

Quispamsis United Church

May 5, 2024 – 6th Sunday after Easter

Liturgical Colour: White

Presider: Stephen Alexander

Pianist: Angela Murphy

Reader: Diane Tonge

Centering Reflection: *To love the unlovable is about offering to others what God has given us.*

GATHERING TOGETHER

Gathering Chord

Introit:

Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!
Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!
Hey now! The morning has come!
Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!
The tomb was empty at the rising sun.

MV 121 Refrain x2

Opening Music... An Invitation to Prayer and Candle Lighting

Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Lighting of Affirm Candle & Acknowledgment of Territories

Celebrations

Call to Worship

Sing to the Lord a new song,

For our God alone is Lord of all.

Break into joyous songs of praise,

Let all the earth celebrate and rejoice.

For our God comes in victory,

With righteousness and justice for all.

Let us worship God.

Prayer of Approach (Unison)

Gracious God, once again you have called us together in this place.

Here we open our hearts and lives before you, here we seek to hear Your life-giving Word.

God in this time of song and prayer and speech,

open our very souls to receive your challenge, open our wills to accept your instruction. Turn our mourning into dancing, replace our sackcloths with garments of joy.

And when our time of worship is ended,

lead us back out into the world to share the Good News with the world around us.

We pray in the name of the One who brought Your healing love, Jesus of Nazareth.

Amen.

Opening Hymn:

We Are One in the Spirit

We are One in The Spirit,

We are One in The Lord.

We are One in The Spirit,

We are One in The Lord.

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Chorus

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our Love,

Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other,

We will work side by side.

We will work with each other,

We will work side by side.

And we'll guard each one's dignity

And save each one's pride. Chorus

We will walk with each other,

We will walk hand in hand.

We will walk with each other,

We will walk hand in hand.

And together we'll spread the News

that God is in our land. Chorus

**All praise to the Father
From whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus His only son
And all praise to the Spirit
Who makes us one. Chorus**

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.

We love with condition.

We judge and condemn.

We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes.

We do not turn to You as the source of our healing. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

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.

Enlighten our minds and 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: John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go

and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sung Response to Scripture

Glory to God in the Highest

MV 124 (2x)

Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.

Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.

The Gift of Music:

A Jubilant Song

Message

"Loving the Unloveable"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

VU 684

Make me a channel of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me bring your love;

where there is injury, your healing power,

and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

Make me a channel of your peace:

where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;

where there is darkness, only light;

and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Refrain

O Spirit, grant that I may never seek

so much to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

in giving to all that we receive,

and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Life and Work of the Church

Sharing of Gifts and Talents

Offertory Dedication Hymn:

Doxology

VU #440 (Vs 5)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
In heaven above and earth below;
One God, three persons we adore-
Be praises given for evermore**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Gracious and holy God,
accept what we offer today:
our cheques and cash, our faltering steps,
our brokenness, our leftovers,
our hope, our risking, our lives.
Bless and transform all that we offer
and all that we hold back,
that new life may be ours,
to celebrate and share in Jesus' name. Amen

Prayers of the People and Lord's prayer

Closing Hymn:

He Came Singing Love

VU 359

**He came singing love and he lived singing love;
he died singing love.
He arose in silence**

Refrain

***For the love to go on we must make it our song;
you and I be the singers.***

**He came singing faith and he lived singing faith;
he died singing faith.
He arose in silence. R**

**He came singing hope and he lived singing hope;
he died singing hope.
He arose in silence. R**

**He came singing peace and he lived singing peace;
he died singing peace.
He arose in silence. R**

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing

Christ Has No Body Now But Yours MV 171 (Refrain 2x)
**Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
To serve with the joy of compassion.**

Closing Music