

# Quispamsis United Church

September 12th, 2021 - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**President:** Rev. Richard Bowley

**Music Director:** Stephen Alexander

**Readers:** Ruth Buckley

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**Centering Passage:** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

*-John 1:1-5*

**Welcome**

**Acknowledgement of Territories**

**Celebrations & Announcements**

## GATHERING TOGETHER

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

Like the light that broke forth at creation, we light this candle to kindle hope and joy within us as we worship. May it also remind us of the Holy Light that lives in each of us.

**Opening Music**

This is God's Wondrous World - arr. 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):**

We believe God still creates—

**We want to see more clearly.**

We believe God still speaks—

**We want to listen more carefully.**

We believe God still guides—

**We want to walk more faithfully.**

May this be a time of seeing, hearing, walking.

**May this be a time of true worship. Amen.**

## Opening Prayer

You, O God made all creatures of this earth as companions, helpers, and fellow dwellers of this marvelous planet. Yet we are often more likely to see other people in our lives as burden, bother, or curse than the blessing you created them to be. As we worship today, create in us a heart that see the beauty in your diverse creation and help us to love as you love. This we pray. Amen.

## Hymn:

Morning has Broken

VU 409

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning,  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**
  
- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**
  
- 3 Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!**

## Theme Conversation

The Story of Creation

## Prayer of Confession (Unison):

**Creator God, as we are made in Your image, we give You thanks for the seed of creativity You planted within each person. Forgive us we pray, for those times we have wasted our capacity to create, and for those times we have used that gift as a force for destruction rather than reparation. Help us truly to live in awe of the creative spirit that you have planted within us. Give us the patience and courage to nourish that seed, and the strength and persistence to express it. In Your name we pray. AMEN**

## Assurance of God's Love

Our God created and is still creating, therefore we have not missed the opportunity to join God in this dance of creation. Just as the sun rises, we are given a chance to start again, we can turn away from what has been and try a new way. Thanks be to God who created us, showed us the way and invites us to be co-creators of this world.

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

**Responsive Reading:** *Genesis 1:1-2:4 (adaptation)*

In the beginning: darkness. A formless void. Then Creator's breath danced over the waters, and Creator said, "Let's have light." And so it was. There was swirling darkness and light until they were separated and each made distinct. Creator gave a name to the light: "Day." And a name to the darkness: "Night." Creator God looked and smiled, and said, "Isn't that good."

**Absolutely amazing!**

God breathed in and out. The evening settled in, until the morning came again; the first day. And Creator said, "Let's have a space, an expanse between the waters below and the waters above." And so it was. Waters surged up and waters rolled down and a blue dome of sky appeared in between. God looked at creation, smiled, and said, "Isn't that good."

**Absolutely amazing!**

God breathed in and out. The evening settled in, until the morning came again; the second day. Creator said, "Let's gather the waters under the sky over here, and have dry land over there." And so it was. The waters gurgled and pulled back to make space for sand and soil and dust. Creator gave a name to the dry land: Earth. And a name to the gathered waters: Oceans. And Creator said. "Now let's have growing things coming up from the earth. Seeds that explode into plants and trees, with fruit full of seeds. Every kind imaginable." And so it was. Greens and browns and every colour of blossom rose up out of the soil. God looked at creation and smiled, "Isn't that good."

**Absolutely amazing!**

God breathed in and out. The evening settled in, until the morning came again; the third day. Creator said, "Let's have lights in the sky. How about one great light for the day, and another one for the night. They will shape the days and the years and the seasons." And so it was. The Creator gave a name to the light of the day: Sun. And a name to the light of the night: Moon. Then Creator added more lights for extra beauty, and named them: Stars. God looked at creation and smiled, "Isn't that good."

**Absolutely amazing!**

God breathed in and out. The evening settled in, until the morning came again; the fourth day. And Creator said, "Let's have living creatures swimming in the waters and flying in the sky. Let's have wings and fins and feathers and gills." And so it was. Tiny fish and great sea monsters and songbirds and soaring creatures filled the waters and air. The Creator blessed them: "Swim for joy and fly for pure delight. Fill the sky and the seas. Be as abundant and ongoing As the love I have poured into you." God looked at creation and smiled, "Isn't that good."

**Absolutely amazing!**

God breathed in and out. The evening settled in, until the morning came again; the fifth day. And Creator said, "Let's have all kinds of living creatures. Some that run and others that creep, some with four legs or many legs or none at all. Let them be wild and many." And it was so. The land was vibrating with creatures of all shapes and sizes, every colour and texture and temperament. The earth was wild and alive. Then God said, "Let us make humanity in our image, according to our likeness. We will trust them with the care of creation and of one another." And it was so. The Creator's image sprang forth from creation, each carrying a part of the likeness of the divine. God blessed them, called them to fill the world with love, and so the Creator's image danced across the earth. God looked at creation and smiled, "Isn't that good."

**Absolutely amazing!**

God breathed in and out. The evening settled in, until the morning came again; the sixth day. Creator, seeing the work done, rested. God blessed this last day, calling all to find in it their rest as well. God looked back on what had been done and forward to what would be and smiled, "Isn't that good."

**Absolutely Amazing!**

Herein is wisdom.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

The Image of God

### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn:**

This Is God's Wondrous World

VU 296

**1 This is God's wondrous world,  
and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.  
This is God's wondrous world;  
I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,  
God's hand the wonders wrought.**

**2 This is God's wondrous world:  
the birds their carols raise;  
the morning light, the lily white,  
declare their Maker's praise.  
This is God's wondrous world:  
God shines in all that's fair;  
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,  
God's voice speaks everywhere.**

**3 This is God's wondrous world:  
O let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is God's wondrous world:  
why should my heart be sad?  
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:  
God reigns, let earth be glad!**

#### **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](http://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):**

**All that we have and all that we are, O God, are gifts born out of your creative love. We offer ourselves and our lives as living testament to your goodness, and seek to live out your love on this earth. In our creation we are doubly blessed in that we are given the freedom to walk this world but also that we may walk it with you. Accept these gifts we bring, an offering of ourselves to the one who gave us our very breath. Bless what we give, O God, for the building up of your kingdom in our lives. We ask this and all things in the name of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. AMEN**

**Prayer for Ourselves & Others and The Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn: God of the Sparrow VU 229**

**1 God of the sparrow God of the whale  
God of the swirling stars  
How does the creature say Awe  
How does the creature say Praise**

**2 God of the earthquake God of the storm  
God of the trumpet blast  
How does the creature cry Woe  
How does the creature cry Save**

**3 God of the rainbow God of the cross  
God of the empty grave  
How does the creature say Grace  
How does the creature say Thanks**

**4 God of the hungry God of the sick  
God of the prodigal  
How does the creature say Care  
How does the creature say Life**

**5 God of the neighbour God of the foe  
God of the pruning hook  
How does the creature say Love  
How does the creature say Peace**

**6 God of the ages God near at hand  
God of the loving heart  
How do your children say Joy  
How do your children say Home**

## SENDING FORTH

### **Commissioning (Responsive):**

At the dawning of the world

**God was there.**

In the moments of our birthing

**God was there to hear us cry out.**

As we part from here to begin our service again

**God goes with 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 are Telling (from The Creation) Haydn