

Quispamsis United Church

November 5, 2023 – 23rd Sunday After Pentecost

Remembrance Sunday

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Rev Ian Manson

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Leslie Reid

Centering Reflection: *“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”*

- George Santayana

GATHERING TOGETHER

Opening Music (*Prelude on "Eventide" - Wm. Monk*) & Time of Prayer and Candle Lighting

Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Lighting of Affirm Candle & Acknowledgment of Territories

Call to Worship (Responsive):

Today we remember and give thanks for those who have gone before us.

For those who served on the front lines, for those who volunteered, and those who waited anxiously at home;

For those who tended the wounded, cared for the bereaved, and kept the home fires burning;

And for those who made the ultimate sacrifice, trusting that other could and would carry the torch.

Today we give thanks for all those who remained steadfast in adversity, and who continue to believe that the world could be a better place.

Today we pray that we will never forget.

Prayer of Approach (Unison)

Gracious God, at this annual time of remembrance,

our thoughts turn to those, long ago,

who suffered, sacrificed, and died so we might live in peace.

We also remember those who continue to serve our land today,

and who work to bring justice and peace to troubled corners of the globe.

May we give thanks for their witness, their courage, and their service. Amen.

Opening Hymn:

O God, Our Help in Ages Past
O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

VU 806

under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages, in thy sight,
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch
that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time like an ever-rolling stream
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guide
while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Holy God, in the midst of our many obligations and activities,
we confess that we often take our liberty, security and peace for granted.
Sometimes it is easy to forget our history and the sacrifices that were made.
Sometimes we seek quick and simple solutions to complex problems, and can be indecisive
when others' lives are threatened.
Forgive us when we forget the high cost of peace.

Help us learn from the past, and respond faithfully to the challenges of our time.

(Silent Contemplation)

Words of Assurance

Time of Remembrance

Video

National Anthem:

O Canada

VU 524

**O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all thy sons command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!
From far and wide,
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.**

**God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.**

Honor Roll

Laying of the Wreaths

Last Post

Moment of Silence

Reveille

In Flanders Fields

Words of Remembrance (Responsive):

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them.

We will remember them.

God Save the King

**God save our gracious King!
Long live our noble King! God save the King!
Send him victorious, happy and glorious,
long to reign over us: God save the King!**

Time for All Ages

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

O God, by your gifts of Word and Spirit, open our minds to greater understanding, our hearts to deeper love, and our wills to eager service, through Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

Reading: Matthew 25: 1-13

'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Sung Response to Scripture

VU 956

Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light unto my path

Message

"Keeping Faith"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

For the Faithful Who Have Answered
**For the faithful who have answered
when they heard your call to serve,
for the many ways you led them
testing will and stretching nerve,
for their work and for their witness
as they strove against the odds,
for their courage and obedience
we give thanks and praise, O God.**

VU 707

**Many eyes have glimpsed the promise,
many hearts have yearned to see.
Many ears have heard you calling
us to greater liberty.
Some have fallen in the struggle,
others still are fighting on.
You are not ashamed to own us.
We give thanks and praise, O God.**

**For this cloud of faithful witness,
for the common life we share,
for the work of peace and justice,
for the gospel that we bear,
for the vision that our homeland
is your love - deep, high, and broad -
for the different roads we travel
we give thanks and praise, O God.**

Celebrations and Life and Work of the Church

Sharing of Gifts and Talents

Offertory Dedication Hymn:

We Praise You, O God

VU 218

**With voices united our praises we offer,
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Generous God, thank you for your steadfast love which has inspired so many to give their lives in sacrifice. Bless the gifts we bring, and inspire our discipleship so that our lives will also witness to your love in Christ's name. Amen.

Sung Invocation to the Prayers of the People:

O God Hear our Prayer

VU 948 (2X)

**O God, hear my prayer, O God, hear my prayer:
When I call answer me.
O God, hear my prayer, O God, hear my prayer:
Come and listen to me.**

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

SENDING FORTH

Hymn:

For all the Saints

VU 705

**For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
all who by faith before the world confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**You were their rock, their fortress, and their might:
you were their captain in the well-fought fight;
you, in the darkness drear, the one true light.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one within your great design.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**The golden evening brightens in the west,
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day
the saints triumphant rise in bright array:
as God to glory calls them all away.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

Commissioning (Responsive):

This week, let us remember the blessings others have given us.

May we give thanks for the saints, soldiers and servants we have known and those we will never know.

May we consider how to carry forth their legacy,
and commit ourselves anew to work for justice, righteousness and peace.

Benediction

Choral Closing:

Go Now in Peace
Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere
You may go.

VU 964 (2x)

Closing Music **March on "Scipio" - G.F. Handle**