

Quispamsis United Church

July 3rd, 2022 - Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Musician: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Marilyn Robertson

Though scripture and music will change from week to week, the order of service will remain the same for the most part from June 19th - July 17th

All Prayers for this service have been adapted from various parts of the First Letter of Peter

Centering Passage: *'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.*

-Matthew 5:3-10

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting the Christ Candle

This light is not new. It has been shining since the dawn of creation. And yet everyday it burns bright and new in our hearts and in our lives. It is the light of Christ, the light of God's grace and love that has drawn us into this time of worship, and guides us through our lives. Let us follow and embody this light.

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Opening Music God Will Take Care of You - Walter S. Martin

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):

The Apostle Peter greets us, the people of God in this community.

In the name of God. In the name of Christ. In the name of the Spirit.

He greets us to share his experience of Christ, and a way that we might follow.

We have come to listen, to learn, to follow.

Let us worship God together.

Opening Prayer

God of all Creation, thank You for the life and ministry of Peter and all your apostles and prophets who penned the Scriptures for our learning. As we study and reflect on Your Word, we pray that You would give us a teachable spirit and a desire to learn the truth of the gospel of Christ. Guide us into all truth, equip us with discernment, prevent us from being self-serving in our interpretation, and we pray that we may grow in grace and in knowledge of our companion on the way, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Hymn:

Breathe on me Breath of God

VU 382

**Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God, until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with thine, to do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die;
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.**

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Prayer for Reconciliation (Responsive):

Risen Lord Jesus, what is it that keeps us from recognizing you?

When we are so full of ourselves, it is all too easy to block you right out of our lives.

Maybe it's the way we interpret Scripture that obscures the signs pointing to you.

**Perhaps we are guilty of being slow of heart when we don't recognise you in our
neighbour, or in the guise of the poor or the dispossessed.**

Our eyes and ears have become so crammed with the sights and sounds of living that we simply fail to see you or to recognize your voice.

**Risen Lord Jesus, help us to empty ourselves of all that hinders our awareness of your
presence with us. Fill us with the joy of knowing your continuing presence, so that, like
those travellers on the road to Emmaus, we too, hasten to share this great good news
with others. Amen.**

Assurance of God's Love:

We know that we have been born anew through the living and enduring word of God. In this we recognize God's great love for the world revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus who came into the world not to condemn it but to save it.

Thanks be to God!

Theme Conversation

Prayer of Illumination (Unison):

Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the light of eternity. Kindle our hearts with the presence of your Spirit, that we may hear your words of comfort and challenge in the reading of the scriptures, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message Connected Through Faith

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: Blessed Assurance *VU 337 - QUC Recording*
Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of the Spirit, washed in Christ's blood.

Refrain:

**This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.**

**Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. R**

**Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love. R**

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:

**Grant Us, God, The Grace
Grant us God the grace of giving
with a spirit large and free.
That ourselves and all our living,
we may offer faithfully.**

VU 540

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Receive these gifts this morning, O God, author of every good gift. Out of the bounty of our hearts, we respond with faithful generosity and love. May these gifts become blessings for others as they have been blessings for us. AMEN.

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Hymn:

Faith of Our Fathers

VU 580

**Faith of our fathers, living still
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy,
whene'er we hear that glorious word:
faith of our fathers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.**

**Faith of our mothers, daring faith,
your work for Christ is love revealed,
spreading God's word from pole to pole,
making love known and freedom real:
faith of our mothers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.**

**Faith of our sisters, brothers too,
who still must bear oppression's might,
raising on high, in prisons dark,
the cross of Christ still burning bright:
faith for today, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.**

**Faith born of God, O call us yet;
bind us with all who follow you,
sharing the struggle of your cross
until the world is made anew.
Faith born of God, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

May grace and peace be ours in abundance,

in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

May we be thankful for simple things,

for friendship, for health, for daily bread, for good news.

May we rise above the corruption of power

and become participants in the divine nature.

May we go from this place

to pursue goodness, wisdom, holiness and love.

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:

Teach Me, God, To Wonder (vs 4 & refrain) VU 299

Teach me God to know you,

hear you when you speak,

See you in my neighbour

when we meet.

Praise to you be given,

love for you be lived,

Life be celebrated,

joy you give.

Closing Music

Trumpet Tune in C major - Michael Ryan