

# Quispamsis United Church

September 19th, 2021 - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

**President:** Rev. Richard Bowley

**Music Director:** Stephen Alexander

**Hymn Leader:** Sue King

**Reader:** Ethan Alward

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**Centering Passage:** *The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'*

John 1:29

**Welcome**

**Acknowledgement of Territories**

**Celebrations, Flat Jesus Shenanigans & Announcements**

## GATHERING TOGETHER

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

As we follow Christ, we know that sometimes the road is dark. And so we light this candle as a reminder of the light that shines within us, a light born at the dawn of creation, a light that will guide us through our days. May it guide us through this day.

**Opening Music**                      Pastorale - Charles Wesley

**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 are called by God to share the great story of amazing love,

**We are called to follow where God leads, to live as God lives, to love as God loves, to preach the Good news of God's kingdom of justice and joy.**

If we are to truly share in this story, we need to bring ourselves - all that we are, all that we have, all that we wish to be -before God.

**As we come to worship, we may invite God into the stories of our lives, the good and that bad, so we may see God is leading us, strengthening our faith and broadening our vision.**

Come now, offering yourself before God in prayer and praise as we worship together.

**Opening Prayer**

We come to hear your Good News, O God, but know that sometimes your stories are hard to hear. Help us to be open, to truly hear your Word that we might come to know you more deeply.

Inspire us with the faith and trust of Abraham and Sarah. Encourage us to live with such trust so that we know that while following you might not always be easy, you will always be with us. Open to us your Word, O God, and show us your way. We ask this and all things in the name of the one who came to show us both, Jesus Christ. AMEN

**Hymn:** Give to Us Laughter VU 624

- 1 Give to us laughter, O Source of our life.  
Laughter can banish so much of our strife.  
Laughter and love give us wholeness and health.  
Laughter and love are the coin of true wealth.**
  
- 2 Give to us laughter as sign of deep joy;  
let us in laughing find Christian employ,  
joining with stars and with bright northern lights,  
laughing and praising and sharing delights.**
  
- 3 Why do we worry that we will lose face?  
Why act like king for the whole human race?  
Often in family, and often with friend,  
laughing at pride causes anguish to end.**
  
- 4 Even in sorrow and hours of grief,  
laughter with tears brings most healing relief.  
God, give us laughter, and God, give us peace,  
joys of your presence among us increase.**

**Theme Conversation** The Things We Give to God

**Prayer of Confession (Unison):**

**God, you call us to be your faithful people, to follow your commands and put you first in our lives. Yet Lord, you know that we struggle to put you first when we fear what following you might cost. We often forget that everything we have is from you. When we struggle to understand what we are called to do and what following you looks like, remind us again that you have already shown us the way, through Christ who came to show us what it means to follow your lead, to uphold your love, seek your justice and show your mercy. Reveal yourself to us again in this time of worship we pray. Amen**

**Assurance of God's Love**

God's love for us is deeper and wider than we could ever know. No matter how often we stumble on or stray from the way, God's love forever calls us back again. Thanks be to God for such a love as this. AMEN

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

**Scripture Reading:** Genesis 18:10-12; 21:1-3; 22:1-14

Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So, Sarah laughed to herself, saying, 'After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?'

The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him.

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.' Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So, the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'Father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?' Abraham said, 'God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.' So, the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now, I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. So, Abraham called that place 'The Lord will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn:** Hope of Abraham and Sarah

MV 148

- 1. 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.**
  
- 2. 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.**
  
- 3. 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.**

**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):**

**Holy one, your heart abounds with gifts. Receive this offering as a sign of our trust in you and our intention to live surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world. We offer this and all our prayers in the name of your greatest gift to us, Jesus Christ. AMEN**

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

**Hymn:** Your Hand O God Has Guided VU 274

- 1 Your hand, O God, has guided  
your flock from age to age;  
the wondrous tale is written,  
full clear, on every page.  
Our forebears owned your goodness,  
and we their deeds record;  
and both to this bear witness:  
one church, one faith, one Lord.**
  
- 2 Your heralds brought glad tidings  
to greatest as to least;  
they bade them rise, and hasten  
to share the heavenly feast.  
And this was all their teaching,  
in every deed and word,  
to all alike proclaiming  
one church, one faith, one Lord.**

- 3 Through many days of darkness,  
through many scenes of strife,  
the faithful few fought bravely  
to guard your people's life.  
Their gospel of redemption,  
sin pardoned, earth restored,  
was all in this enfolded:  
one church, one faith, one Lord.
- 4 And we, shall we be faithless?  
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?  
Shall we evade the conflict  
and cast away our crown?  
Not so: in God's deep counsels  
some better thing is stored;  
we will maintain, unflinching,  
one church, one faith, one Lord.
- 5 Your mercy will not fail us,  
nor leave your work undone;  
with your right hand to help us,  
the victory shall be won;  
and then, by earth and heaven,  
your name shall be adored,  
and this shall be our anthem:  
one church, one faith, one Lord.

#### SENDING FORTH

##### Commissioning (Responsive):

God sends us into the world,  
**But does not leave us on our own**  
As we seek to follow faithfully  
**God provides all that we need**  
Stand firm in God's love, with open hearts and open eyes,  
**for God will show us the way to life.**

##### 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**                   Voluntary in E minor - John Stanley