

# Quispamsis United Church

July 9th, 2023 - 6th Sunday After Pentecost

**Liturgical Colour:** Green

**Presider:** Rev. Richard Bowley

**Director of Music:** Stephen Alexander

**Reader:** Heather Alward

**Centering Passage:** *Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day; he saw it and was glad.' Then the Jews said to him, 'You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?' Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.'*

-John 8:56-58

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## GATHERING TOGETHER

**Lighting of the Christ Candle:** Over the times of unformed beginnings, the Holy Spirit moved. Like a spark giving birth to a flame, that same Spirit gives life to all things, and guides us on our way. We light this candle, the light of Christ, a symbol of that eternal flame burning within us.

**Opening Music**    Dona Nobis Pacem - arr. Maryilynn Ham

**Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle**

**Acknowledgment 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):**

To you, O people, Wisdom calls.

**They call out to each of us, beckoning us:**

to experience peace in Christ, to discover the truth of life,  
**to know true love as it is poured into our hearts.**

Wisdom calls as we gather this day,

**let us answer their call as we celebrate faith in the One who leads us into life.**

**Opening Prayer:**

God of Creation, you reveal wisdom and spiritual insight through your presence at the dawn of all things. When we look at the night sky, we glimpse your infinity. When we look at seas teeming with life and lands painted in varied colours like a canvas, we see your creativity and your bounty. Enter into this moment with your power and your grace and inspire us to join the Spirit in the dance of creation. We offer this and all our prayers in the strong name of Jesus Christ, the Word incarnate. AMEN

**Hymn:**

Spirit God, Be our Breath MV 150

**Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.  
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.  
Our world seems inward, defensive, with-drawn.  
Spirit God, be our song.**

**Patient God: soothe our pride, calm our fear.  
Comfort us. When we know you are near  
we grow more certain, our vision is clear.  
Patient God, calm our fear.**

**Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer.  
Reaching out, joining hands as we share,  
we seek your guidance through friendship and care.  
Loving God, be our prayer.**

**Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.  
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.  
Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new dawn.  
Spirit God, be our song.**

**LISTENING FOR TRUTH**

**Prayer of Confession (Unison):**

**God of infinite mercy, when we neglect our part in the healing and co-creation of this world, forgive us; when we trade your peace and calls for unity for conflict and violence, forgive us; when we ignore our good conscience, to join those who scoff at your ways, forgive us; when we ignore your truth, and turn away from your wisdom, forgive us. Forgive us and heal us, O God, and turn us again to your light, your path, and your wisdom. We offer this and all our prayers in the strong name of Christ. 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 8:1-11, 22-36**

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: 'To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. O simple ones, learn prudence; acquire intelligence, you who lack it. Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right; for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them. They are all straight to one who understands and right to those who find knowledge. Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth—when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

'And now, my children, listen to me: happy are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. Happy is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favour from the Lord; but those who miss me injure themselves; all who hate me love death.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn:**

Like a Healing Stream

MV 144

**Like a healing stream in a barren desert,  
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,  
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,  
promising revival and rebirth... like a healing stream.**

**Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,  
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,  
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation,  
yearning for an end to want and need... like a gentle rain.**

**Like a river strong with a restless current,  
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,  
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,  
calling for an end to hate and war... like a river strong.**

**Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,  
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,  
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:  
God will always challenge and provide!**

**Like a mighty sea... Like a river strong... Like a gentle rain... Like a healing stream.**

**Minute for Mission:    A Declaration to Be Involved in Decision Making**

Selina Chipunza of Mutare is a member of the Anglican Church in Zimbabwe. During the 2022 Zimbabwe Council of Churches General Assembly, youth brought forward a declaration that they wanted to be engaged in decision making; that declaration was received.

“I’m so excited that I was one of the youth members to be appointed. I’m on the Human Resources, Governance and Compliance committee,” explains Selina.

Selina’s experiences as a lawyer are of great benefit to the committee. Previously, youth were not on these committees. “This is a success to us and we are all celebrating.”

Selina shared that now, whatever decision is being made, the interests of youth are included. These opportunities have “Given us opportunities to grow and learn in experience and careers. I can say with confidence that we are not only the leaders of tomorrow, but the leaders of today.”

Your gifts to Mission and Service help youth like Selina advocate to have their voices heard. 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](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:**

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):**

**Generous God, we come before you with thankful hearts, that you have given us this beautiful world in which to work and play—a world full of your wisdom and majesty; we offer praise with deepest gratitude, that you have blessed us with your grace. As we return a portion of your blessing, use what we bring and the tokens of our devotion to increase wisdom in the world, to protect creation, to bless the vulnerable, to heal the sick, and to comfort the afflicted. We offer this prayer in the name of Christ, our healer, our teacher, and our friend.  
AMEN**

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

Hymn:

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

VU 375

**Spirit, spirit of gentleness.**

**Blow through the wilderness, calling and free.  
Spirit, spirit of restlessness. Stir me from placidness.  
Wind, wind on the sea.**

**You moved on the waters, You called to the deep,  
Then You coaxed up the mountains from the valley of sleep,  
And over the eons You called to each thing,  
"A wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."**

**You swept through the dessert, You stung with the sand,  
And You goaded your people With a law and a land,  
And when they were blinded With their idols and lies,  
Then You spoke through Your prophets To open their eyes.**

**You sang in a stable, You cried from a hill,  
Then You whispered in silence When the whole world was still,  
And down in the city You called once again  
When You blew through Your people On the rush of the wind.**

**You call from tomorrow, You break ancient schemes,  
From the bondage of sorrow The captives dream dreams;  
Our women see visions, Our men clear their eyes.  
With bold new decisions Your people arise.**

#### **SENDING FORTH**

#### **Commissioning (Responsive):**

The Spirit of Wisdom calls us from this place,

**to share what has been revealed to us about God's deep love with the all that we meet  
along life's way.**

We move from worship to service,

**as we strive to live the gospel that Jesus Christ walked.**

Let us take seriously our call to be co-creators,

**moving with the Spirit, walking with Christ, and working with our God.**

#### **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**

Blessed Assurance- Hal Leonard Publication