

Quispamsis United Church

October 8, 2023 - 19th Sunday After Pentecost

Thanksgiving Sunday

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Rev Ian Manson

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Ethan Alward

Centering Reflection: *“Gratitude can change everything - it transforms our ability to see the giftedness of our lives, to stop talking the great generosity of the Gifter for granted, and to freely respond with attentive trust.”*

- Diana Butler Bass

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Opening Music Now Thank We All Our God - G.F.Kaufmann

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgment of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Introit:

Sing Your Joy

VU 253

Sing your joy, proclaim God’s glory!

Rise and sing the morning has come!

Bless our God and praise all creation;

Song of the earth and light from heaven:

God is alive! O praise our God!

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):

For all the gifts of life,

We give God thanks.

For fields of grain, for fruit and vegetables from the earth,
and for fish from the sea,

We give God thanks.

For bread enough for all, and for opportunities to share,

We give God thanks.

For support and strength when challenges abound and when our burdens feel heavy,

We give God thanks.

For all that gives meaning and joy to our days,

We give God thanks and praise. Let us worship God!

Prayer of Approach (Unison)

Holy God, we thank you for this earth, our home.

We offer thanks for the wide sky and the blessed sun,

for the waters of our rivers and for trees and common grass.

We are grateful for our senses, by which we hear the songs of the birds,

see the splendour of the seasonal colours, and taste the autumn fruits.

We are grateful too for all the gifts of love and grace, beauty and peace that come our way.

Bestow a spirit of thankfulness upon our hearts,

that we may live with awe and gratitude

for this wondrous world created in your image. Amen.

Opening Hymn:

**Come, You Thankful People, Come
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!**

**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.**

VU 516

**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.**

**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)

**Loving God, you show us grace and mercy, again and again and again.
You shower gifts on us that we could never earn, but all too often we forget to offer thanks.
We fail to care for creation as you intend,
and ignore calls to be good stewards of the earth because we fear the costs.
All too often, we turn our backs on those whose needs are great,
and focus instead on ourselves.
Forgive us. Show us your vision of your realm where creation is loved,
where everyone has enough, and where all people are treated with dignity. Amen.**

(Silent Contemplation)

Words of Assurance

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 22: 1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.” But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.” Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, “Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?” And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” For many are called, but few are chosen.’

Sung Response to Scripture

VU 956

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

Gift of Music

A Jubilant Song

Message

“Radical Gratitude”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn:

Now Thank We All Our God

VU 236

**Now thank we all our God, with heart,
and hands, and voices,**

who wondrous things has done,

in whom this world rejoices;

who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

**O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us strong in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ill in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God
for all that has been given,
the Son, and Spirit blest
who dwell in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

Offering Our Gifts

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):

**Gracious God, we offer our gifts as tokens of our gratitude for what we have to share in these
challenging times. Bless our gifts and our energy so they will bless others in need in our
community and around your world, for the sake of Christ our Lord. 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

Closing Hymn:

We Plough the Fields
We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by your almighty hand;
you send the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.

VU 520

Refrain

*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
we thank you, God, O holy God,
for all your love.*

You only are the maker
of all things near and far;
you paint the wayside flower,
you light the evening star;
the winds and waves obey you,
by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children,
you give us daily bread. R

We thank you then, O Maker,
for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food;
accept the gifts we offer
for all your love imparts,
and, what from us you long for,
our humble, thankful hearts. R

Commissioning (Responsive):

In this season of harvests from field and garden,
let us walk with thanksgiving in our hearts,

savouring the abundance God's creation produces,
and honouring what the earth needs to flourish again next season.

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

May the Light of Love Be With You - duet by Sue and Wendy