



**Call to Worship (Responsive):**

When we fall or fail,

**We stand in God's grace.**

When we strive and stumble in life,

**we find our hope in Christ.**

When we grow weary of the long road and the trials we face,

**we claim the strength given by the Holy Spirit.**

In every part of our lives,

**the love of our Creator has been poured into our hearts. Let us be open to this love as we join together in worship.**

**Prayer of Approach:**

Gracious and Loving God, as we gather together to reflect on your Word, we thank you for your presence with us. We thank you for the grace that you have poured out on us through your Son, Jesus Christ. We are amazed by the ways that you have shown us your love, even when we were still far off. We pray that you will help us to live our lives in a way that reflects your grace and mercy. Strengthen us by your Spirit to persevere through trials, knowing that our hope in you and our faith in Christ is not in vain. Guide us in this time of worship, and encourage us as we strive to deepen our faith. We offer this and all our prayers in the name of Christ, our brother, AMEN

**Hymn:**

Come O Fount of Every Blessings

VU 559

**Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace,  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of endless praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.**

**Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,  
Come to trust at every turning, God will guide me safely home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,  
Came to rescue me from danger, precious presence, precious blood.**

**O, to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.  
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:  
Here's my heart, O, take and seal it, seal it for your very own.**

## LISTENING FOR TRUTH

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

**God of Grace, in the words of Paul we hear again that Christ bridges the gap between our brokenness and your embrace. Forgive us when we ignore that wonderful truth or worse, when we think the bridge is unnecessary. Remind us that our brokenness is not something to fear or hide, but something that we should lay before you. Enter into that brokenness and guide us to wholeness. This we pray in the strong name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. AMEN**

### **Assurance of God's Love:**

The wonder that is God's grace and love is the fact that it is given so freely. Even in those times when we would hesitate to reach for God, God is already reaching for us, enveloping us in an embrace that overcomes any barriers that we might place in our own way. Thanks be to God for such a love as this.

### **Time for All Ages**

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

**Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the light of eternity. Kindle our hearts with the presence of your Spirit, that we may hear your words of comfort and challenge in the reading of the scriptures, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.**

### **Reading: Romans 5:1-11**

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gift of Music** "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker" by Ron Klusmeier from More Voices

**Message** The Question of Suffering

### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn:** Come Touch Our Hearts MV 12

**Come touch our hearts  
that we may know compassion,  
From failing embers build a blazing fire;  
Love strong enough to overturn injustice,  
To seek a world more gracious,  
come touch and bless our hearts.**

**Come touch our souls  
That we may know and love you  
Your quiet presence all our fears dispel;  
Create a space for Spirit to grow in us,  
Let life and beauty fill us.  
Come, touch and bless our souls.**

**Come touch our minds  
And teach us how to reason,  
Set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;  
Help us to open doors of understanding  
To welcome truth and wisdom,  
Come, touch and bless our minds.**

**Come touch us in  
The moments we are fragile  
And in our weakness your great strength reveal;  
That we may rise to follow and to serve,  
Steady now our nerve,  
Come, touch and bless our wills.**

**Come touch us now,  
This people who are gathered  
To break the bread and share the cup of peace;  
That we may love you with our heart, our soul  
Our mind, our strength, our all,  
Come, touch us with your grace.**

**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](mailto: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/ 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:**

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 of every good gift, we give thanks for the opportunity to give back out of our abundance, out of the many blessings that you have poured into our lives. We ask that you bless what we bring, bless who we are, bless this community of faith as we strive to be kingdom builders in this place. We offer this and all our prayers and the strong name of our brother and our guide, Jesus Christ.**

**Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer**

Hymn:

Walk with me

VU 649

**Refrain:**

**Walk with me, I will walk with you  
and build land that God has planned  
where love shines through.**

**When Moses heard the call of God he said, "Lord don't send me."  
But God told Moses, "You're the one to set my people free." R**

**Now Peter was a most unlikely man to lead the flock;  
But Jesus new his holiness and he became the rock. R**

**Young Mary Magdalene was sure her life could be much more,  
And by her faith she dared to let God's love unlock the door. R**

**And when you share your faith with me and work for life need new,  
The witness of your faithfulness calls me to walk with you. R**

### **SENDING FORTH**

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

The Good News we have received this day is even when we are far off, even when we run from God,

**Christ meets us and guides us home.**

Strengthened by our faith, we go to the world inspired to act.

**We carry the love of God shown in Christ to the world.**

Go now, empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the joy of a people reconciled in Christ.

**AMEN**

#### **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 great news you've heard this day. AMEN

#### **Choral Closing:**

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

VU 179 (vs 2)

**Refrain:**

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ.  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, give praise to God's Name.**

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
Jesus has died and is risen. R**

#### **Closing Music**

"Quartet" by Josef Haydn