

# Quispamsis United Church

*Lent: The Stones we Carry*

*March 21st, 2021 – Fifth Sunday of Lent*

*President: Rev. Richard Bowley*

*Hymn Leader: John Hill*

*Reader: Barb McBean*

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**Centering Passage:** *How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.*

*Psalm 84:1-2*

**Welcome**

**Acknowledgement of Territories**

**Celebrations & Announcements**

## GATHERING TOGETHER

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

The light of Christ burns bright, but sometimes we cannot see it. Sometimes it burns just out of sight, sometimes just around the corner on the path, and sometimes we must search and crane our necks to see it. But it burns bright, before us, within us, warming us, and guiding us on.

**Prelude**

Be Thou My Vision - Traditional Irish

**Greeting (Responsive):**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy at the Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Call to Worship (Responsive):**

We come to this place, the holy space we create for worship,

**for a moment, for an hour, for a day.**

But who we are when we enter this time is different from who we will be when we leave it,

**because we come to this time to meet Christ, whose Word transforms, whose love changes the very path of our life.**

So come, see and hear what Jesus has done and is doing.

**We would see Christ, so that we can truly see ourselves.**

**Opening Prayer**

You, O Christ, are the one who has called to us, invited yourself into our lives, and we, not understanding our true worth, cannot help but ask why? Why are we worth your time O Christ? Why do you chase us so relentlessly, O Spirit? Why do you seek us out even when we are hiding,

O God? You answer every time with a warm embrace, a reminder that we were made out of your love, ever worthy of that same love. Help us to see ourselves and our kindred in this world as you see us, not just as we are but who we were made to be. We offer this and all our prayers in your strong name, O Christ. AMEN

**Hymn:** Come in, Come in and Sit Down VU 395

**Refrain**

**Come in, come in and sit down,  
you are a part of the family.  
We are lost and we are found,  
and we are a part of the family.**

**You know the reason why you came,  
yet no reason can explain;  
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,  
for we are a part of the family. R**

**God is with us in this place,  
like a mother's warm embrace.  
We're all forgiven by God's grace,  
for we are a part of the family. R**

**There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;  
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.  
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,  
but we are a part of the family. R**

**There's rest for the weary and health for us all;  
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.  
So come in and worship and answer the call,  
for we are a part of the family. R**

**Theme Conversation**

**Stone Liturgy (Responsive):**

God, Help us to reach beyond our self-doubt

**when we are tempted to focus only on the ways that we are broken.**

Give us the forethought to understand that when we look in the mirror and demean the person looking back at us, we fail to see Christ looking back at us, and the Holy Spirit reaching out to embrace us.

**Give us the courage to confess our brokenness and then lay down that burden, rather than be frozen in place over our perceived unworthiness, an act that separates us from each other and from you...**

*(silent reflection)*

Forgive us for the times where we have not been able to forgive ourselves and move forward.

**When we are tempted to bear burdens we need not carry, may we search for and cling to your saving grace and be lifted from under the weight of our doubts. Amen.**

**Today's Scripture:** Luke 18:31—19:10

Then he took the twelve aside and said to them, 'See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be handed over to the Gentiles; and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again.' But they understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, 'Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.' Then he shouted, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' He said, 'Lord, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Receive your sight; your faith has saved you.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So, he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.' So, he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, 'He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.' Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'

This is the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**Praise be to you, O Christ.**

**Sung Response:** VU 956

**Your word is a lamp to my feet,  
and a light unto my path.**

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: Jesus Hands Were Kind Hands VU 570

**Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all,  
healing pain and sickness, blessing children small,  
washing tired feet, and saving those who fall;  
Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.**

**Take my hands, O Jesus, let them work for you,  
make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do;  
let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too,  
till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.**

Minutes for Mission - Esbikenh's Story <https://youtu.be/FUGn8HlqDMs>

How Can I Give?

### HOW CAN I GIVE TO MY CHURCH WHEN THE CHURCH IS CLOSED?

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](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/ 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: In Gratitude and Humble Trust VU 544

**In gratitude and humble Trust we bring our best today  
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.  
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son,  
teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

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

**You give us so much, so freely, O Christ. You show us the way, you show us our true selves, and you show us true and unconditional love. We give this day in response to that love, and ask that you bless us and all that we give. May what we offer of our time, talent, and treasure reflect your love for us on the world. We offer this and all our prayers in your strong name, O Christ, our brother and teacher. AMEN**

### **Prayers for Ourselves and Others & Lord's Prayer**

#### **SENDING FORTH**

**Hymn:                   Wherever You May Go                   MV 216**

#### **Refrain**

**Wherever you may go, I will follow,  
And your people shall be my people too.  
Wherever you may go, I will follow:  
For I will be faithful, loyal and true.**

**Say the word and I will stay,  
I will never go away,  
We will travel side by side  
And God's love will be our guide. R**

**From beginning to the end  
I will always be your friend,  
When you need me, I'll be there,  
You can trust my faithful care. R**

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

Christ asks, "What do you desire of me?"

**"To see," we reply.**

Go and see, see your worth and that of your neighbours. Go and see the world and those who walk it as God sees them.

**With eyes and hearts open, we will seek Christ's loving embrace, and share that love with the world.**

### **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 have heard this day.

**Choral Closing:** We Shall Go Out With Hope of Resurrection Verse 1 VU 586

**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 dream of hurts that can be healed;  
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
within the vision of new life who sets us free.**

**Postlude**

Leon Boellmann