

Quispamsis United Church

June 27th, 2021 - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

President: Rev. Richard Bowley

Music Director: Stephen Alexander

Hymn Leader: John Hill

Reader: Karen Young

Centering Passage: *Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So, do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.*

-Matt 10:28-31

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this candle as a reminder that in the darkest and most difficult times of our lives, we are not alone. This light shines within us and within those around us, we need only let it reflect it on the world to see the Way at our feet.

Prelude

O Holy Lord, By All Adored - Eugene Hemmer

Greeting (Responsive):

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):

God has called us to stand in faith.

May we find the strength to stand in the face of doubt, denial, and despair.

Christ has called us to stand against sin and evil that moves and breathes in the world.

May we find the courage to stand in spite of our fear and in the face of darkness.

The Holy Spirit has called us to stand together as God's children.

May we find the wisdom to stand united, knowing that together we find hope and truth on the way.

Prayer of Approach

God of strength beyond power, of courage in the face of fear, of hope & love everlasting, we humbly enter into your presence today seeking your counsel and protection. The world is often a fear-filled place, with problems that seem so much bigger than we think that we can handle. Remind us that with you, anything is possible, that united with our Kindred, nothing is insurmountable. By your Holy Spirit, remind us of these truths. We offer this prayer in the strong name of your son and our constant companion, Jesus Christ. AMEN

Hymn: God of Grace God of Glory VU 686 (vs 1, 2, & 4)

- 1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.**

- 2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn your Christ, assail your ways;
fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days.**

- 4 Set our feet on lofty places,
gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christlike graces,
pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
that we fail not them nor thee.**

Theme Conversation Confronting Sin

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Patient One, you call us to go to places we would rather not go, to stand against fear, sin, and darkness. We admit that sometimes we pretend not to hear you. We admit that sometimes we go our own way when the way that you call us to walk looks difficult. And we admit that sometimes we flee when you would have us stand, because we feel we don't have it in us to be who you know we can be. Forgive us, and remind us that you are with us, especially when we feel weak and afraid, that the light of Christ shines in us to show us the way. Hear us this day as we pray in his name, as we seek to live in his Way. AMEN

Assurance of God's Love

The Good News proclaimed in the Gospels and Letters alike is that no matter how far we run, no matter how lost we are, no matter how much we try to hide ourselves, God's forgiveness finds us, God's Grace welcomes us home, God's love follows us wherever we go. Thanks be to God for such love, grace, and forgiveness. AMEN

Today's Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Message Standing Firm in the Armour of God

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: A Mighty Fortress VU 262 (vs 1, 2, & 4)

**1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper sure amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing:
for still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
with power and malice great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth he has no equal.**

- 2 Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing:
dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.
- 4 That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through Christ, who with us sideth:
let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
God's kingdom is for ever.

How Can I Give?

HOW CAN I GIVE TO MY CHURCH WHEN THE CHURCH DURING A PANDEMIC?

- 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: Doxology
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

What you give us, O God, is beyond measure. In you we find our strength, our hope, our very breath, and so we long to give back of ourselves. Today we offer out of our abundance our time, talent, and treasure. Today we offer our hands and our feet. Bless all that we bring as we strive to be beacons of your love in the world. We ask this and all things in the strong name of Christ our brother. AMEN

Prayer for Ourselves & Others and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Make me a Channel of Your Peace VU 684

- 1 **Make me a channel of your peace:**
 where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
 where there is injury, your healing power,
 and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

- 2 **Make me a channel of your peace:**
 where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
 where there is darkness, only light;
 and where there's sadness, ever joy.
 O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
 so much to be consoled as to console,
 to be understood as to understand,
 to be loved as to love with all my soul.

- 3 **Make me a channel of your peace.**
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
 in giving to all that we receive,
 and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

We came to sit and hear the Good News.

Renewed by the Word, we rise.

We walk from this place empowered by the breath of the Spirit.

We go boldly to the dark places with light, to desperate situations with hope.

We will stand facing fear, facing doubt, facing the unknown.

We do so surrounded by God's love and grace.

Benediction

Now go with the love of God in your hearts, the Peace of Christ in your hand, and the power of the Holy Spirit at your backs to share the good news you've heard this day. AMEN

Choral Closing: May God's Sheltering Wings

MV 214

May God's sheltering wings

His gathering wings protect you

May God's nurturing arms,

Her cradling arms sustain you

And hold you in Her love,

And hold you in His love.

Postlude

Credo - Franz Joseph Haydn