

Quispamsis United Church

April 23rd, 2023 - Third Sunday of Easter

Liturgical Colour: White

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Diane Tonge

Centering Passage: *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few;*

-Matthew 9:36-37

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting of the Christ Candle: We light this candle with joy this day, because in this season we celebrate that the Light of Christ has overcome the darkest of darkness. It shines not just in this place, but in our lives, and through each one of us. May this light - within us and before us - guide us in our worship and in our lives.

Opening Music I Sing the Mighty Power of God - Hal Leonard Publishing

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgement of Territories

Dedication of Service

Celebrations & Announcements

Introit:

This is the Day

MV 122 (x2)

This is the day that God has made, we will rejoice and be glad!

This is the day that God has made, we will rejoice and be glad!

Singing hallelu, Singing hallelu, Singing hallelu,

We will rejoice and be glad!

Singing hallelu, Singing hallelu, Singing hallelu,

We will rejoice and be glad!

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):

God calls us to travel the broken roads of this world, seeking the lost.

God calls us here to show us how to walk.

God calls us to go to those places in this world shrouded in darkness.

God calls us here to show us how to be light.

God calls us to go to those people who are on the edge of society, forgotten and alone.

God calls us here to show us how to love.

Let us worship God, who never lets us journey alone.

Let us worship God, who guides us on the way.

Prayer of Approach:

We come this day before you, O God, amazed that you have continued to call to us. We are broken, but in you are made whole. We are lost, yet never beyond your sight or reach. And so, we come before you humbled, because in you we find our greatness and our joy. Inspire us this day, as you go through this act of worship we create. Speak to us in the times of prayer. Sing to us in the times of song. Instruct us in the hearing and unwrapping of your word. May each of these encounters with you along with every moment and breath that we share with you draw us to the paths and places where you are already at work. This we ask in the strong name of our brother and saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN

Hymn:

Who is my Mother

MV 178

**Who is my mother, who is my brother?
All those who gather round Jesus Christ:
Spirit-blown people born from the Gospel
sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.**

**Differently abled, differently labeled,
widen the circle round Jesus Christ:
crutches and stigmas, culture's enigmas,
all come together round Jesus Christ.**

**Love will relate us—colour or status
can't segregate us, round Jesus Christ:
family failings, human derailings—
all are accepted, round Jesus Christ.**

**Bound by one vision, met for one mission
we claim each other, round Jesus Christ:
here is my mother, here is my brother,
kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ.**

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Prayer of Confession (Responsive):

You call to us, O God, inviting us to go where we are needed.

Forgive us when we hesitate because the road is too long, the way is too dark, the people are not our people.

Remind us that Christ was raised not for a few, but for all.

Remind us that all people are our brothers, our sisters, our kindred; that you are the light to show us the way; that as long as the road might be it is worth walking because you are beside us.

Give us courage to face what we do not understand knowing that you will guide us.

Give us the compassion to embrace those we do not know because you have brought them into our lives. AMEN

Assurance of God's Love:

In the risen Christ, our hope is assured and God's love is revealed. No matter how delayed we are in answering God's call, there is always a part for us to play in the building up of God's kingdom in this place. We are forgiven. We are loved. We are called. AMEN

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. 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:

Acts 10:1-17, 34-48

In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God. One afternoon at about three o'clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, 'Cornelius.' He stared at him in terror and said, 'What is it, Lord?' He answered, 'Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside.' When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those who served him, and after telling them everything, he sent them to Joppa.

About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. Then he heard a voice saying, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But Peter said, 'By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or

unclean.’ The voice said to him again, a second time, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.

Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon’s house and were standing by the gate.

Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ‘Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message The Places God Calls Us

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn:

Oh A Song Must Rise

MV 142

Refrain:

Oh a song must rise for the Spirit to descend

a song must rise once again

Singing out God’s praises and glory

the faithful voices blend

Oh a song must rise for the Spirit to descend.

**From the mountains to the valleys
from the desert to the sea
a song must rise once again
From the voices of our leaders
the voice of you and me
a song must rise for the Spirit to descend**

**From poverty and riches
from the voice of young and old
a song must rise once again
From the free and the imprisoned
the timid and the bold
a song must rise for the Spirit to descend**

**From every house of worship
in every faith and tongue
a song must rise once again
From the villages and cities
a new song must be sung
a song must rise for the Spirit to descend**

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: In Gratitude and Humble Trust

VU 544

**In gratitude and humble Trust we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Bless us O God the gifts that we gave here today. You come to us at moments expected and unexpected, inviting us to go to those places where you need us. May what we give here today be a step in the right direction towards those places in need of your light, love and grace. Bless our gifts and bless us also for the journey. In Jesus' name we pray. AMEN

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Hymn:

Sent Forth

VU 481

**Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
The people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper ended. Oh, now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching, receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us
To work for God's kingdom and answer its call.**

**With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
The tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
Embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us, with Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
Give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

There are none in this world who are outside the love of God.

There is nowhere in this world where God's light cannot shine.

Because in loving our neighbour, familiar or strange, we share God's love.

Because when we go where the Spirit is inviting us, we take God's light with us.

So go, share light and love. Share the faith that you have found in this place
with a world that is waiting, yearning for light, love, and hope.

Benediction

Go now with the love of God in your hearts, the Peace of Christ in your hands, and with the power of the Holy Spirit at your backs to share the great news you've heard this day. AMEN

Choral Closing:

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

VU 179 (vs 2)

Refrain:

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, give praise to God's Name.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:

Jesus has died and is risen. R

Closing Music

Majesty - Jack W. Hayford