

Quispamsis United Church

Lent: Ashes & Promises

March 13th, 2022 – Second Sunday of Lent

Liturgical Colour: Purple

Presider: Patricia Watson RScP

Musician: Patricia Watson

Reader: Sue King

This service is presented by the Affirming Committee

Centering Passage: *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*

Psalm 51:10-12

GATHERING TOGETHER

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this candle to remind us that the Light within us can shine brightly to bring hope and healing to others.

Opening Music: Lift Every Voice and Sing – Patricia Watson

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):

Christ lived among us calling for change.

We open our ears and hearts to listen and live that change.

Christ called us to change our minds, change our ways, change our lives.

We open our hearts, we open our mouths, we open our eyes.

Christ called us to change the world.

We open our hearts to show the love of God, we open our mouths, to speak life altering change, we open our eyes to see the world we set out to change.

Come all who hear Christ's words, come and be that change.

written by Carolyn Kimball

Prayer of the Day:

God of peace, give us the courage, strength and perseverance needed, to challenge the systems of racism, so that we can clear a path for your justice, peace, and equity.

We believe racism is present in our society and in our church, and throughout time has manifested itself in many forms and in varying degrees.

We know racism is alive in our language and in our structures, and through our systems it actively works to deconstruct your glorious design, blocking the path to justice, equity, and peace that Jesus brings.

Racism exists, and it challenges the gospel message that we cry. We cry abundant life for all, knowing that we are slowly being suffocated by the pervasive evil of racism:

some of us are choking;
some of us cannot breathe;
some of us are dead.

We cry peace, knowing that we are the instruments of God's peace and that such peace cannot exist without justice, equity, compassion, and God's grace.

We cry Emmanuel, God with us, knowing that to God, every life matters—God is with all people—even though as a community and as a society we have stated through our actions that some lives matter more than others.

Compassionate One, Help us to understand how racism finds life in our hearts and in our cries. In this time of tense anticipation, may we commit ourselves to be people of your way crying and creating a path for justice, equity, and peace for all people in this wilderness of hatred and racism. Amen.

a prayer for Black History Month by Alydia Smith

LISTENING FOR TRUTH**Theme Conversation**

I Have a Dream (*Video*)

Ash Liturgy (Responsive):

Throughout this season of Lent, we are all being asked to carry the ashes of last year's Palm Sunday branches. When we waved those branches, we were declaring our faith, our trust, and our dedication to Christ.

These ashes are a symbol of promises: promises made, promises kept, and promises broken. Let us come before Christ honestly and humbly.

We raised our palm branches in celebration of you,
**and on those same leaves have written our sin and brokenness, despite your having
broken into our lives to show us a new way.**

We carry the ashes of those palm branches as a reminder.

**These ashes remind us of our pride when we turn from your offered hand. You call us to
join you on a road that leads to new life, yet we would rather walk our own path. You
invite us to be a part of building God's kingdom right here, right now, and we turn to our
own designs.**

We carry these ashes as a reminder of our pride.

Humble us, for we long to join you in your work and on your way.

For a moment, let us focus on these ashes, lifting our prayers for guidance and promises to follow
to Christ.

(Moment for reflective silence)

Sung Prayer of Illumination:

Tree of Life

VU 121 (vs 4) sung by

**Gentle Jesus, mighty Spirit,
come inflame our hearts anew,
we may all your joy inherit
if we bear the cross for you,
if we bear the cross for you.**

Reading: John 13:1-14

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this
world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the
end.

The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon
Iscaiot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that
he had come from God and was returning to God; so, he got up from the meal, took off his outer
clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and
began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.
He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus
replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."
"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is
clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray
him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Message Patricia Watson

Anthem: video of Hymn of Freedom sung by Patricia Watson and accompanied by Bill Stevenson

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

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/ 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: For all your goodness VU 549

**For all your goodness, God, we give you thanks.
Thanks for the food we eat, and for the friends we meet.
for each new day we greet, we give you thanks.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

We long for the time when the meek shall inherit the earth and all who hunger and thirst after justice shall be satisfied, and we believe that, despite the persistence of evil, now is always the time when better can be done and we can make a difference.

May it be so, through the offering of these gifts and the offering of our lives. Amen.

(Source: Prayer for Justice and Peace, Iona)

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

God is Infinite Love. God is the omnipotent presence in everyone and everything, the healing power of the Universe.

So, I affirm this Truth today knowing that there is a common field of grace that carries all Life into its highest and richest expression. I understand this expression to be inherently perfect and whole within the context of this rising Love. I know that I am one with all Life and know all Life to be a demonstration of this awesome force of grace light energy, a demonstration of this rising Love I name God. As I know that this is my Truth, I claim it for our loving community and all of humanity.

We ask you to bless (names) as they move through this time in their lives, knowing that their source and strength is God. This source and strength brings healing and peace of mind to everyone. As they move through this time, I decree that any and all patterns that could possibly cause any dis-ease of any kind are painlessly, effortlessly, harmoniously, and permanently eliminated from their bodies. The Light of Christ consciousness and peace flows easily and effortlessly throughout their bodies and they are surrounded by people who love and support them throughout this process.

I am so eternally grateful as I release my word into the Law of the Universe knowing that It is already done! I let it be and so It is, Ashe, Aho, Amen!!

Hymn: Blessed Assurance VU 337

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine
O what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of His Spirit, washed in His love**

**This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long**

**Perfect submission, all is at rest
I in my Savior am happy and blessed
Watching and waiting, looking above
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love**

**This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long**

Commissioning (Responsive):

Open unto me, light for my darkness
Open unto me, courage for my fear
Open unto me, hope for my despair
Open unto me, peace for my turmoil
Open unto me, joy for my sorrow
Open unto me, strength for my weakness
Open unto me, wisdom for my confusion
Open unto me, forgiveness for my sins
Open unto me, tenderness for my toughness
Open unto me, love for my hates
Open unto me, Thy Self for myself
Lord, Lord, open unto me!

- Howard Thurman, from "Meditations of the Heart" Was born in 1899 and he cofounded the first interracial pastored, intercultural church in the US.

Benediction

As we come to a close, I express gratitude for the wonderful flow of this service today. I know that God is expressed as me right now and each person that is present, right here and right now. How delightful it is to come together over the many miles. Truly, faith, hope and love are our touchstones. We hold these Truths in our hearts as we move through our week. Love is truly the answer.

Thank you God for this time together knowing that the seed has been planted, nurtured, and presently manifests the fruits of our labour. I release, let go, and let God work ITS magic in our lives. And so, it is, Amen.

Choral Closing:

Tree of Life

VU 121 (vs 5)

**Christ, you lead and we shall follow,
stumbling though our steps may be,
one with you in joy and sorrow,
we the river, you the sea,
we the river, you the sea.**

Closing Music

Cat Stevens Peace Train - video