

Quispamsis United Church

October 17th, 2021 - Anniversary Sunday

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Musician: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Ben Alward

Centering Passage: *Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'*

John 20:21-23

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this candle as a reminder of Christ's presence with us. Like God calling to Samuel, this light calls to us in the darkness and invites us to bring light. May this light guide us through worship and into service.

Opening Music

Holy God, We Praise Your Name - ar. Cindy Berry

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):

By your name and because of your gifts, you are called to pray, to act, to sing, and to serve.

Speak, O Lord, and inspire us to use all that we have and all that we are in service to and celebration of you!

By your name and because of your gifts, you are called to a future that is mysterious and yet filled with God's light.

Speak, O Lord, and show us where we might go, using your strength to support, and your power to heal.

By your name and because of your gifts, you have been called to this place.

Speak, O Lord, for your servants are listening!

Opening Prayer

Transforming God, as we celebrate 56 years in service to you as Quispamsis United Church, we come to you seeking guidance, wisdom, a way forward in your love. Open your word to us and call us by name. Inspire us, encourage us, and empower us to take what we learn and share it with the world. Help us to see within ourselves what you have always known. We offer this and all our prayers in the strong name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. AMEN

Hymn: I have called you by your name MV 161

- 1. I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you;
all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen;
you are mine.**

- 2. I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name,
speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.**

- 3. I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out,
choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe,
then let it go.**

- 4. I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people
they are mine.**

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Beckoning God, in the stillness of the night you called Samuel into your service. Call to us as you did to him. We know that we often walk this world with ears and eyes closed to your presence, and so shake us from this self-imposed slumber. Remind us that you are our God and that we are your people and that we have much to do in your name. Forgive us when we ignore your call, or when we listen to the world more than to you. When we do wake to you calling our name, may we have the strength to shout back eagerly, "here I am!" and may we

have the courage to heed your call. We ask this and all our prayers in the name of Christ through whom we receive the Holy Spirit and direction on our way. AMEN

Assurance of God's Love

God's love never ends, and God's call to us is daily, sometimes coming to us even before we wake. Let us celebrate God's love and forgiveness as we strive to live in the way of Christ. AMEN

Theme Conversation Here I am!

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: 1 Samuel 3:1-21

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."' So, Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' Then the Lord said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore, I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.'

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' So, Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him.'

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord. The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.

Herein is wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Message Speak, O Lord

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: Here I am Lord VU 509

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,
 I have heard my people cry.
 All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
 I who made the stars of night,
 I will make their darkness bright.
 Who will bear my light to them?
 Whom shall I send?
 Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
 I have heard you calling in the night.
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
 I will hold your people in my heart.

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
 I have borne my people's pain,
 I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
 I will break their hearts of stone,
 give them hearts for love alone.
 I will speak my word to them.
 Whom shall I send? R

**3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? R**

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):

We hear you calling to us, O God, and so we come to you this day offering our very selves for the work of building up your kingdom and healing your people. Bless us and all that we bring before you. As a church, we pray to continue the work of reflecting your love on the world for another 56 years and beyond. We offer this and all our prayers in the strong name of our brother and guide Jesus Christ. AMEN

Prayers for Ourselves and Others & Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Today we all are called to be Disciples

VU 507

- 1** Today we all are called to be
disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free,
make ploughshare out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,
make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first,
our ease and comfort last.
- 2** God made the world and at its birth
ordained our human race
to live as stewards of the earth,
responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud,
we sow not peace but strife,
our discord spreads a deadly cloud
that threatens all of life.
- 3** Pray justice may come rolling down
as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town
to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore
an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for
a harmony of peace.
- 4** May we in service to our God
act out the living Word,
and walk the road the saints have trod
till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we
give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be
disciples of the Lord.

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

You've heard the call, and know the way,

We see you going before us, O God, leading us through night and day.

Know that within you lies something treasured by God, a gift you are called to share with the world.

Gladly and eagerly we go to the world to use all that we have and all that we are in service to and celebration of the God who continues to call to us.

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

The Heaven's Declare His Glory - Beethoven