

Quispamsis United Church
May 12, 2024 - *Seventh Sunday in Easter*
Mother's Day/Christian Family Sunday
Liturgical Colour: White
Presider: Rev Ian Manson
Director of Music: Stephen Alexander
Reader: Leslie Reid

Centering Reflection: *"You're here to love, and be loved, freely."*

- Anne Lamott

GATHERING TOGETHER

Opening Music... An Invitation to Prayer and Candle Lighting

- Valley Woodwinds

Erstes Quartet 4th mvmt - Mozart (written when he was 14)
There was a Child in Galilee - VU134 (AKA Dreamin' Mary)
Because He lives

Introit:

Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!
Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!
Hey now! The morning has come!
Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!
The tomb was empty at the rising sun.

MV 121 Refrain x2

Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Lighting of Affirm Candle & Acknowledgment of Territories

Celebrations

Happy Mother's Day

Call to Worship

Creator, God, source of life and parent of the human family.

Your Spirit inspires us to dance with joy at the marvels of creation.

You fill the world with wonder, and invite us to care for all creation.

You open our hearts with grace, and make our hearts bold with love for one another.

Be with us as we sing, pray, and reflect.

Lead us to acknowledge and celebrate the wisdom we've received from those who've loved and cared for us. Let us worship God.

Prayer of Approach (Unison)

Holy One, Creator, Wisdom, Love.

**We gather today as individuals,
as members of family units of many hues and colours,
and as neighbours and friends.**

**You welcome and accept us as we are,
with all our frailties and strengths, challenges and gifts.
and offer us energy, compassion and courage
to care for one another with fullness and freedom.**

Be present in our midst.

Draw close to us, and bless us with grace, mercy and peace this day.

Amen.

Opening Hymn:

Come In, Come In and Sit Down

VU 395

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.***

**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**

**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**

**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**

**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**

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**O God, you know how challenging it can be to live in relationships,
and yet you call us to do so.**

At times it is hard to be fully present to those we love and care about.

**Our patience may be short, we sometimes don't really listen,
and it can be difficult to love and care for one another as we ought.**

Help us to know that you are always with us, love ing us so that we may love others.

Silent Contemplation

Words of Assurance

Time for All Ages

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

**Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death
and opened to us the light of eternity.**

**Enlighten our minds and kindle our hearts with the presence of your Spirit,
that we may hear your words of comfort and challenge
in the reading of the scriptures,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Reading:

John 17: 6-19

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the

world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response to Scripture **Glory to God in the Highest** **MV 124 (2x)**
Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.
Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.

The Gift of Music **Just a Closer Walk with Thee** **- Valley Woodwinds**

Message **"Gifts of Love and Wisdom"**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: **Spirit, Open My Heart** **MV 79**

Refrain

***Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love me I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.***

**God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender. R**

**Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory. R**

**May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ. R
may we welcome one another.**

Life and Work of the Church

Sharing of Gifts and Talents

Offertory Dedication Hymn:

Doxology

VU #440 (Vs 5)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
In heaven above and earth below;
One God, three persons we adore-
Be praises given for evermore**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

**Creator God, you have blessed our lives
with relationships that both challenge and inspire.
We offer these gifts so that we might continue to build relationships
with one another and with the whole of creation.
Bless these gifts that they may bring wholeness
and life abundance to all your people. Amen.**

Introduction to Prayers of the People

And When You Call for Me

MV 96 (2x)

**And when you call for me, I have already answered.
And when you call for me, I am already there.**

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn:

**Would You Bless Our Homes and Families
Would you bless our homes and families,
Source of life who calls us here;
in our world of stress and tension
teach us love that conquers fear.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles,
love's expressed in many ways.**

VU 556

**When our way is undemanding,
let us use the time that's ours
to delight in simple pleasures,
sharing joys in gentle hours.
When our way is anxious walking
and a heavy path we plod,
teach us trust in one another
and in you, our gracious God.**

**From the homes in which we're nurtured,
with the love that shapes us there,
teach us, God, to claim as family
every one whose life we share.
And through all that life may offer,
may we in your love remain;
may the love we share in families
be alive to praise your name.**

**Let us reach beyond the boundaries
of our daily thought and care
till the family you have chosen
spills its love out everywhere.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles
love's expressed in many ways.**

Commissioning & Blessing

Choral Closing

Christ Has No Body Now But Yours MV 171 (Refrain 2x)
Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
To serve with the joy of compassion.

Closing Music:

**Lord of the Dance
"Tea for Two"**

- Valley Woodwinds