Quispamsis United Church

*May 15th, 2022 - Fifth Sunday of Easter*

*Liturgical Colour: White*

*Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley*

*Musician: Stephen Alexander*

*Reader: Stephen Alexander*

*Centering Passage: From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.*

*-John 1:16-18*

## GATHERING TOGETHER

### Welcome

### Acknowledgement of Territories

### Signs of Spring

### Dedicate a Service

This service is dedicated by Rev. Richard in celebration of Wayne Bowley’s upcoming birthday on May 22nd. Happy Birthday Wayne!

### Celebrations & Announcements

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### Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this candle to remind us that we are a part of the spreading of the good news. Every time that we share the gospel is like lighting a candle is someone’s life. Let us share the grace we have found with the world.

Opening Music Amazing Grace - arr. Cindy Berry

### 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):

Our lives are filled with questions,

and we search our world for answers.

In sharing what we have found,

we see a fuller picture of creation.

As we gather in this time and place, let us share with each other our encounters with the divine.

Let us worship. Let us sing. Let us draw closer to the one who has drawn us here.

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### Opening Prayer

You, O God of Mystery, stand just at the edge between the known and the unknown, and you call to us. You invite us to move beyond where we are and what we comprehend, to discover a world of possibilities, of hope, and of new life. As we gather in worship of you, as we explore the stories of our faith, and lift our prayers to you, we ask that you pull back the veil of the unknown. Reveal to us a glimpse of your kingdom, so that we might build it right here, right now. We offer this prayer in the strong name of Christ, who guides us on the road of faith discovery. AMEN

### Hymn: Immortal, Invisible, God only wise VU 264

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,

in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,

most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,

almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,

nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;

thy justice like mountains high soaring above

thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;

in all life. thou livest, the true life of all;

we blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,

then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light,

thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;

all laud we would render, O help us to see

'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

## LISTENING FOR TRUTH

### Prayer for Reconciliation (Unison):

God of Wisdom and Truth, we bring before you today all those times where we have given up or thought of giving up in our search for deeper truth, meaning, and hope. Sometimes we have allowed our frustration to stop us; our fear to guide us; our faith in you to waiver. Forgive us for those times when we have turned from what we do not know or understand rather than strive to know your world more fully. Forgive us for when we close ourselves off, when we set limits on what we can or should explore. Help us, O Shepherd of our Souls, to be more curious, to see the world with eyes filled with wonder. We offer this and all our prayers in the strong name of our companion on the way, Jesus Christ. AMEN

### Assurance of God's Love:

Even when we think we have reached the end of what we might find, God is still creating something new just around the corner. The whole of creation waits for us, and when we forget that, God reaches into our lives and reminds us with glimpses of glory.

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### Theme Conversation

### 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: Acts 17:16-31

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the market-place every day with those who happened to be there. Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, ‘What does this babbler want to say?’ Others said, ‘He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.’ (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, ‘May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.’ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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### Message In Search of the Unknown

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

### Hymn: Worship the Lord VU 401 *QUC Recording*

Refrain:

Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)

worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,

raising our hands (raising our hands)

in devotion to God who is one!

Raising our hands as a sign of rejoicing,

and with our lips ours togetherness voicing,

giving ourselves to a life of creativeness,

worship and work must be one! R

Praying and training that we be a blessing,

and by our handiwork daily confessing:

we are committed to serving humanity,

worship and work must be one! R

Called to be partners with God in creation,

honouring Christ as the Lord of the nation,

we must be ready for risk and for sacrifice,

worship and work must be one! R

Bringing the bread and the wine to the table,

asking that we may be led and enabled,

truly united to build new communities,

worship and work must be one! R

Now in response to the life you are giving,

help us, Creator, to offer our living,

seeking a just and a healing society,

worship and work must be one! R

### 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/ if you come for in-person worship, there is a plate as you enter the church where you can place your offering.

5/ mail or deliver your giving’s to our treasurer, Brion Crossman, 22 Country Crescent, Quispamsis, E2E 1T2

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### Offertory Dedication Hymn: I’m Gonna Shout MV 183 (new words) X2

I’m gonna give, give, give of myself for Jesus, for Jesus.

I’m gonna give, give, give of myself to serve the risen one!

For whatever life might throw my way

I’ll serve you each and everyday!

With all I am and all I’ll ever be!

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### Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Come to us, O Giver of All, and receive from us a portion of the wonder you have shown us in this world. Out of our very selves we offer to you gifts of time, talent, and treasure, gifts that you have placed in our live, gifts that we long to use for the building of the kingdom in this world. Bless all that we all, and all that we bring, O God, and inspire us to seek your kingdom in unexpected places. In the name of the Risen Christ, we offer this prayer and ourselves, O God. AMEN

### Prayers of the People & Lord’s Prayer VU 960

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive them

that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil:

for thine is the kingdom and the power

and the glory forever and ever. AMEN

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### Hymn: Your Hand O God, Has Guided VU 274

Your hand, O God, has guided your flock from age to age;

the wondrous tale is written, full clear, on every page.

Our forebears owned your goodness, and we their deeds record;

and both of this bear witness: one church, one faith, one Lord.

Your heralds brought glad tidings to greatest as to least;

they bade them rise, and hasten to share the heavenly feast.

And this was all their teaching, in every deed and word,

to all alike proclaiming: one church, one faith, one Lord.

Through many days of darkness, through many scenes of strife,

the faithful few fought bravely to guard your people's life.

Their gospel of redemption, sin pardoned, earth restored,

was all in this enfolded: one church, one faith, one Lord.

And we, shall we be faithless? Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?

Shall we evade the conflict and cast away our crown?

Not so: in God's deep counsels some better thing is stored;

we will maintain, unflinching, one church, one faith, one Lord.

Your mercy will not fail us, nor leave your work undone;

with your right hand to help us, the victory shall be won;

and then, by earth and heaven, your name shall be adored,

and this shall be our anthem: one church, one faith, one Lord.

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## SENDING FORTH

### Commissioning (Responsive):

The only question we need ask is this:

Where next, O God?

As we go to the world to continue our journeys,

may we marvel at what is revealed, and wonder at what is yet to be found.

### 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 VU 586 (vs 1) *QUC Recording*

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 in Christ.

### Closing Music Allegro Maestoso (Water Music) - G.F. Handel