

**Quispamsis United Church**

September 26, 2021

**Presiders:** Affirming Committee-Ruth, John, Heather, Sue, Leslie, Cindy

**Guest Speaker:** Sue King

**Music Director:** Stephen Alexander

**Hymn Leaders:** Sue & Wendy

**Reader:** Wendy Stewart

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**Centering Passage:** *May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.*

*Psalm 19:14*

**Welcome**

**Acknowledgement of Territories**

**Celebrations & Announcements**

**GATHERING TOGETHER**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

We light this candle so it may be like a lighthouse to all who are seeking to find hope and safe harbor here.

**Opening Music**          Simple Gifts - arr. Cindy Berry

**Greeting (Responsive):**

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 (All):**

**Loving Father, speak to our hearts, remind us that you love us all, not just those who look like us or act like us and you want all of us to be part of your loving family. Allow us to see the light on the path you wish us to follow. Guide us through worship today and into the future.**

**Amen**

**Prayer of Approach**

We meet you here Lord,

At the intersection of love and faithfulness.

In this place, prayer and praise join hands and scripture is embraced.

Our voices unite in hymns to you.

God of all Creation, speak tenderly to our hearts in this time of worship.

Show us the path to peace and understanding.

In your blessed name, Amen

**Refrain**

**Come in, come in and sit down,  
you are a part of the family.  
We are lost and we are found,  
and we are a part of the family.**

- 1 You know the reason why you came,  
yet no reason can explain;  
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,  
for we are a part of the family. R**
- 2 God is with us in this place,  
like a mother's warm embrace.  
We're all forgiven by God's grace,  
for we are a part of the family. R**
- 3 There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;  
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.  
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,  
but we are a part of the family. R**
- 4 There's rest for the weary and health for us all;  
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.  
So come in and worship and answer the call,  
for we are a part of the family. R**

**Theme Conversation**

**Prayer of Confession: (ALL)**

**Loving God we are aware we have so much to learn. Teach us to open our hearts to all people in our community regardless of gender identity, differing abilities, ethnicity, economic circumstances, sexual orientation, or age. Many people's lives continue to be devastated by hatred, prejudice, and inequality, and we want to learn to stand with those who are adversely affected by injustice, alienation, and oppression. Forgive us as we stumble in our learning. Lead us in your way -the way of Christ Amen**

**Assurance of God's Love**

**People of God you are created in God's image. Be reassured that you are welcome to seek and be accepted by God as all of who you are, not in spite of who you are. Receive God's love and grace and be at peace. Amen**

**Today's Scripture:** John 21:15-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

This is the Word of our God.

**Praise be to you, O Creator.**

**Hymn: We Are a Rainbow by David Kai**  
**We're the light of all the world, we are a city on a hill**  
**We're a candle on a stand proclaiming light**  
**We will not hide our lamp beneath a bushel any more**  
**We will shine a ray of hope that's burning bright**

**We're a coat of many colors, sewn from many different threads**  
**Covering all in warmth, in welcome and in grace**  
**God said "Let there be light", created every varied shade**  
**In the rainbow each of us can find a place**

**We are hope to still believe in tomorrow's better day**  
**We are peace in a world that's torn apart**  
**We are joy that will last in all the struggles that we face**  
**We are love that blooms and grows in every heart**

**When we face the storms of life, we will never be alone**  
**For our God will be with us on the way**  
**Hand in hand, side by side, we won't be frightened any more**  
**As the mourning night of tears breaks into day**

**Message:** Apples and Oranges

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**Hymn: Help Us Accept Each Other**  
**Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;**  
**teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.**  
**Be present, Lord, among us and Bring us to believe:**  
**we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.**

**Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life**  
**we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.**  
**Teach us to care for people, for all - not just for some,**  
**to love them as we find them or as they may become.**

**Let your acceptance change us so that we may be moved**  
**in living situations to do the truth in love;**  
**to practice your acceptance until we know by heart**  
**the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.**

**Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,**  
**who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,**  
**we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:**  
**renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!**

*Text by Fred Kaan (1974), music by Doreen Potter (1974), arrangement by Becky Messer (2020)*

### **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**

Our loving God

Please open our eyes so we may know the truth that sets us free.

We are loved by You.

We are accepted by You.

We are a new creation in You.

We are children of God and heirs of Your kingdom.

We are Your masterpieces.

We are citizens of heaven.

We are chosen of God, holy and dearly loved.

We are children of light and not darkness.

We are part of a holy nation, a special family that belongs to God.

We possess the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and gentleness.

God, you have given all these gifts to us, and we gladly give back to you in all the ways you call us to do so.

In Jesus name,

**Amen**

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

Dear Lord,

We praise you Lord for this day, for our families, for our freedom.

Among all that we have, there are so many hurting and needy people.

We think of those who are facing war and conflict and political unrest. Those who have had to flee their homes and their homelands.

Lord, give them hope.

We think of those whose lives have been turned upside down by natural disasters - floods, fires, droughts.

Lord, give them comfort.

For the health care providers and all those working on the front lines –

Lord, give them strength and courage - keep them safe.

We pray for our youth and their teachers as they begin a new year of learning. Open their minds to accept the great gift of education and knowledge.

We lift up those who are facing physical or mental health challenges, those who are facing financial or housing challenges. Those who feel like they are alone.

Shine on them Lord, let them know they are not alone.

Guide us to open our minds and our hearts to be there for those in need, help us to understand their challenges that we might show them your love and compassion. For your countless blessings and boundless compassion, we thank you and we give you praise.

In the name of the one who has given us so much and taught us to pray,  
(Lords Prayer)

***Our Father and Mother***

**Hymn:**                    We Are One as We Come                    VU 402 (Verses 1, 2 & 4)

- 1     We are one as we come,  
          as we come, joyful to be here,  
in the praise on our lips  
          there's a sense that God is near.  
We are one as we sing,  
          as we seek, we are found;  
and we come needful of God's grace  
          as we meet, together in this place.**
  
- 2     We are one as we share,  
          as we share brokenness and fear,  
in the touch of a hand  
          there's a sense that God is here.  
We are one as we care,  
          as we heal, we are healed;  
and we share warmth in God's embrace  
          as we pray together in this place.**
  
- 4     We are one as we hear,  
          as we hear, heart and hand unite;  
in the word we receive  
          there's a sense that God is light.  
We are one as we leave,  
          as we love, we are loved;  
and we seek justice in God's ways  
          as we move together from this place.**

