

# Quispamsis United Church

December 18th, 2022 - Fourth Sunday of Advent and Communion

Living In Love

**Liturgical Colour:** Blue/Purple

**Presider:** Rev. Richard Bowley

**Director of Music:** Stephen Alexander

**Reader:** Robert Orchard

**Centering Passage:** *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.*

-Psalm 23:1-4

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## GATHERING TOGETHER

### Opening Music

### Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

### Acknowledgement of Territories

### Celebrations & Announcements

### Introit:

A Candle is Burning

VU 6 (vs 4)

**A candle is burning, a candle of LOVE,**

**A candle to point us to heaven above**

**A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth**

**For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.**

### 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.**

### Gathering (Responsive):

As God was with Joseph, may God be with you.

**And also with you.**

As Mary did, lift up your hearts.

**We lift them rejoicing to God our Saviour.**

Let us give thanks as we gather for the many ways that God calls us.

**In our living may we be a thanksgiving to God whom we praise!**

### Prayer of Thanksgiving (Responsive):

Blessed are you, God of majesty and mystery.

**From the dawn of creation to the fullness of time you seek us out.**

You came to prophets and priests,

**to kings and shepherds.**

You came to a carpenter with a message of your Word made flesh, Emmanuel.

**We praise you for this revelation to Joseph and to us of the inbreaking of your love.**

We bless you for this Good News of great joy, and join with angels singing and shepherds rejoicing to proclaim your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy, God of power and might  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest,  
Blessed is the One who comes in God's name.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Hymn:**

Song of Mary

VU 899

**My soul gives glory to my God,  
my heart pours out its praise;  
God lifted up my lowliness  
in many marvellous ways.**

**My God has done great things for me:  
yes holy is God's name;  
whose people will declare me blessed,  
and blessings they shall claim.**

**From age to age, to all who fear  
such mercy love imparts,  
dispensing justice far and near,  
dismissing selfish hearts.**

**Love casts the mighty from their thrones,  
promotes the insecure,  
leaves hungry spirits satisfied,  
the rich seem suddenly poor.**

**Praise God, who's loving covenant  
supports those in distress,  
remembering past promises  
with present faithfulness.**

#### **LISTENING FOR TRUTH**

#### **Remembering the Meal (Responsive):**

In the midst of preparing for Christ's birth, we remember why he came to this world. On the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**"Take eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."**

Again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

**"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."**

O God, Redeemer of all things, with grateful thanks we offer this bread and this cup, fruits of your earth and of our labour, signs of your loving purpose for our lives and for all your creation. In this life we are afforded so much for which we are thankful. Grant that in praise and thanksgiving, we may so offer ourselves to you that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

**Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen.**

Christ will come again.

**Christ will come again.**

**Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy (Responsive):**

It's dark now.

**But Hope in the Lord means never giving up on the light.**

It's dark now.

**But the Peace of our Lord shows us the way to the dawn.**

It's dark now.

**But Joy in the Lord is a fire in our hearts that nothing can extinguish.**

*light HOPE, PEACE, JOY candles*

And at the core of all this is God's eternal love for us.

**Because this is a love without condition, without limits.**

It is a Love that begins before creation and has no end.

**And it is a love that is meant for sharing, reflecting from one to another, bathing the world in that love light.**

Love is seeing the brokenness in the world and reaching out to heal and embrace,

**so that together we find wholeness and better live into the lives God calls us to.**

*light LOVE candle*

We light this candle, a dim symbol to represent God's love light, and yet in the darkness we know that it will not be consumed,

**and so with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, we see the way ahead, and move empowered and prepared to bring Christ into the world.**

*Silent Reflection*

**Gift of Music:** Deck the Halls

**The Christmas Guest**

**Gift of Music:** This Little Light of Mine

**Sung Prayer of Illumination:** Kindle a Flame VU 19 X2

**Kindle a flame to lighten the dark and take all fear away**

**Reading:** Matthew 1:18-24

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

**Message**

Joseph's Son Too

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn:**

It came upon a midnight clear VU 44

**It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth,  
to touch their harps of gold,  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heaven's all-gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled;  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.**

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel strain have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
and warring humankind hears not  
the love song which they bring.  
O hush the noise and cease your strife,  
and hear the angels sing.**

**For, lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.**

**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](mailto: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/ 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:** In the bleak midwinter VU 55 (vs 4)

**What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him -- give my heart.**

**Blessing the Gifts (Responsive):**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, the gifts we give, and the meal before us. Bless us as we share this bread and cup, that we may be nourished by your unbounded love. As we prepare for Christ to enter our hearts and lives again, O God, hear us as we boldly proclaim the truth of our faith:

**Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours,  
God most holy, now and forever.**

**Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer**

**Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup**

The body of Christ, bread for a journey newly begun.

The cup of the covenant, renewed at the birth of each new day.

**Sharing of the Bread and the Cup (Responsive)**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Come now for all has been made ready.

*sharing the meal*

**Hymn:**

Herald Sound the Note of Gladness

VU 28

**Herald, sound the note of gladness;  
tell the news that Christ is here;  
make a pathway through the desert  
for the one who brings God near.**

**Chorus**

**Sound the trumpet! Tell the message:  
Christ, the Saving One, is come!**

**Herald, sound the note of judgment,**

warning us of right and wrong,  
turning us from sin and sadness  
till once more we sing the song.

Herald, sound the note of pardon--  
those repenting are forgiven;  
God receives these wayward children,  
and to all new life is given.

Herald, sound the note of triumph;  
Christ has come to share our life,  
Bringing God's own love and power,  
granting victory in our strife.

#### SENDING FORTH

#### Commissioning & Benediction (Responsive):

Place your trust in God,

**for God is with us on the way.**

Listen carefully for God's loving whisper in this season and beyond-

**the words that will guide us to healing and hope.**

Go in peace and may God's peace always be with you.

**AMEN**

#### Choral Closing:

Hope is a Star

VU 7 (vs 4)

**Love is a flame that burns in our heart,  
Jesus has come and will never depart.**

#### Refrain:

**When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.**

#### Closing Music