

Quispamsis United Church

September 18th, 2022 - Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Liturgical Colour: Green

President: Rev. Richard Bowley

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Jacob Bowley

Centering Passage: *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'*

-Matthew 28:19-20

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this candle, a symbol of the light of Christ in our lives, so that we might glimpse the way forward. God calls us into the unknown and assures us that we will not go alone. Let us carry this light onto new paths as we worship and work together.

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Opening Music I Need Thee Every Hour - Robert Lowry arr. DeCou

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):

Each of us has been called here by God,
From what is known.

From what is comfortable.

From what has become routine.

From what we call our lives.

And here, we come to know what it means to truly live,

To explore a world and a way that cannot be confined to a roadmap.

To go to places that are new and uncomfortable.

To confront the unknown.

Each of us has been called here by God.

Let us worship the one who calls us in and sends us out.

Opening Prayer:

Inviting God, you call to us as we make our way through this life. As you did with Abraham and Sarah, you take and touch our lives and they can become extraordinary. And in your church you have gathered us, in your community of common folk and complainers, prophets and puzzled people, you have called us and made a place for us. So let what we say and do here, what we ponder and decide here, be real for us and honest to you, as you prepare us for the life of the world in which you are praised. Amen.

Hymn:

Hope of Abraham and Sarah

MV 148

**Hope of Abraham and Sarah, friend of Hagar, God of Ruth
you desire that ev'ry people worship you in spirit, truth.**

**Meet us in our sacred places, mosque and synagogue and church.
Show us paths of understanding; bless us in our common search.**

**Root us in our own tradition, faith our forebears handed down.
Grow us in your grace and knowledge, plant our feet on solid ground.
Cultivate the seeds of sharing in this world of many creeds.
Keep us open, wise in learning, bearing fruit in loving deeds.**

**Hope of Abraham and Sarah, sov'reign God whom we adore,
Form in us your new creation free of violence, hate and war.
So may Torah, cross and crescent, each a sign of life made new,
Point us t'ward your love and justice, earth at peace and one in you.**

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Prayer for Reconciliation (Unison):

Patient God, across the generations you have called us to follow you, and even today you persist. Forgive us those times when we have second guessed your call, when we have chosen what is comfortable and familiar instead of following you into the unknown. Give us the courage and the strength to break from routine and give of ourselves to your life giving work, wherever that work takes us. This we ask in the strong name of our brother and Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN

Assurance of God's Love

In our fear, God brings us hope, on our road to nowhere, God calls us to a way, and in our brokenness God brings us healing and love. Thanks be to God. AMEN

Theme Conversation

Prayer of Illumination (Unison):

Guide us, O Great Shepherd, through your Word as you guide us through life. Give us the insight to see ourselves in the story, but also the wisdom to know how to grow from the story. Inspire us. Encourage us. Empower us. This we pray in the name of Christ, our teacher. AMEN

Reading: Genesis 12:1-9

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So, Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages towards the Negeb.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message Answering the Call

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

To Abraham and Sarah

VU 634

**To Abraham and Sarah the call of God was clear:
"Go forth and I will show you a country rich and fair.
You need not fear the journey for I have pledged my word:
That you shall be my people and I will be your God."**

**From Abraham and Sarah arose a pilgrim race,
Dependant for their journey on God's abundant grace;
And in their heart was written by God this saving word:
"That you shall be my people and I will be your God."**

**We of this generation on whom God's hand is laid,
Can journey to the future secure and unafraid,
Rejoicing in God's goodness and trusting in this word:
"That you shall be my people and I will be your God."**

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/ Mail or deliver your giving's to our treasurer, Brion Crossman, 22 Country Crescent, Quispamsis, E2E 1T2
- 4/ 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.
- 5/ if you come for in-person worship, there is a plate as you enter the church where you can place your offering.
- 6/ As we consider the greater work of the United Church consider giving to Mission and Service Fund through your regular offering or at <https://united-church.ca>

Offertory Dedication Hymn:

**Grant us God
Grant us God the grace of giving
with a spirit large and free.
That ourselves and all our living,
we may offer faithfully.**

VU 540

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Not just our time, talents, and treasures, but our very lives we offer to you in this time. Bless what we give today and every day. Call to us and use us to be builders of the kingdom in this place. This we pray in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Hymn:

Guide me O Thou Great Jehovah

VU 651

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more.
Feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through;
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer, be thou still my Strength and Shield.
Be thou still my Strength and Shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee.
I will ever give to thee.**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

Go to the world, to the places God is calling you.

Go into the unknown, and see what the Holy is doing,
certain that God goes with us.

Walk those roads you have not walked, unsure on where you might end up,
knowing that Christ will show us the way.

Share what you are and who you are with friends and strangers,
empowered by the Holy Spirit to be an agent of hope and love.

Benediction

Go now with the love of God in your heart, the peace of Christ in your hands, and with the power of the Holy Spirit at your backs to share the Good News you have heard this day. AMEN

Choral Closing:

Go To The World
Go to the world!
Go as the ones I send,
For I am with you
till the age shall end,
When all the hosts
of glory cry 'Amen!'
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

VU 420 (vs 4)

Closing Music

Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above - James Nares arr. DeCou