

Quispamsis United Church

July 31st, 2022 - Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Layton Peck

Reader: Marilyn Robertson

Centering Passage: *“the eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemies before you”*

- Deuteronomy 33: 27

GATHERING TOGETHER

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this candle to remind us that Christ is present with us, wherever we are. Christ is the joy that lights our souls and makes us whole, even if we are broken. The light of Christ will reignite us today and every day.

Opening Music

Where Two or Three Are Gathered

MV – 14

**Where Two or Three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there,**

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):

In Psalm 65:8 says, ‘The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.’

Today another opportunity has dawned and we have the joy to worship our Savior today. He is calling each one of us to enter into worship with him. Leave behind the baggage and just enter into His presence today.”

Opening Prayer

God of life, you sustain us through the harmonious work of heaven, earth, and human beings.
You enrich community woven by different cultures and traditions.
Today we come together to celebrate Asian Heritage Month
in remembering who we are.
Enhance our joy of journeying together for the common good.
In the name of Jesus, our companion,
we pray. Amen.

Hymn:

Draw the Circle Wide

MV 145

Refrain

**Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

**God the still-point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms. R**

**Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call. R**

**Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door. R**

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Theme Conversation

Prayer for Reconciliation:

Holy One, Creator of all that is, seen and unseen, of story and of song, of heartbeat and of tears of bodies, souls, voices and all relations: you are the God of all truth and the way of all reconciliation. Uphold with your love and compassion all who open their lives in the sacred sharing of their stories. Breathe in us the grace to trust in your loving forgiveness, that we may

face our histories with the courage of open minds and hearts; touch us through the holy gift of story that those who speak, and those who listen, may behold your own redeeming presence; guide us with holy wisdom to enter through the gates of remorse that our feet may walk gently and firmly in another's moccasins on the way of justice and healing. Amen.

From the Anglican Church of Canada

Assurance of God's Love:

For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5: 6-8 (KJV)

Sung Assurance:

Don't Be Afraid

MV 90

**Don't be afraid, my love is stronger
My love is stronger than your fear
Don't be afraid, my love is stronger
And I have promised to be always near.**

Prayer of Illumination:

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 4:1–19

Living for God

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit. The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though

something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

Spirit Open My Heart

MV 79

Refrain

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love me I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

**God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind 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**

Message

Accountability . . . Christlike ATTITUDE!

SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

You Shall Go Out with Joy

VU 884

You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills
will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy,
and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
(clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
(clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands
(clap, clap)
while you go out with joy.

Commissioning and Benediction

Sung Benediction – Gabriel's Blessing (*L. Peck used with permission*)