

# Quispamsis United Church

November 28th, 2021 - First Sunday in Advent

Hope Sunday

**President:** Rev. Richard Bowley

**Musician:** Stephen Alexander

**Hymn Leader:** John Hill

**Reader:** Stephen Alexander

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**Centering Passage:** *Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'*

*John 11:25-26*

**Welcome**

**Acknowledgement of Territories**

**Celebrations & Announcements**

## GATHERING TOGETHER

**Opening Music**

Veni Emmanuel - arr. Lloyd Larsons

**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.**

**Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy (Responsive):**

We begin our journey the way that we should begin any journey: with hope.

**Hope that darkness is temporary, that pain is fleeting. Hope that the dawn is coming,**

**Hope that our help is close at hand.**

Like Jeremiah, like the people of Israel, we trust that God walks with us no matter where we go.

Whether we are lost or found, lonely or embraced, God is with us.

**And so we light this candle for Hope, a reminder that Christ lives in our hearts even as we prepare for his return.**

*(light Hope candle)*

**A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,**

**A candle of HOPE in November's dark night**

**While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,**

**Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh**

### **Call to Worship (Responsive):**

Tis the season for Christmas parties, Christmas baking, Christmas shopping

**In all our Christmas preparations we hope that everything goes smoothly, we hope it will be perfect**

But it leaves us tired and burned out, hoping for something that will sustain us

**We need something beyond ourselves, a grounding for our hope.**

So, we come, seeking God, seeking the ground of our hope, seeking light for our souls.

**Let us worship the God of Hope.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, you have guided your people across years and generations; through trial and triumph. We give you thanks and praise for the many blessings you have bestowed on your people generally and on this congregation specifically, for standing by us through times of strife and for the grand vision of your reign given to us by the Holy Spirit that guides our lives. Today we celebrate your presence with us and ask your continued guidance as we begin this journey through the season of Advent. Fill us with hope for what is to come. In Christ's name we pray.

AMEN

### **Hymn:**

O Come O come Emmanuel

VU 1 (vs 1-3, 7)

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lowly exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**
  
- 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who orders all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and teach us in her ways to go. R**
  
- 3 O come, O come, great God of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. R**
  
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
O bid our sad divisions cease,  
and be for us the Prince of Peace. R**

**LISTENING FOR TRUTH****Prayer of Illumination (Unison):**

**Speak to us, O God. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. AMEN**

**Scripture Reading:** Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord.

For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfil to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Herein is Wisdom.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** A Carol of Hope

**Message** From Anxiety to Hope

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD****Reaffirmation of Faith (Unison):**

**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.**

**Hymn:**                    There's a voice in the wilderness

VU 18

- 1     There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
         a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
         a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
         the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
         where God, our God, may go!
  
- 2     O Zion, that bringest good tidings,  
         get thee up to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
         the coming of their King.  
Like the flowers of the field they perish,  
         like grass our works decay;  
the power and pomp of nations  
         shall pass, like a dream, away.

3 But the word of our God endureth,  
whose arm is ever strong;  
God stands in the midst of nations,  
and soon will right the wrong.  
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
the lambs so gently hold;  
to pastures of peace will lead them,  
and bring them safe to fold.

4 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where God, our God, may go!

### **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](http://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

**Offertory Dedication Hymn:** In the bleak midwinter VU 55 (vs 4)

**What can I give him, poor as I am?**

**If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;**

**if I were a wise one, I would do my part;**

**yet what I can I give him -- give my heart.**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison):**

**We give of ourselves, our time, talent, and treasure out of a deep hope. It is a hope that together we can build a more loving world. It is a hope that with you we are walking towards a brighter tomorrow. Guide us by your Holy Light, and bless us with your grace. May hope never fail. AMEN**

**Prayers for Ourselves and Others & Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn:** O Lord, How Shall I Meet You VU 31

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet you,  
how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you,  
my hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, then, most holy,  
a lamp within my breast,  
to do in spirit lowly  
all that may please you best.
  
- 2 Love caused your incarnation,  
love brought you here to me;  
your thirst for my salvation  
procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling,  
that led you to embrace  
in love all loves excelling  
our lost and fallen race.
  
- 3 A glorious crown you give me,  
a treasure safe on high,  
that will not fail nor leave me  
as earthly riches fly.  
My heart shall bloom forever  
for you with praises new,  
and from your name shall never  
withhold the honour due.

## SENDING FORTH

### **Commissioning (Responsive):**

We have heard your words, and come into your presence

**With renewed hope for the world in which we live we leave this sanctuary**

Called by God we return to the world to plant seeds of hope rooted in the truth of this season

**God is with us, we are not alone, Emanuel is coming yet again.**

### **Benediction**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Choral Closing:**

Hope is a Star

VU 7

**Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright. [Refrain]**

**When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.**

### **Closing Music**

Sleepers Wake - (Wachet auf) - arr. Johann Walther