

Quispamsis United Church
Lent: The Stones we Carry
March 7th, 2021 – Third Sunday of Lent
Presider: Outreach Team
Guests: Jayme Hall & Phil Appleby
Founders of Outflow Ministry Inc.
Hymn Leaders: Sue King and Wendy Stewart
Reader: Karen Young

Centering Passage:

Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts. I long for your salvation, O Lord, and your law is my delight. Let me live that I may praise you, and let your ordinances help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek out your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.

Psalm 119:173-176

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting the Christ Candle

Christ's light
is our awakening,
our compass,
our lighthouse
our candle in the darkness
and our hope

We light this candle together believing that our kinship, our home, and our safe harbour is in Christ who came that all might find this light. Amen

Prelude

Wondrous Love - Southern Folk Hymn - arr. David N. Johnson

Call to Worship (Responsive):

God your goodness and faithfulness is with us this morning.

Welcoming Father, we praise you because your mercies are new every morning.

We come to worship you, abide in You, and open our hearts to your goodness.

Loving Shepherd, we are here together in your presence, to be led by you. Amen

Opening Prayer

Holy One, we come to you this morning asking that you fill our hearts with compassion. Reveal to us how to infuse empathy into ministry and expand our walls beyond our comfort zones. As we welcome guests into our midst today open our hearts to listen and teach us of your mercy in action.

In Jesus name we pray to you Lord, that you will take our weariness, our restlessness and lethargy and exchange it for your passion, your compassion, and your love. Amen.

Hymn: Come, O Fount of Every Blessing VU 559

Theme Conversation

Stone Liturgy Video - Reverend Richard and Natalie

Stones Liturgy (Responsive)

God, Help us to reach for your forgiveness

when we are tempted to lord over others their wrong doing.

Give us the forethought to understand

how when we are quick to carry a grudge, find fault and assign blame our hearts are hardened. We create a breeding ground for resentment and anger that leaves us locked in a prison of self-righteousness and holds others in bondage to guilt and shame.

Challenge us to release the chains of bondage created by holding onto resentment and hurt has separated us from you and each other...

(silent reflection)

Forgive us for all the ways that our failure to show mercy has played a part in the suffering of others, and lead us toward abundant life.

When we are tempted by the fire of offence or weighted down by feelings of guilt and shame, may we search for and cling to your boundless forgiveness and be uplifted by your ever-present grace. Amen.

WE LISTEN TO GODS WORD

Today's Scripture: Luke 15:1-32

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

So, he told them this parable: 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.'

‘Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, “Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.” Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.’

Then Jesus said, ‘There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, “Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.” So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, “How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’ ” So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” But the father said to his slaves, “Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.” Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, “Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!” Then the father said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.”

May the Spirit open our hearts and ears and minds to guide us into a greater knowledge of Christ. Amen

Message

Jayme Hall & Phil Appleby, Founders of Outflow Ministry Inc.

“Outflow works to improve the lives of the people in Saint John who live in poverty. Our work is motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ and his lordship. Part of the way we express this faith is by looking for opportunities to reduce the unemployment, hunger, homelessness, and medical costs in our city. Our hope is that our work lets people know they have a place not only in their city but also in the Kingdom of God.” [Who We Are - Outflow \(outflowsj.com\)](#)

Question Time for Jayme and Philip.

Donations can be made through

- candahelps.org
- or email transfer to info@outflowsj.com
- or cheques to
Outflow Ministry.Inc
162 Waterloo Street
Saint John, NB, E2L 3R1

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

When we are Living

VU 581

Minutes for Mission Mambud's Story

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 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):

God, giver of all good things. You have given us more than we can ever thank you for. Today we ask that you receive our giving's to be used to bless those in need, those seeking your love and those longing for your faithful shelter. Jesus, show us how we can give of ourselves both in small unnoticeable ways and bold demonstrative actions in your name.

In the name of Christ who gave everything for us. Amen

Praying for Ourselves and Others (written by Ray Tonge) & **Lord's Prayer**

O Holy God:

As we come before you, we do so with humble and contrite hearts. During this time when we are unable to gather in person to worship you, we rely on the various media to help us come together as your family. And during this unusual time when physical and mental illness seems to be an unwelcome companion, we pray that your spirit will be with those who are in need.

So often we mouth our praise of you; yet words can be shallow and meaningless when they are not accompanied by actions. Actions have a greater volume than words. Jesus established the benchmark for our behaviour when he said:

Provide comfort for those who are in need of comforting.
Provide sustenance for those without food.
Provide shelter for those who have no shelter.
Provide solace for those who are grieving.

We pray that the commandment that Jesus gave us will be the guiding force; that we love our neighbour.

We now bring before you those who have worrying health issues and those who are experiencing the loss of a loved one.

We would thank you, God, for inspiring those who have organized and provided for the care and welfare of the less fortunate. They are showing what can be done when we unearth our talents for the betterment of our fellow beings.

In the silence of this time, we bring before you the heart felt needs as each person asks for your intercession.

(Silence)

What we have laid before you, O God, we ask in Jesus name.

OUR FATHER.....Amen

SENDING FORTH

ANTHEM Take My Healing to the Nations – By Bob Fitts, Sue and Wendy

Commissioning (Responsive):

In You Christ, our Teacher and Redeemer- we find our home.

We go forth to offer others shelter in you also.

In You Christ our Shepherd and guide we are found,

We go forth to gather the weary, the lost, the lonely and the broken.

We go forth in your light to love as you love us. Amen

Benediction

Good people you have heard the need, you have heard the call,

You are loved, you have been welcomed home, you have been found and gathered into the fold.

Go in the name of Christ, seal the love of God in your hearts and share the news that in Christ all are welcome.

Thanks be to God! Amen

Choral Closing **Go Now in Peace** - Raise the Roof CD - Quispamsis Choir

Postlude The Heavens Declare the Glory of God - Benedetto Marcello