

Quispamsis United Church

October 10th, 2021 - Thanksgiving Sunday

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Music Director: Stephen Alexander

Hymn Leaders: Marilyn Roberston, Heather Alward & Ashlee Orchard

Reader: Ashlee Orchard

Centering Passage: *I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.*

John 6:51

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting the Christ Candle

We gather in thanksgiving around this light, a symbol of the Christ light that shines in and through us, a light that no darkness can overcome, a flame that no amount of tears may quench. Thank you for this light and for the guidance it provides.

Opening Music

We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator - Healy Willan

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):

Gladly we gather, those who are chosen and called,

Chosen as stewards, called to care.

Gladly we gather, to pray, to praise, to give thanks

Thanks for life we've been given, and for each moment that shapes the turning of creation.

Gladly we gather, O Great Provider, to seek the bread that sustains our soul.

As you turned dew to manna, turn our hearts to you. Guide us in this time as we discern our path forward. Gladly we gather, people of the Way, rocky though it might be, that leads to your embrace.

Opening Prayer

Holy provider, despite your people's hardened hearts you gave them manna when they were hungry. Soften our hearts, and make us grateful for your marvelous gifts. Help us in this time to be grateful for the gift of life and all the blessings that we are afforded as we make our way along the road that leads to you. Inspire us to be people who, in growing closer to you, begin to live into your gracious and giving spirit. Thank you for continuing to bless us, for guiding us in this time of worship. Teach us again to trust in your word. We offer this and all of our prayers in the name of Christ, the living bread. AMEN

Hymn: Come you Thankful People Come VU 516

- 1** Come, you thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in,
safe before the storms begin;
God, our maker, does provide
for our needs to be supplied:
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home!

- 2** All the world is God's own field,
harvests for God's praise to yield;
wheat and weeds together sown,
here for joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear:
Harvest-giver, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

- 3** For our God, one day, shall come,
and shall take this harvest home;
from the field shall in that day
all offences purge away;
giving angels charge at last
in the fire the weeds to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store
in the garner evermore.

**4 Even so, God, quickly come
to your final harvest home!
Gather all your people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin;
there for ever purified,
in your presence to abide:
come, with all your angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.**

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

O God, hear us, we pray. We know that it is Thanksgiving, that we should be offering praise and thanks to you for all the blessings we have been given. But like the Hebrew people in the desert, we are grumbling and upset. Like those following Moses, we don't feel like we are on the journey we expected to be on. We are hungry for justice and grace in our world and in our community. We are hungry for the movement of your Spirit in our lives. We feel divided on where we should go, when what we want is to be united in your love, bellies full, hearts full. Remind us that the road of faith is a winding one, full of detours and obstacles, but remind us also that to walk that road we need one another: those we love, and those we disagree with. Each of us is your child. Each of us deserves your love. Forgive us those times when we forget or ignore that truth. Hear us, O God, as we pray this day. AMEN

Assurance of God's Love

In God's love we find forgiveness, and in one another - united and partners in Christ, we have strength. There is no road so winding, no path so dark that we cannot find a way forward together in God's love. AMEN

Theme Conversation

When God's People get Hangry

Sung Prayer of Illumination

Listen God is Calling

MV 97

**Listen, listen, God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness,
comfort, and joy.**

Scripture Reading: Exodus 16:1-18

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.' So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, 'In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?' And Moses said, 'When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.'

Then Moses said to Aaron, 'Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, "Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining." ' And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, "At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God." '

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. This is what the Lord has commanded: "Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer to a person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents." ' The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less. But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem For the Fruit of All Creation (Marilyn, Heather & Ashlee)

Message Grumbling in the Wilderness

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: In you there is a Refuge MV 84

- 1. In you there is a refuge, in you we find our peace.
When all we know is chaos may our trust in you increase.
In you there is a silence, in you our minds are clear.
When all we hear is discord may your quiet draw us near.**

2. **In you there is a vision, in you we learn to dream.
When all we see is desert may you be our living stream.
In you there is a future, in you we find our way.
When hope has shed its brightness may you show us a new day.**

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

Offertory Dedication Hymn: Grant us God VU 540
**Grant us God the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living,
we may offer faithfully.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Bless, O God, the gifts of our time, treasure, and talents. May we be a part of the great web of connectedness, led to share our gifts with those who are in need. Guide us in new and unexpected ways to be people reflecting your love-light to all that we meet. We offer this and all of our prayers in the name of the one who came along as living bread and rose to Grant is eternal life. AMEN

Prayers for Ourselves & Others and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Spirit, Open my Heart

MV 79

Refrain

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love me I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

1. **God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender. R**
2. **Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory. R**
3. **May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another. R**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

Trusting you, O God, we go to the world

**To share from our abundance with those we meet, to journey with those on roads of
faith, to follow your way and seek your embrace.**

Walk with us and whisper to us where you would have us go.

Help us to use what we've been given to build the kingdom that you call us to.

Benediction

Now go 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: Peace be with you

MV 215

**Peace be with you, peace forever,
peace be with you my friends.
Till we meet again, may God be with you.
Peace, peace, peace.**

Closing Music

Now Thank We all Our God - Georg Kaufmann