

Quispamsis United Church

October 1, 2023 - 18th Sunday After Pentecost

World Wide Communion Sunday

Liturgical Colour: White

Presider: Rev Ian Manson

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Ben Alward

Centering Reflection: *"We have to recognize and navigate the darkness before we can see the light."*

- Shayla Stonechild

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Celebrations & Announcements

A Day for Truth and Reconciliation (VIDEO)

Acknowledgment of Territories

Introit:

The Church is Wherever God's People are Praising

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.

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):

We have come together from near and far to gather around the table of Christ.

Here compassion and grace abound.

Here diversity is celebrated, past wrongs are acknowledged, and guidance is sought.

Here we give thanks that God's love knows no bounds, and that love triumphs over injustice. Let us worship God.

Prayer of Approach (Unison)

Steadfast God,

Your creation explodes with the colours of the rainbow,

and your peoples reveal the beauty of diversity.

But we also acknowledge with sorrow the stolen childhoods

of all the children forcibly raised by church-run residential schools.

We lament that they were denied the opportunity to grow in a safe and loving environment.

We mourn for the spirits crushed, and futures compromised.

Help us to remember that every child matters.

Remind us of the stories of resistance and reconciliation that make us stronger.

Build the bonds of solidarity to ensure “never again,”

in the name of the One who was a child among us. Amen.

Hymn:

God of Freedom, God of Justice
God of freedom, God of justice,
you whose love is strong as death,
you who saw the dark of prison,
you who knew the price of faith:
touch our world of sad oppression
with your Spirit's healing breath.

VU 700

Rid the earth of torture's terror,
you whose hands were nailed to wood;
hear the cries of pain and protest,
you who shed the tears and blood:
move in us the power of pity
restless for the common good.

Make in us a captive conscience
quick to hear, to act, to plead;
make us truly sisters, brothers
of whatever race or creed:
teach us to be fully human,
open to each other's need.

Time for All Ages

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

Send us your Spirit of wisdom, O God, so that we may hear your Word speaking through the Scriptures with ears that understand and hearts that respond in love. Amen.

Reading: Matthew 21: 23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message Putting First Things First

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

We Are Pilgrims

VU 595

**We are pilgrims on a journey. Fellow travellers on the road.
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**

**Sister, let me be your servant. Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you; speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping. When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, let me be your servant. Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

Offertory Dedication Hymn:

**For All Your Goodness, God
For all your goodness God,
we give you thanks,
Thanks for the food we eat
and for the friends we meet,
And each new day we greet,
we give you thanks.**

VU 549

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Generous God, we have received so much from you in Christ and in creation. Bless the gifts we offer so that they will speak of your love for the world in all its detail and diversity. May our gifts touch the need around us in the name of Christ who makes us one. Amen.

Communion Hymn

**As We Gather at Your Table
As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's victory known.**

VU 457

**Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.**

**Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

Glory to God in the highest.

And on earth, hope and peace to all!

Blessed are you, Gracious God....

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus, who taught us when we pray to say:

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Post-Communion Prayer (Unison):

For the bread we have eaten, for the wine we have tasted, we give you thanks, Holy One. Now send us forth, united in courage, peace and love, to give light to those in need, and be Christ's hands and feet in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn:

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

VU 481

**Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
The people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper ended. Oh, now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching, receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer its call.**

**With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
The tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
Embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us, with Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
Give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.**

SENDING FORTH

Benediction

Choral Closing:

**The Church is Wherever
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.**

VU 579 (Vs 2)

Closing Music

Trumpet Tune in F - David Lasky