

# Quispamsis United Church

January 17th, 2021 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Reader: Heather Haché

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**Centering Passage:** *Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith for ever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.*

*Psalms 146:5-7*

**Welcome**

**Acknowledgement of Territories**

**Celebrations & Announcements**

## GATHERING TOGETHER

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

With this light, may we discern the truth together. With this light, may we discern the way together. With this light, may we seek Christ together.

**Prelude**

Here I am to Worship – Words and music- Tim Hughes

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness,  
Opened my eyes, let me see beauty that made this heart adore You,  
Hope of a life spent with You.

**Refrain:** And here I am to worship; Here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God.  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, o so highly exalted – glorious in heaven above.  
Humbly You came to the earth You created, All for love's sake became poor (**Refrain 2x**)

**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):**

Wake up! Every day is new. Today is a chance to start again.

**We are more than people going through the motions. We have come to live our faith.**  
See what is and what might be, not what you expect to see.

**With eyes open, we come to worship and to the word. We are here to see Christ.**

Listen for the truth, revealed in the life, teachings, death, and rising of Christ.

**With ears open, we listen to the whispers of the Holy Spirit. We have come to hear the Word.**

With hearts ready to receive the word and the truth, we come.

**Let us worship God together!**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Powerful God, stir us up with challenging words. Remind us that the road that leads to you is both difficult and worth the walking. Enter into this time and open our ears to hear the truth which you bring. Wake us up. Shake us up. Put us to the test, and we will give our whole selves in the effort to follow you. May we be faithful witnesses to your grace, love, and truth in the word and the world. We ask this in the name of the Christ, the Word made flesh. AMEN

**Hymn:** Lord, Speak to me I'm suggesting VU 589 (Verses 1, 2 & 4)

- 1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak  
in living echoes of your tone;  
as you have sought, so let me seek  
your straying children lost and lone.
  
- 2 O lead me, so that I may lead  
the wandering and the wavering feet;  
O feed me, so that I may feed  
your hungering ones with manna sweet.
  
- 4 O fill me with your fullness, Lord,  
until my very heart o'erflows  
in kindling thought and glowing word,  
your love to tell, your praise to show.

### **Theme Conversation**

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

**In faith, Christ shared your word with all, even those who would have a hard time hearing him. Help us to hear his words today in the midst of your Word. Help us to hear the truth he brings as we seek a deeper understanding of your Truth. Open to us the word. May our hearts be open to receive it. We offer this prayer in the name of Christ, our teacher and our guide. AMEN**

**Today's Scripture:** Luke 4:14-30

### **THE BEGINNING OF THE GALILEAN MINISTRY**

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

### **THE REJECTION OF JESUS AT NAZARETH**

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum." ' And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

This is the Word of our God.

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

**Special Anthem:** You Raise Me Up

Bruce Feltham (Pat Vincent's brother)

**Message**

The Prophet's Challenge from a Challenged Prophet

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**Hymn:** Are You a Shepherd MV 126 (All Verses)

Are you a shepherd, good shepherd who leads us  
safely through danger, while calming our fears?  
Are you a father who shelters and feeds us,  
shares in our laughter and wipes away tears?

### **Refrain**

Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,  
but you are greater than all that we know.  
Holy and living, loving and giving,  
God, you are with us wherever we go.

Are you a mother, good mother who bears us,  
comforts, protects us and helps us to rest?  
Are you a teacher who daily prepares us,  
challenging students to offer their best? **R**

Great, gentle shepherd, forever beside us,  
lead all you children in paths that are right.  
Great, loving parent, wise teacher, you guide us.  
We want to love you and bring you delight. **R**

### **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):**

**As Jesus offered his whole life to you, so move our hearts to dedicate all we have to your service. Bless the tokens of our gratitude for all that we have been given in this life, and of our desire that all may be fed, clothed, and freed from the things which bind them, by the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

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

### **SENDING FORTH**

**Hymn:**

To Show by Touch and Word

VU 427 (All Verses)

- 1 To show by touch and word devotion to the earth,  
to hold in full regard all life that comes to birth,  
we need, O God, the will to find  
the good you had of old in mind.
- 2 Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most,  
our hearts to long for truth till pride of self is lost.  
For every challenge that we face  
we need your guidance and your grace.
- 3 Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule, and norm,  
and let our lives portray your word in human form.  
Now come with us that we may have  
your wits about us where we live.

**Commissioning (Responsive):**

Listen to what Jesus says, and be people ready to receive the truth, whatever it is.

**We will share that truth and our faith with the world.**

See the Christ alive in the world in unexpected ways.

**We will seek the extra that lives in the ordinary, and celebrate the part God plays in revealing it to us.**

Now go and be people who live eagerly their faith.

**We will go to bring healing, hope, and help to a world in need.**

## **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** Short Prelude in C – JS Bach