

Quispamsis United Church

August 20, 2023 - 12th Sunday After Pentecost

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Stephen Alexander

Pianist: Angela Murphy

Reader: Heather Alward

Centering Passage: *How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.*

Psalm 133

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting of the Christ Candle: We light this candle as a symbol of the light of Christ, which cannot be held back by distance, which shines in each one of us, no matter where we are.

Opening Music

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgment of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Introit: The Church is Wherever God's People are Praising VU 579
**The church is wherever God's people are praising,
Singing God's goodness for joy on this day.
The church is wherever disciples of Jesus
remember his story and walk in his way.**

Greeting

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Call to Worship (Responsive):

We gather for worship, some of us returning to a familiar place that feels a bit different, and some of us from the comfort of our own homes.

**Whether in shared space, through the printed word, or through the gift of technology,
we are a community of faith.**

Here we seek connection to God,

Who we believe in, and who believes in us.

Come, let us worship God.

Prayer of Approach (Unison)

God of grace and mercy, be present with us as a church family, as we gather for worship, walking new paths. In the ever-changing and uncertain world where we find ourselves, help us to know and be assured of your unending power, love, and mercy. We know you are a good God who holds us in our anxiety and distress, and celebrates with us in our joys. Calm our hearts and minds and give us hope in you, This morning, and always. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Opening Hymn:

We Are one

VU 402

**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.**

**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.**

**We are one as we feast,
as we feast, peace becomes the sign;
in the bread and the wine
there's a sense of love divine.**

**We are one as we come,
as we feed, we are fed;
and we feel God's refreshing grace
as we meet at table in this place.**

**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.**

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**O Lord, you are our shepherd,
And yet we want.**

**We lie down when we could act,
We stir the pot when we could offer peace,
We wander tempting paths instead of following you.
We see courage and comfort in earthly things rather than in you.
We hate our enemies and refuse to break bread with them,
We see scarcity even when you offer us abundance.
We pray for forgiveness, for your goodness and mercy,
So that we might dwell in You, in your grace, forever. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Hear the good news: Christ died for our sins and rose again so that we may live fully in the power of God's grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, God forgives our sins and offers us a transformed future where we can live fully into God's grace. Amen.

Time for All Ages

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit, illumine the sacred page, we pray, that our minds may be open to receive your Word, our hearts taught to love it, and our wills strengthened to obey it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading: Genesis 45:1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, 'Send everyone away from me.' So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with

yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty." And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.' Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message Forgive Us Our Trespasses

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

Great is Thy Faithfulness

VU 288

**Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!**

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. R**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. R**

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>

Sung Offertory Dedication Hymn: For All Your Goodness, God

VU 549

**For all your goodness God,
we give you thanks,
Thanks for the food we eat
and for the friends we meet,
And each new day we greet,
we give you thanks.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Gracious and holy God, accept what we offer today: our money, our faltering steps, our brokenness, our leftovers, our hope, our risking, our lives. Bless and transform all that we offer and all that we hold back, that new life may be ours, to celebrate and share in Jesus' name.

Amen

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn:

Deep In Our Hearts

MV 154

**Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.**

**Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.**

**Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.**

**Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.**

Commissioning (Responsive):

As we end this time as a gathered community, we prepare to serve in all the scattered places of our lives.

We go in the knowledge that God our Creator sustains and supports us in this service.

We go with the assurance that Jesus equips us for service amongst strangers and friends.

We go with trusting the Spirit who enables us to bear witness, to care lovingly, and to work for justice.

Benediction

Go then in the name of God, the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer and may you see the face of Christ in ev'ryone you meet, and may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you. Amen.

Choral Closing:

The Church is Wherever

VU 579 Verse 2

**The church is wherever God's people are helping,
caring for neighbours in sickness and need.
The church is wherever God's people are sharing
the words of the Bible in gift and in deed.**

Closing Music