

# Quispamsis United Church

March 10, 2024 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

**Liturgical Colour: Purple**

**Presider: Rev Ian Manson**

**Director of Music: Stephen Alexander**

**Reader: Sally Allanach**

**Centering Reflection:** *“God has made different religions to suit different aspirations, times and countries.”*

- Huston Smith

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## GATHERING TOGETHER

### Opening Music & Time of Prayer and Candle Lighting

*(What a Friend We have in Jesus - arr. Robert J. Hughes)*

### Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

### Lighting of Affirm Candle & Acknowledgment of Territories

### Celebrations

#### Introit:

Gather Us In

MV 7

**Gather Us in, ground us in you.**

**Gather us in, ground us in you.**

**Gather us in, gather us in.**

**Ground us, ground us in you.**

#### Call to Worship (Responsive):

God gathers people from the east and the west, from north and south.

**God’s steadfast love is all-embracing, and extend beyond cultures, creeds and countries.**

God brings light where there is darkness, and offers wisdom and grace to all.

**Let us approach God with joy and reverence, and tell of God’s deeds with songs of praise.**

Prayer of Approach (Unison)

**Steadfast God,**

**you reach out to us in mercy**

**even when we judge others to be inferior.**

**Soften our hearts with the warmth of your love,**

**that we may know the blessings of your spirit,**

**draw ever closer to your Son, and embrace your Holy ways.**

**Opening Hymn:**

Spirit, Open My Heart

MV 79

***Refrain***

***Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.***

***As you love my 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.**

**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.**

**May I weep with those who weep,  
share the joy of sister, brother.**

**In the welcome of Christ,  
may we welcome one another.**

**A Time of Contemplation**

**Time for All Ages**

**Sung Prayer of Illumination:**

**Wonderful Words of Life  
Speak them over again to me  
Wonderful words of life  
Let me more of their beauty see  
Wonderful words of life  
Words of life and beauty  
Teach me faith and duty**

**Songs of the Gospel**

**Beautiful words, wonderful words  
Wonderful words of life  
Beautiful words, wonderful words  
Wonderful words of life**

**Reading:** John 3: 11-21

‘Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Gift of Music**

Jesus, All For Jesus

**Message**

“Beyond Our Walls”

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

**Hymn:**

In Christ There Is No East or West  
**In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one great family of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.**

**VU 606**

**In him shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord  
close binding humankind.**

**Join hands, then, people of the faith,  
whate'er your race may be;  
all children of the living God  
are surely kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both east and west,  
in him meet south and north;  
all Christ-like souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.**

## **Life and Work of the Church**

### **Sharing of Gifts and Talents**

**Offertory Dedication Hymn:**      We Give You But Your Own      VU 542  
We give you but your own,  
What e'er the gift may be,  
All that we have is yours alone,  
We give it gratefully.

### **Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

**O God, we ask that you would bless these gifts with your generous love. Use them to grace the world with the same generosity we have found in you. Amen.**

**Introduction to Prayers of the People**      May We But Wait      MV 175  
May we but wait upon Love's word,  
Knowing our prayer is heard.

### **Prayers of the People**

**Sung Lord's Prayer**      VU 959  
Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven.

**Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil for the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours,  
Now and forever.**

### **SENDING FORTH**

**Closing Hymn:**

**Will You Come and Follow Me  
Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?**

VU 567

**Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?**

**Will you love the 'you' you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?**

**Christ, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.**

**Commissioning (Responsive):**

As we continue our journey through the season of Lent,  
let us remember the words of the prophet Micah:

**What does the Lord require of us?**

**To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.**

**Benediction**

**Choral Closing**

We Shall Go Out With Hope

VU 586 vs. 1

**We shall go out with hope of resurrection;  
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;  
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;  
tales of a love that will not let us go.  
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;  
we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;  
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
within the vision of new life in Christ.**

**Closing Music:** Blessing and Honour - Carl Simone