

# Quispamsis United Church

January 22nd, 2023 - Third Sunday of Epiphany

**Liturgical Colour:** Green

**Presider:** Rev. Richard Bowley

**Director of Music:** Stephen Alexander

**Reader:** Jacob Bowley

**Centering Passage:** *Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.*

-Psalm 1:1-3

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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** I Love to Tell the Story - arr. Hal Leonard

**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):**

What is a blessing? It is more than just a good thing that makes us happy,  
**a blessing can reveal God's presence.**

Who is blessed? It is not only people with plenty, and more than enough, not just people who have it all together,

**blessed are those this world looks down upon, overlooks, and tramples over.**

What does it mean to be blessed?

**To see the kingdom of heaven, to choose to live in it, risks and all, and to know God is with us, come what may.**

Blessed are we when we recognize God's presence and live for God's glory.

**Let us worship God together.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, you have turned our world upside-down through the life and teaching of Jesus. Awaken us now to your blessing. Open our ears that we might hear. Your son Jesus taught many things that helped people know how deeply you love humanity. Help us to live in your love, so that we might be beacons of light for others. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN.

### **Hymn:**

Tell Me The Stories of Jesus

VU 357

**Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;  
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here;  
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,  
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.**

**First let me hear how the children stood round his knee;  
and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;  
words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,  
all in the love-light of Jesus' face.**

**Tell me, in accents of wonder, how rolled the sea,  
tossing the boat in a tempest on Galilee;  
and how the Master, ready and kind,  
chided the billows, and hushed the wind.**

**Into the city I'd follow the children's band,  
waving a branch of the palm-tree high in my hand;  
one of his heralds, yes, I would sing  
loudest hosannas! Jesus is King!**

**Show me that scene in the garden of bitter pain;  
and of the cross where my Saviour for me was slain.  
Sad ones or bright ones, so that they be  
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.**

## LISTENING FOR TRUTH

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

**Tender and loving God, Christ came into the world and showed us how to live, but we have failed to live by what he taught. Jesus broke into our lives and taught us how to love, but we have failed to love the least and the lost. He walks along-side us still, teaching us the way that we might go, but we fail again and again to walk paths that lead to healing and wholeness. Forgive us, O God, when we say that we are people of hope, only to live lives guided by fear. Forgive us when we say that we are people of love, only to put conditions of who is deserving of love. Forgive us when we pray for you to show us the way, only to reject you and wander off. Hear us as we lift our brokenness and sin to you. Fill us with your grace, we pray. AMEN**

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

Christ broke into this world not to destroy it but to remind it - to remind us - that we are precious and worthy of love. By his abundant love and grace, we are forgiven and called to a new way. By his light, we are led to places where work need to be done, and to people who need to be love. AMEN

### **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 5:1-20

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. ‘You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

**Message**    Seeking Fulfilment

### **RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

**Hymn:**

O Master, Let me walk with Thee  
**O Master, let me walk with thee  
in lowly paths of service free;  
Teach me thy secret, help me bear  
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**

VU 560

**Help me the slow of heart to move  
with some clear, winning word of love;  
teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
and guide them in the homeward way.**

**Teach me thy patience; still with thee  
in closer, dearer company,  
in work that keeps faith sure and strong,  
in trust that triumphs over wrong.**

**In hope that sends a shining ray  
far down the future's broadening way,  
in peace that only thou canst give,  
with thee, O Master, let me live.**

### **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):**

**Blessed are you, O God, giver of all good things, breather of life, embracer of the broken. In you we find our wholeness, and through your word and Son we find a path. May what we give back of our time, talent, and treasure be used for the building of your kingdom, the glorifying of your name, and the sharing of your love. Bless us and bless what we give. This we pray in the name of Christ, the Shepherd of our hearts. AMEN**

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

**Hymn:**

Go Make a Diff'rence

MV 209

**Refrain:**

**Go make a dff'rence, we can make a diff'rence  
Go make a diff'rence in the world  
Go make a diff'rence we can make a diff'rence  
Go make a diff'rence in the world**

**We are the salt in the earth, called to let the people see  
The love of God in you and me  
We are the light of the world, not to be hidden, but be seen  
Go make a diff'rence in the world. R**

**We are the hands of Christ, reaching out to those in need  
The face of God for all to see  
We are the spirit of hope, we are the voice of peace  
Go make a diff'rence in the world. R**

### **SENDING FORTH**

**Commissioning (Responsive):**

Go into the world, people of God:

**We go bearing God's blessing, a gift of love to a world much in need.**

Go to be salt and light, small but significant, making Christ visible.

**We go strengthened by the Spirit to choose the kingdom life, here and now.**

**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**

Blessed Assurance - arr. Hal Leonard