

Quispamsis United Church

December 4th, 2022 - Second Sunday of Advent

Speaking for Peace

Liturgical Colour: Blue/Purple

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Musician: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Sally Allanach

Centering Passage: No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

-Matthew 5:13-16

Sing-A-Long

GATHERING TOGETHER

Opening Music In dulci jubilo- J.S. Bach

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Introit A Candle is Burning VU 6 (vs 2)

**A candle is burning, a candle of PEACE,
A candle to signal that conflict must cease
For Jesus is coming to show us the way
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay**

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):

We hear the cries. Cries from the wilderness, cries from the streets, cries from the broken and the beaten.

These cries are the voice of God spoken through our brothers and sisters, our kindred in Christ.

That same voice has called us here, to listen to the Word, to let it become a part of us,

So that when we go from here we will see more clearly the brokenness of the world and our part in the healing.

We have taken the first step in answering the call, coming to worship so that we will be ready to respond.

Let us worship God as we ready ourselves for the work of Peace and Justice that God is calling us to.

Prayer of the Day:

You, O God, call us to live daringly in the face of fear, to walk in faith when all seems dark around us. Move in us this day as we come before you, and shape us to be bearers of your peace in a world that often seems torn by conflict. Hear us as we pray for one another and for brothers and sisters near and far. Instill in us an eagerness to hear your word and live out your will. All this we ask in the strong name of our brother and savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN

Hymn:

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

VU 31

**O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?**

**Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!**

**O kindle, then, most holy,
a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly**

all that may please you best.

**Love caused thine incarnation,
love brought you here to me;
your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.**

**O love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love all loves excelling
our lost and fallen race.**

**A glorious crown you give me,
a treasure safe on high,
that will not fail nor leave me
as earthly riches fly.**

**My heart shall bloom forever
for you with praises new,
and from your name shall never
withhold the honour due.**

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy, Sarah and Arya and Charlene Stoddard (Responsive):

Hope reminds us that a way is before us, even if we cannot see it.

light HOPE candle

And on this road we seek Peace, but it is unlike anything we have known.

Because Peace isn't winning. Peace is God's love shared, God's people united.

It's seeing the hurt of others and feeling it ourselves.

It's feeling empty when kindred and strangers alike aren't whole.

Peace is changing how we see the world,

so that we can be the change that the world needs.

light PEACE candle

We light this candle, a light that shines on all regardless of status or station, as a reminder that God's love is for all,

as a reminder that we are called to be disciples for such a time as this.

Silent Reflection

Theme Conversation

Sung Prayer of Illumination:

Kindle a Flame

VU 19 X2

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

Reading: Esther 4:1-17

When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went through the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; he went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. In every province, wherever the king's command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.

When Esther's maids and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed; she sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth; but he would not accept them. Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what was happening and why. Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and entreat him for her people.

Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying, 'All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—all alike are to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden sceptre to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days.' When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, 'Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.' Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, 'Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.' Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem Gabriel's Message - Senior Choir

Message Just Such a Time as This

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

God of Grace and God of Power
**God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.**
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.

VU 686

**Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn your Christ, assail your ways;
fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.**
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days.

**Cure your children's warring madness,
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton selfish gladness,
rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**

**Set our feet on lofty places;
gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christ-like graces,
pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
that we fail not them nor thee.**

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 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.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

We hear Your call, O God, to serve this world. We offer our gifts in the forms of service in this place and our lives, but also in the offering that we bring before you everyday. Bless all that we are, and all that we give. Remind us that we are giving from what abundance you have poured into our lives. Bless what we give that we might in turn be a blessing to the world. We offer this prayer, and our very selves in the strong name of our brother and Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Hymn:

There's A Voice In The Wilderness
**There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places,
where the God, our God, may go!**

VU 18

**O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay,
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away.**

**But the word of our God endureth,
the arm of the Lord is strong;
God stands in the midst of nations,
and soon will right the wrong.
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
the lambs so gently hold;
to pastures of peace will lead them,
and bring them safe to fold.**

**There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places,
where the God, our, God may go!**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

Bringing Peace and Justice to the world is work that God can and will do through us.

We've taken that first step. We have opened ourselves to be God's hands and feet in the world.

We see the gaps and the cracks where people fall and become lost. Our task is to reach out. God has shaped us for such a time as this.

Because in God's Word we see a way, a path that starts at our hearts and ends in an embrace.

God cries out to you to go, to live, to love, to serve so that the cries of those in need will not be ignored.

And so we go to the wilderness, to the streets, to the broken, and the beaten to bring a love that knows no end.

Benediction:

Go now with the love of God in your heart, the peace of Christ in your hands, and with the power of the Holy Spirit at your backs to share the good news you have found this day. AMEN

Choral Closing:

Hope is a Star

VU 7 (vs 2)

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.**

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

The Advent of Our King - Healey Willan