never vainly test."**

**Jesus, tempted on the mountain by the lure of vast domain:**

**"Fall before me! Be my servant!**

**Glory, fame, you're sure to gain!"**

**Jesus sees the dazzling vision, turns his eyes another way:**

**"God alone deserves our homage! God alone will I obey!"**

**When we face temptation's power,**

**Lonely, struggling, filled with dread,**

**Christ, who knew the tempter's hour,**

**Come and be our living bread.**

**By your grace, protect, preserve us lest we fall your trust betray.**

**Yours, above all other voices, be the Word we hear, obey.**

## LISTENING FOR TRUTH

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

God of the way, in Jesus we see your promises lived out, your faithfulness in action. As he faced temptation in the desert he held true to your path. "I will give you everything at such a small cost" the tempter said to Jesus and says to us still. Yet unlike your son, we admit we like the sound of it. We are often tricked into believing that we can live in your joy and blessings without any response, or that we can find abundant life and true joy in things. So too often we claim your love, and forget to love others. We marvel in your grace and mercy, yet do not forgive others. We accumulate possessions and hoard what we have, instead of sharing with those in need. We make plans for our lives, yet forget to include you in our planning. Forgive us God when you become an afterthought in our lives and guide us yet again into your way of abundance and service. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen

### **Assurance of God's Love:**

In the life and ministry of Christ we are constantly reminded of the boundlessness of God's love. In those moments when we stumble and turn from God, we are grateful that God stands at the ready with arms open wide to receive us again. Thanks be for such a love as this.

### **Time for All Ages**

### **Prayer of Illumination:**

Wondrous Spirit, gather our minds that they may be one with you. Open our ears that they may hear your Word. Soften our hearts that they may receive your wisdom. Speak to us for we, your servants, are listening. AMEN

### **Reading: Matthew 4:1-17**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' "

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' ' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' "

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship

me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.' From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

**Anthem**                    The Light of Christ - Dan Fishel

**Message**                    Will You or Won't You?

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

**Hymn:**

Forty Days and Forty Nights  
**Forty days and forty nights  
you were fasting in the wild;  
forty days and forty nights  
tempted, and yet undefiled.**

VU 114

**Sunbeams scorching all the day,  
chilly dewdrops nightly shed;  
prowling beasts about our way;  
stones your pillow, earth your bed.**

**Shall not we your trial share,  
and from earthly joys abstain,  
fasting with unceasing prayer,  
strong with you to suffer pain?**

**If temptations, vexing sore,  
flesh or spirit should assail,  
you their vanquisher before,  
grant we may not faint nor fail.**

**Keep, oh keep us, Saviour dear,  
ever constant by your side;  
that with you we may appear  
at the eternal Eastertide.**

### **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](mailto: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/ Mail or deliver your giving's to our treasurer, Brion Crossman, 22 Country Crescent, Quispamsis, E2E 1T2

4/ 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.

5/ if you come for in-person worship, there is a plate as you enter the church where you can place your offering.

6/ As we consider the greater work of the United Church consider giving to Mission and Service Fund through your regular offering or at <https://united-church.ca>

### **Offertory Dedication Hymn:**

What Can I do

MV 191

**What can I do? What can I bring?  
What can I say? What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.  
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

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

**Send, O God, your blessings upon the gifts that we bring before you in our lives. May they be a representation of our willingness to give ourselves over to you in service as bringers of the good news and builders of the Kingdom. May this community through our gifts of time, talent, and treasure, live faithfully in your light, eager to answer your call. All this we ask in the strong name of our brother and saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN**

### **Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer**

Hymn:

I am the Light of the World

VU 87

**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.**

**When the song of the angels is stilled.**

**When the star in the sky is gone.**

**When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home.**

**The work of Christmas is begun! R**

**To find the lost and lonely one,**

**To heal that broken soul with love,**

**To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,**

**To feel the earth below the sky above! R**

**To free the prisoner from his chains,**

**To make the powerful care,**

**To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,**

**To call a man your brother everywhere. R**

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

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

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

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

## **SENDING FORTH**

### **Commissioning (Responsive):**

From our temptation to think only of ourselves,

**Christ has called us to lives of service,**

from our temptation to accumulate power and prestige

**Christ has called us to put God first.**

From our temptation to worldly ways

**Christ has called us to new life.**

So we rise, to go out to the world to live in the light of Christ.

**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. AMEN

**Choral Closing:**

I Am Walking

MV 221 (x2)

**I am walking a path of faith  
I am walking a path of faith  
I am walking a path of faith  
Lead me home. Lead me home.**

**Closing Music**

Our Refuge and Strength - Donald F. Callender