

Quispamsis United Church

May 8th, 2022 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day!

Liturgical Colour: White

Presider: Rev. Richard

Musician: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Sherry Kiervin

Centering Passage: *They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. 'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.*

-Luke 6:18-19, 22-23

GATHERING TOGETHER

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Signs of Spring

Happy Mother's Day

Celebrations & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

In the darkest of nights, we can feel lost and forgotten. We light this candle as a reminder that no matter how lost we get, Christ finds us. No matter how forgotten we feel, Christ remembers us. No matter how dark it gets, Christ's light can show us the way to a new dawn. Let us follow this light through worship and beyond.

Opening Music Largo - G.F. Handel

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):

Hear the songs of faith rise,

the call to worship rings.

Feel the draw of curiosity,

the Gospels message stands before us.

See the way of God before us,

now is the time to come.

So we come to worship now, in spirit and in truth,

seeking freedom, hope and joy in God's amazing love.

Opening Prayer

World shaker, heart mender, life breather, we call on you by the many names that you are known, and ask that you enter into this time and bring wisdom and light. As we follow Paul on the path of his ministry we ask that you hold a mirror up in the midst of the words that we might see ourselves, the ways we heal, and the ways we hurt. Encourage us in this time, as we hear of the hardships that come with following your Son, so that we too might stand boldly in our faith and proclaim your love to a world that needs it. We offer this and all our prayers in the name of Christ, our brother and our guide. AMEN

Hymn:

The Church is Wherever

VU 579

The church is wherever God's people are praising,

Singing God's goodness for joy on this day.

The church is wherever disciples of Jesus

remember his story and walk in his way.

The church is wherever God's people are helping,

caring for neighbours in sickness and need.

The church is wherever God's people are sharing

the words of the Bible in gift and in deed.

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Prayer for Reconciliation (Unison):

God of mercy and kindness, we are often confused about how we should act and what we should say. We make mistakes. We are not always helpful or loving when we see those around us struggling. We speak when we should listen, wanting only to be heard. We are silent when compassion needs a voice, allowing prejudice and fear to guide us. We do not always reflect before acting, leaving behind unintended consequences that hurt others and ourselves. Forgive us, O God, our brokenness. Forgive the sins of action and inaction. Forgive our rash actions that lead to fractures in our community. Hear us, O God, for we offer our whole selves in the name of the Risen One. AMEN

Assurance of God's Love:

We were created perfectly imperfect, with God knowing full well we would stumble and fall, that we would make mistakes. Out of that same wisdom, God knows our capacity for love, creation, and joy. In God's great love we are always forgiven and offered a chance to start anew.

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 16:16-34

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.' She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.' The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.' The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

The Free and the Imprisoned

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

Come Touch our Hearts

MV 12 QUC Recording

**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. 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

Minutes for Mission: Bridging Financial Divides - Lynn's Story

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!

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

We offer our whole selves this day, O God. We offer ourselves not just for the building up of your kingdom, but for the tearing down of systems that oppress. To those who seek redemption, we long offer grace. To those who are oppressed, we long to bring justice. To those whose lives are filled with violence, we long to bring peace. To those who have spent lives lost in the shadows, we long to bring light. Bless us and our gifts for this work, for the work your Son has called us to, we pray. 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**

Hymn:

Go to the World

VU 420

**Go to the world! Go into all the earth;
Go preach the cross where Christ renew's life's worth,
Baptizing as the sign of our rebirth. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**Go to the world! Go into every place;
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace;
Go seek God's presence in each time and space. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray;
The nights of tears give way to joyful day.
As servant Church, you follow Christ's own way. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
For I am with you till the age shall end,
When all the hosts of glory cry 'Amen!' Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

Paul was always on the move, proclaiming God's love.

We go now, commissioned to do the same.

We go into the world with all its complexities,

to preach the Gospel of love and freedom to those we meet.

Not everyone will like this, but in our sharing of God's love,

we will shake the world.

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

Voluntary in E minor - Andante - John Stanley