

Quispamsis United Church

July 2nd, 2023 - 5th Sunday After Pentecost

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Chris Young

Centering Passage: *Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet: 'I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world.'*

-Matthew 13:34-35

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting of the Christ Candle: From beginning to end, beyond and between both, the light of Christ shines, and so we light this candle as a symbol of that eternal fire. May it burn today as it does within us.

Opening Music Be Still, My Soul - arr. Cindy Berry

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Introit:

Dance with the Spirit

MV 156

**Dance with the Spirit early in the morning,
Walk with the Spirit throughout the long day,
Work and hope for a new life a-bornin',
Listen to the Spirit to show you the way.**

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):

We come to this time seeking understanding.

We long to deepen our relationship with God and with one another, and wisdom seems a good first step.

In God we find the source of all wisdom and knowledge.

God, who is both known and wholly unknowable, teaches us and guides us along life's path.

With praise and thanksgiving, we come to with hearts and minds open to learn and relearn.

With voices raised we come to worship the source of all wisdom.

Opening Prayer:

God of all Knowledge, source of our very being, we come into this holy time eager to encounter you and your word. We long to gain a deeper understanding of the scriptures and our lives, and so we pray that you unravel the mysteries before us. May we be open to receive what you reveal to us, and in the receiving may we be transformed. Speak to us, O God. Your people are listening. We offer this prayer in the strong name of Christ, our teacher and guide. AMEN

Hymn:

Teach me

VU 299

**Teach me God to wonder, teach me God to see
Let your world of beauty capture me R**

Refrain:

**Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,
Life be celebrated, joy you give**

**Let me God be open, let me loving be
Let your world of people speak to me. R**

**Let me God be ready, let me be awake,
In your world of loving, my place take. R**

**Teach me God to know you, hear you when you speak,
See you in my neighbour when we meet. R**

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

We think we know it all. We've done our own research, and we have found truths that somehow escape the eyes of the so-called experts. Our perspective is the only one that matters when determining what is important, what is of value. Forgive us those times where we have said these things, O Patient Teacher. Forgive us those times when we have believed these things to the point of ignoring the real world staring us in the face. Forgive us, and start again your teachings of love, knowledge seeking, of relationship deepening. Help us to receive hard truths, even when they challenge us, and especially when they convict us and invite us to grow. Hear us as we pray this day, O God of Deep Wisdom. AMEN

Sung Assurance of God's Love:

Take, O Take me as I am

MV 85

Take, O take me as I am.

Summon out what I shall be

Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

Time for the Young & Young at Heart

Prayer of Illumination:

You, O God, are our end and our beginning. In our lives we experience the gift of your love, and in our scriptures we receive the gift of your wisdom. Speak to us now as we turn to your Holy Word. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, the Word that walks among us. AMEN

Reading: Proverbs 1:1-7; 3:1-8

For learning about wisdom and instruction, for understanding words of insight, for gaining instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice, and equity; to teach shrewdness to the simple, knowledge and prudence to the young—let the wise also hear and gain in learning, and the discerning acquire skill, to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

My child, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare they will give you.

Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them round your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favour and good repute in the sight of God and of people.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be a healing for your flesh and a refreshment for your body.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message The Beginning of Knowledge

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

Open My Eyes

VU 371

Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see,
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
Everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see,
Open my ears, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear,
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready my God, Thy will to see,
Open my heart, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Minute for Mission: Inspiring Generations to Lead

Eunice Chianka felt a calling to preach and share the gift of education. Growing up, most of the religious leaders she knew were male ministers. When she had the opportunity to encounter female ministers, she felt inspired, and knew she wanted to inspire and empower other young girls in the same way.

“I always ask God: Do you really love us as women? I need to do my best as a woman to challenge the dominance of men,” Eunice says.

Coming from the United Methodist Church, Eunice is one of the students who received a scholarship from the United Church of Canada's partnership with the United Theological Seminary in Zimbabwe. She shared that she wanted to “express her humble gratitude for this opportunity.”

When it comes to inspiring young women, Eunice shares a few words: “If I can do it, they can do the same,” she explains. “We have power. It’s the society at large that assumes we don’t take part, often we’re behind the scenes.”

The strength and determination of leaders such as Eunice inspires us all. Your Mission and Service gifts empower young women like Eunice as they grow to become leaders for the future. Thank you.

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/ 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:

Praise God

VU 541

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit, One.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Receive all that we bring to you, O God, for you are the source of all that we are, all that we know, and all that we might yet be. Along with our gifts of time, talent, and treasure, receive us, eager to be filled with your word, your wisdom, and your will. Bless what we bring, who we are, and who we might be by your grace. We offer this and all our prayers in the strong name of Jesus Christ, our brother and our guide. AMEN

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Hymn:

Be Thou My Vision

VU 642

Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight;
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou my heavenward, O power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.

Humbly we receive the gifts of wisdom that we find in the Word.

May there be no end to our exploration of what God is continually revealing to us.

We commit ourselves to be lifelong learners, eager to grow in wisdom and understanding.

Go and see what the Spirit has to show you in the world you serve.

We will go and share what we find with all we meet along life's way.

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've heard this day. AMEN

Choral Closing:

Sent Forth

VU 481 (vs 2)

**With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
The tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
Embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us, with Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
Give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.**

Closing Music

Lead On, O King Eternal - arr. Cindy Berry