

Quispamsis United Church

May 21st, 2023

President: Affirming Committee QUC

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Wendy Stewart

Centering Thoughts:

May the stirring of the Spirit create in you a desire for new wine today.

John 2; 9-11. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰ and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." ¹¹ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting of the Christ Candle: We light this candle to remember that Jesus came to be the light of the world. May we be reminded of the mosaic of humanity and the love that Christ has for all, with no exclusion or conditions...just love. Amen

Opening Music Simple Gifts - Quaker Folk Hymn

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Welcome to Quispamsis United Church

If this is your first time here, we truly welcome you to worship with us.

We believe in God as known through Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit and we strive to live by the example Jesus set.

As part of our welcome, we light this candle, lit from the flame of Christ's own light and love, as we proclaim ourselves as a community where all people are invited without barriers based on age, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, differing abilities, ethnic background, or economic circumstance.

We celebrate the richness that diversity brings to our church, even as it challenges us to walk down roads we have not yet traveled. We pray for God's spirit to guide us as we work for reconciliation and justice for all persons in both church and society.

If you would like more information or have a need that you would like to speak to somebody about, please seek out the information on this slide.

Check out our Facebook page, website: quc.ca, call our Church office at 506-847-4924 or email us at office@quc.ca. We celebrate your presence here this morning.

Acknowledgement of Territories: Wendy Stewart original song entitled: *How do I say sorry?*

SILENCE

Celebrations & Announcements

Introit: `

I Feel the Winds of God today

VU 625

I feel the winds of God today; today my sail I lift,
Though heavy, oft with drenching spray, and torn with many a rift;
If hope but light the water's crest, and Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at His behest, and brave another cruise.

Call to Worship (Responsive):

Come, let us all praise God together!

For God is great and worthy of our praise!

Let's tell stories of God's power and majesty and grace, God's mighty acts throughout our world and in our lives.

For God is great and worthy of our praise!

Let us remember the compassion God has shown toward us,
God's mercy and unfailing love is showered upon us, generation after generation.

For God is great and worthy of our praise!

Come, let us work together to deepen our spirituality, be bold in our discipleship and daring in seeking justice for all.

Our God is great and so worthy of all these things!

Let us worship and praise God together! Amen.

Gathering Prayer

Loving Creator, Holy God, today we come into your house from our own homes, our own work environments, our own relationships, and our own endeavours. We bring with us all that brings us joy and all that challenges us, and we lay this before each other and here in this safe house of love. We offer ourselves to you in this hour to thank you, to praise you and learn how to follow you **AMEN.**

Hymn:

I See a New Heaven

VU 713

I see a new heaven, I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
Where the fountain of life flows and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.

There, there on the banks of a river bright and free,
Yielding her fruit, firm in her root,
The Tree of Life will be. R

There, there where death dies and our lives are born again,
Body and soul, struggling but whole
Life flowers after the rain. R

There, there where the darkness brings visions from above.
There where the night, bearing new light,
Reveals the promise of love. R

There, there where we work with the love of healing hands.
Labour we must, true to our trust
To build a promised new land." R

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Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Loving God we are called to do many things and often the need overwhelms us. Forgive us for not leaning on you or trusting you to guide us. We seek your creative, wisdom and love to make us bolder and more daring to do what you call us to do. In Jesus name, our brother on this journey, Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Doug: Be assured that you are good, for God has called you good.

Sue: Be assured that you are in favour, for by God's grace you are favoured.

Lynn: Be assured that you are not alone for God has promised never to leave you or forsake you.

All three: Be assured for you are blessed. Thanks be to God.

Time for All Ages

<https://youtu.be/PVEghDBwdoA>

I Saw God the Other Day Video. Victor Wooten and family

Prayer

Dear God

Help me to see you in the people I meet everyday, In my family in my friends, in my school, and in my play,

In Jesus name we pray

Amen

Kids go to Sunday School

Prayer of Illumination (Unison):

Living God, as we hear words of life given to us from another era, open our hearts and minds to allow your Spirit to challenge and change us through the hearing of this text. AMEN

Anthem: God Says MV 172 Senior Choir

Scriptures and Message

Wendy: *The United Church has new vision and purpose statements. These are key elements of a strategic plan designed to shape the next three years. The Vision reads:*

Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, The United Church of Canada seeks to be a bold, connected, evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, and daring justice. Taken from United Church of Canada web site Formulated in November 2022

Our message this morning will be split by scripture verses and three of the Affirming Committee speaking individually to these three tenets:

Deep Spirituality

Bold Discipleship

Daring Justice

Wendy: All scriptures this morning are from NIV translation. Our first scripture this morning is:

Philippians 4:⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Wendy: I will now hand over to Lynn who will speak on **Deep Spirituality**

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Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:12-18

¹² Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³ not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that^[c] was being set aside. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵ Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶ but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the

Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Wendy: I will now hand over to Doug who will speak on **Bold Discipleship**

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Micah 6: verse 8

⁸ He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly^[a] with your God.

