

Quispamsis United Church

May 9th, 2021 - The Sixth Sunday of Easter

President: Rev. Richard Bowley

Music Director: Stephen Alexander

Hymn Leader: Sue King

Reader: Heather Haché

Centering Passage: *‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, “God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.” But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.’*

-Luke 18:10-14

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting the Christ Candle

We need your light, O Christ, to lead us away from the paths of deceit and inauthenticity. May this light reveal our true selves. May this light lead us to genuine faith in the triune God. May this light show us the way.

Prelude

Pastorale - Charles Wesley

Greeting (Responsive):

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):

Who we were before the Holy Spirit called us to this place today has no bearing on who we might be tomorrow with the power of the Holy Spirit.

We come to be transformed by the Word, inspired by the whispers of Holy Wisdom.

Who we were before the moment when God broke into our lives to tell us we are loved, does not change the fact that we are loved.

We come to hear of God's love, God's grace, God's passion, not just for us but for all.

Let us seek and be found as we worship God together.

Prayer of Approach

Spirit of Life and new beginnings, in you we see possibility when the world tells us we have nothing to offer. And so, as we come seeking the wisdom in the word, the guidance of the early church, the whispers of the Spirit. Move in us, we pray, and give us hearts to welcome all your children and share your grace freely, as Christ shared himself so freely with all. We offer this prayer in the name of the one who welcomed us first. AMEN

Hymn: He Came Singing Love VU 359 (vs 1, 2, and 4)

**1 He came singing love and he lived singing love;
he died singing love.**

He arose in silence.

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

**2 He came singing faith and he lived singing faith;
he died singing faith.**

He arose in silence.

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

**4 He came singing peace and he lived singing peace;
he died singing peace.**

He arose in silence.

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

Theme Conversation

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Forgive us, O God, those times in our lives when we have judged others before getting to know them. Forgive us for letting another's past determine who they could be by your grace. Forgive us for letting what others may think of us get in the way of reaching out to a world in need. Move in us, transform us, and help us to be people who welcome all who Christ has drawn to himself, all who are seeking a deeper spiritual awareness, all who long for community. We ask this in the name of the one who welcomed friends and strangers alike, Jesus Christ. AMEN

Assurance of God's Love & A New Creed (VU 918)

Whatever the world might think, God knows our hearts. When we confess our sin and brokenness, honestly seeking grace, God gives it. None could hold back that free gift if they tried. Thanks be to God for the love and grace that we are shown, even when we think we don't deserve it. And so together We proclaim our faith saying...

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

Today's Scripture: Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21

You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus.

But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood self-condemned; for until certain people came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But after they came, he drew back and kept himself separate for fear of the circumcision faction. And the other Jews joined him in this hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not acting consistently with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, 'If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?'

We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

This is the Word of our God.

Praise be to you, O Creator.

Anthem Fill My House - Peter Kearney (Solo Stephen Alexander)

Message Living Authentic Faith

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: Three Things I Promise MV 176 (Versus 1, 3 and 6)

1. 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.

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

6. 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.

How Can I Give?

HOW CAN I GIVE TO MY CHURCH WHEN THE CHURCH IS CLOSED?

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

Offertory Dedication Hymn: Grateful MV 182

**Grateful for the life you give us
thankful for your holy son
joyful in your spirit flowing
over all O God of love
grateful for the bread of heaven
thankful for your holy word
joyful in your mercy flowing
we will praise you.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

What we give is a small portion of what you first give us, O God, but we give gladly. Bless what we bring. Bless who we are. Bless who we might yet be with your guidance and love. We ask this and all things in the strong name of Christ our brother and Saviour. AMEN

Prayers for Ourselves and Others & Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Take My Life VU 506 (Versus 1, 2 and 5)

**1 Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**2 Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.**

**5 Take my love: and I will pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

When we encounter Christ on the way, we are changed forever.

We go from this place charged with the mission of sharing the Good News.

That means sharing with all whom Christ draws to himself,

no matter how they look, who they are, or what others might think.

When we encounter Christ on the way, we are transformed,

**and so we are called to transform the world, bringing light, hope, and healing wherever
we go to whomever we meet.**

Benediction

Go now with the love of God in your hearts, the Peace of Christ in your hand, and the power of the Holy Spirit at your backs to share the good news you've heard this day. AMEN

Choral Closing:

Go Now In Peace

VU 964

Go now in peace, go now in peace.

**May the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

Postlude

Andante from Voluntary in E minor - John Stanley