

Quispamsis United Church

January 30th, 2022 - Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Musician: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Sue King

Centering Passage: *As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, 'Where is your God?'*

-Psalm 42:1-3

GATHERING TOGETHER

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

We come today longing for the refreshing warmth of God's love and the guiding power of God's will. We gather around this light, the light of Christ, a symbol of God entering the world and walking amongst us. A symbol of that continued companionship that we find in Christ. A revealer of truth and a beacon on the way.

Opening Music

What a Friend We Have in Jesus - Converse/Mier

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):

Journeying through desert country Jesus got thirsty.

In our daily walk we get thirsty too.

Finding a well Jesus was refreshed with cool water.

We thirst for more than cool water, we long for living water!

So come, drink deeply of the living water given to us by our God.

Opening Prayer

You come to us, O Christ, when we least expect you, when we are going about the ordinary things in our lives. You make those moments sacred by walking with us, by being present with us through even the simple tasks of life. Be present with us now. Guide us as we explore your word, as we come to know you more deeply, as we strive to follow you more closely. In those moments where we do not understand, encourage us to question. When we think we have learned all there is to know, remind us that your Word is a living word, made new each day, each moment. We come to you, O Christ, open to her your teachings. 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**

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Theme Conversation

Who Deserves God's Love?

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Refreshing God, we come to the well of our spiritual lives, seeking a drink that sustains. We know that it is your living waters that give life, and yet we are often so quick to drink from the other wells in our lives. We turn to the well of materialism, waters that are shallow and leave a bitter taste, waters that quench no thirst, but only intensifies it. We drink from the well of contempt and hate, waters that run like rivers to divide and dominate your people. And we drink most often from our own well of individualism, waters that are ours not to be shared, a well that is deep and yet brings forth little. Forgive us those times when we have turned from your outstretched hand, your offer of life eternal, waters given freely and given in love. Guide us always to the well where you sit and quench the thirst of all. AMEN

Affirmation of God's Love

For all the wells we find dry or bitter, in Christ we find the living water that refreshes our souls. In him we find forgiveness, grace, and a love that knows no limit. Thanks be to God for Christ and for the Living Water. AMEN

Reaffirmation of Faith (Unison):

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us. We are not alone.**

Thanks be to God.

Reading: John 4:5-15, 27-42

So, he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one, stoop down, and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise; and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till travelling days are done.**

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. Do not forget to send a separate email with the answer to your security question.

2/ go to 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: For the Gift of Creation VU 538

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

You give your love so freely, O God, to all of your children. You do not ask that we look the same, sound the same, or even pray the same, just that we love you and the world with all that we are. As we strive to give of ourselves as generously as you have done, we ask that you bless the time, talent, and treasures that we bring. Use them and us to build your kingdom and open the doors wide! We offer this and all our prayers in the strong name of Jesus Christ. AMEN

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Hymn:

When hands reach out beyond divides MV 169

**When hands reach out beyond divides and hope is truly found,
Each chain of hate will fall away and bells of peace shall sound,
And bells of peace, of peace shall sound, and bells of peace shall sound,
Each chain of hate will fall away and bells of peace shall sound.**

**When fear no longer guides our steps and days of war are done,
God's dream for all shall live anew; our hearts will heal as one,
Our hearts will heal, will heal as one, our hearts will heal as one,
God's dream for all shall live anew; our hearts will heal as one.**

**When race and creed blind us no more, a neighbour's face we'll see,
And we shall dance the whole world round, for love will set us free,
For love, yes love will set us free, for love will set us free,
And we shall dance the whole world round, for love will set us free.**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

We have encountered the living God through the love of the living Christ.

**We have been refreshed by living water. We go to live in the hope this encounter
inspires.**

Go now, be water bearers to a dry and parched world, knowing that the God of love and hope
goes before and with you always.

Amen.

Benediction

Now go inspired by God, partnered with Christ, and guided by the Holy Spirit, to love a world that
God so loves.

Choral Closing:

Behold, Behold

MV 115

**Behold! Behold! I make all things new,
beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold! Behold! I make all things new,
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way!**

Closing Music

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus - Webb/Keveren