Wendy: I will now hand over to Sue who will speak on **Daring Justice**

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RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Wendy: Hear and ponder these words spoken in truth.

All: May we the listeners, honor and receive these words with the Spirit who leads and guides us. Amen

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Hymn:

What Does the Lord Require of You?"

VU #701(3x)

"What does the Lord require of you?

Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God.

To seek justice, and love kindness,

And walk humbly with your God."

How can we give?

- Sign up for Par -direct- bank account or Credit card. Talk to treasurer Brion 849-6003 Or Mail cheque or drop off money to him. 22 Country Crescent, Quispamsis, E2E 1T2.
- Internet banking -Etransfer QUC@nb.aibn.com
- Find QUC on www.canadahelps.org website.
- Money in your pocket or white envelope? Place in the plate as you enter.
- Consider giving to Mission and Service Fund through your regular offering or at <https://united-church.ca>
- See where you can offer your time and talents. Look in the announcements -there are opportunities for you to help.

Offertory Dedication Hymn:

What Can I give

MV 191

What Can I do? What can I bring? What Can I say? What Can I sing?

I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.

I'll bring my love.

I'll do my share.

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

With grateful and cheerful hearts Lord, we offer our gifts to you. We are thankful that you meet our needs on the journey, providing us with what we need when we need it.

Trusting you, we can share what we have with others,

And we do this today joyfully, together in Jesus' name ... AMEN.

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Lynn: Holy God, we thank you that your love for us is far greater than we can conceive. We pray that you will increase our desire for deep spirituality. Teach us to pray, to watch, to listen, to meditate and to engage with you and our world around us. Show us that your love for all people is limitless and that the deeper we go the more we will come to know your grace.

Silence

Doug: Spirit, Teacher, come along side us and walk with us. Teach us the ways of bold discipleship to follow you. Teach us boldness in offering your name and love to others. Walk with us and show how to navigate in a world with many potholes and turns. Create in us a new desire to become your disciples of faith, disciples of creativity and disciples of hope.

Silence

Sue: Jesus, brother, and teacher you turned the tables in the temple, you touched the leper, you welcomed the outcast, and you ate with the despised. You pushed the boundaries and showed a new path and way of justice. We pray for those that are isolated or marginalized in our community by illness, immobility, loneliness, addiction, anxiety, depression, race, colour, sexual orientation, gender identity or any victimized because they are different from others. We ask your blessing on them and open our hearts to reach out farther to touch them in your name.

Silence

The Lord's Prayer (Inclusive) In Unison (based on Matthew 6: 9-13)

Blessed One, our Father and our Mother

Holy is your name.

May your love be enacted in the world.

May your will be done

On earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread

**And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For all that we do in your love,
and all that your love brings to birth,
and the fullness of love that will be
are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

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Hymn:

Three Things I Promise

MV 176

Three things I promise, Holy God,
in age and youth, in life and death:
to bless your Name, and cling to Christ,
and listen for the Spirit's breath.

Your love unfolded time and space,
and life, and all that life became,
and so, with thankful heart and voice,
through good and ill, I bless your Name.

I follow, serve, and cling to Christ
amid our culture's tides and trends,
for here your Name is most revealed:
Majestic Love, and Best of Friends.

Enlivened as the Spirit moves
to cleanse, awaken, and renew,
I pray that justice, peace, and truth,
may seed and grow in all I do.

If I should live when vigour fades,
and family and friends are gone,
three acts of loving faith remain
when days are slow, and work is done.

Revive and guide me, Living God,
as day by day, until my death,
I bless your Name, and cling to Christ,
and listen for the Spirit's breath.

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

Lynn: People of Quispamsis United, let us go forth and live as the call to the church invites us to do, as people whose deep spirituality draws them ever closer to God,

We will go forth, we are not alone

Sue: Let us move forward towards bold discipleship as followers of Jesus Christ,

We will move forward together. we are not alone

Doug: Let us commit to seek daring justice and look to the Holy Spirit's presence and power of transformation.

In the Spirit of Christ we will be transformed. Amen

Benediction

Let us go forth and live as the call to the church invites us to do, as people whose deep spirituality draws them ever closer to God, the eternal, whose bold discipleship reflects their life as followers of Jesus Christ, and whose commitment to daring justice is a sign of the Holy Spirit's presence and power of transformation.

Amen.

Taken from United Church of Canada Website Our Call and Vision Service November 2022

Choral Closing:

Let Us Build a House (All are welcome)

MV #1

Let us build a house where love can dwell.

**And all can safely live, a place where saints and
children tell how hearts learn to forgive.**

**Built of hopes and dreams and visions, Rock of faith and vault of
grace: Here the love of Christ shall end divisions.**

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome,

All are welcome in this place.

**Let us build a house where hands will reach.
beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen,
serve and teach and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's
face: let us bring an end to fear and danger. R**

Closing Music Sortie - G.F. Handel

Please remain seated to listen to the closing music and ask how the Spirit has spoken to you today.