

Quispamsis United Church

Lent: Chasing the Light

March 5th, 2022 - Second Sunday of Lent

Liturgical Colour: Purple

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Chris Young

Centering Passage: *I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.*

-Psalm 16:7-8

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting of the Christ Candle: The light of Christ reveals who we are, but also the truth of the world around us. May this revealing light show us those things that we have been blind to - whether through intention or ignorance - and guide us to wholeness as a people, as creation.

Opening Music Wondrous Love - American Folk Hymn

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Introit:

Lord Prepare Me

MV 18 (X2)

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary

Pure and holy, tried and true

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living,

Sanctuary for you.

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 those called by God as children, come and seek the wisdom of the Most High.

We come to worship the Lord, our hands and feet are God's to use!

To those whom the Spirit touched only once they stepped out their own, come and seek the embrace of the Great Shepherd.

We come to worship the Lord, our hands and feet are God's to use!

To those whom Christ has called after they were set in their lives, come and seek the encouragement of the one we call Prince of Peace.

We come to worship the Lord, our hands and feet are God's to use!

To those who feel they have accomplished all they can in this life, come and seek the new creation of which you are a crucial part.

We come to worship the Lord, our hands and feet are God's to use!

All have been called, and all have their part to play in the building. So come.

Let us worship the Lord who works in and through us.

Prayer of the Day

Lord, whether we have come to you from long ago, or have just come to you now, you reach out with love and blessing for each one of us. Help us remember your mercy and your love and offer greetings and blessings to each other in your name. As we sing our praise to you, O Lord, we remember the multitude of blessings you have given us. We are mindful of the ways in which you have lifted us when we have fallen low. Be with us this day as we gather to hear your Word for our lives. AMEN.

Hymn:

Each Blade of Grass

MV 37

**Each blade of grass, ev'ry wing that soars,
the waves that sweep across a distant shore,
make full the circle of God.**

**Each laughing child, ev'ry gentle eye,
a forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky,
make full the circle of God.**

**Each silent paw, ev'ry rounded stone,
the buzz that echoes from a honey'd comb,
make full the circle of God.**

**Each fire-brimmed star, ev'ry outstretched hand,
the wind that leaps and sails across the land,
make full the circle of God.**

**Each icy peak, ev'ry patterned shell,
the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,
make full the circle of God.**

**Each cosmic hue, ev'ry creature's way,
all form the beauty of this vast array,
making full the circle of God.**

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Chasing the Light Liturgy (Responsive):

As people born of the divine spark, (...) that no darkness can overcome.

The journey through Lent is a path through light and darkness.

Today we continue our journey, but the light is not as strong as it once was.

We are drawn forward on our journey by promises:

promises of life, of love, of kingdom. Promises made to people millenia ago. Promises made to us today.

God's promises are true, but far too often our promises are fragile, and easily broken.

(put out candle)

For those times where we have broken our promises,

for those times we have gone back on our word,

for those we have left behind when we offered strength,

for lives that were meant to be lived for you,

for the ways that we diminish the light of creation

because we are too afraid, too selfish, too angry, we pray O God. Guide us by your light, even when all light seems to go out.

(silent reflection)

Time for All Ages

Sung Prayer of Illumination:

Open our Hearts

MV 21 (X2)

Open our hearts, open our minds.

Open our lives to you, O loving God.

Reading: Matthew 20:1-16

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us."

He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Message Getting in on the Ground Floor

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

For the Fruit of All Creation

VU 227

**For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.**

**For these gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God.**

**For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done.**

**In the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done.**

**In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.**

**For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.**

**For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.**

Moment for Community: Worship Committee

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/ 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: We give you but your own VU 542
**We give you but your own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone,
we give it gratefully.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

God of abundance, receive the gifts that we bring today and throughout our lives. We offer them to you with deep thanksgiving out of the blessings that you first gave to us. May we and what we offer help your love and grace flow like rivers in deserts of need. This we pray in the strong name of Christ our brother and our guide. AMEN.

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 for ever.**

Hymn:

Let All Things Now Living

VU 242

**Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God our creator triumphantly raise.
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night.
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished
As forward we travel from light into light.**

**By law God enforces, the stars in their courses
And sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration a Song let us raise
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!"**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive)

Morning, noon, or night, God calls each of us to join in the work of building up of the kingdom.

Each of us with a part to play, a gift to give, a way to walk.

Answer the call of Christ, and walk in his Way. Be the hands and feet of God, working the vineyard that is creation.

Together we will share Gospel and Grace, Glorifying God in all that we do.

Benediction

Go from here to walk the Lenten road knowing the Grace of Christ attends you, the love of God surrounds you and the Holy Spirit will guide and empower you today and always.

Choral Closing:

Lead O, O Cloud of Presence

VU 421 (vs 3)

**Lead on O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.
We pray our sons and daughters may journey to that land
where justice dwells with mercy, and love is law's demand.**

Closing Music

Great Is The Lord - Michael Smith