

# Quispamsis United Church

February 5th, 2023 - Fifth Sunday of Epiphany

**Liturgical Colour: Green**

**Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley**

**Director of Music: Stephen Alexander**

**Reader: Sherry Kiervin**

**Centering Passage:** *Better is a little that the righteous person has than the abundance of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous. The Lord knows the days of the blameless, and their heritage will abide for ever;*

*-Psalm 37:16-18*

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**\*\*\* Pre-Worship Hymn Sing! \*\*\***

*Starting at 9:40 AM*

## GATHERING TOGETHER

**Lighting of the Christ Candle:** In this season of revelation we light this candle, a symbol of Christ in our midst, to show us the way.

**Opening Music**    Softly and Tenderly - arr. Cindy Berry

**Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle**

**Acknowledgement of Territories**

**Celebrations & Announcements**

**Introit:**

Come all you people

MV 2 (x2)

**Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;**

**Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;**

**Come all you people, come and praise your Maker;**

**Come now and worship the Lord.**

**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 are here,

**In the name of Christ Jesus, to bring honour to God's Holy name.**

We are here to be in relationship with

**the one who is the beginning and the end of our searching, the fullness and the emptiness of our yearning, the alpha and omega of all discovery.**

We are here, Let us worship!

### **Prayer of the Day**

Loving God, we come asking and searching and knocking, longing to see your kingdom of heaven come on earth. Open to us today the goodness of your word; feed and strengthen us for the journey ahead. Then walk before us on the narrow road, and surround us with companions on the way, that we may both receive and share the blessing. AMEN

### **Hymn:**

Let us Build a House

MV 1

**Let us build a house where love can dwell**

**And all can safely live, a place where saints and  
children tell how hearts learn to forgive.**

**Built of hopes and dreams and visions, Rock of faith and vault of  
grace; Here the love of Christ shall end divisions;**

#### **Refrain**

**All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
And words are strong and true, Where all God's children  
dare to seek To dream God's reign anew.**

**Here the cross shall stand as witness and a symbol of God's  
grace; Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:**

#### **Refrain**

**Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat: a banquet hall on  
holy ground, where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and  
space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:**

#### **Refrain**

**Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen,  
serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's  
face; let us bring an end to fear and danger.**

**Refrain**

**Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured,  
taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of  
grace; let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:**

**Refrain**

### **LISTENING FOR TRUTH**

#### **Prayer of Confession (Unison):**

**God you have summed up the way of life you call us to so simply summing up the law and prophets in one short phrase “do to others as you would have them do to you.” Yet Lord, we confess that this is not always easy to do. We jump to conclusions about other’s motives and actions, we judge others for petty reasons using our standards not yours, we think only of ourselves at the expense of others. Daily we fall short of this simple command. We come before you in the strong name of Jesus Christ, seeking forgiveness and renewal. AMEN**

#### **Assurance of God’s Love:**

God calls us into deeper relationship, not only with the divine presence in our lives, but with one another. In our brokenness we find connection to God through forgiveness and grace, but we also find strength and wholeness in those with whom we share this journey through life. Give thanks for eternal grace. Give thanks for the strength and care of kindred on the way. AMEN

#### **Time for All Ages**

#### **Prayer of Illumination:**

Wondrous Spirit, gather our minds that they may be one with you. Open our ears that they may hear your Word. Soften our hearts that they may receive your wisdom. Speak to us, for we, your servants are listening. AMEN

**Reading:** Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29

'Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgement you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbour's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbour, "Let me take the speck out of your eye", while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbour's eye.

'Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you.

'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.

'Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

'Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!'

Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Praise be to you, O Christ.**

**Gift of Music**      On Eagles Wings - Senior Choir

**Message**            If you then, who are evil, know...

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**Hymn:**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus  
**What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer.**

VU 664

**Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful,  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Christ the Saviour is our refuge;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do our friends despise, forsake us?  
Are we tempted to despair?  
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness,  
and we'll find new courage there.**

**Moment for Community:** Property Committee

### **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>

<b>Offertory Dedication Hymn:</b>	What Can I do	MV 191 (X2)
	<b>What can I do? What can I bring?</b>	
	<b>What can I say? What can I sing?</b>	
	<b>I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.</b>	
	<b>I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.</b>	

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison):**

**In all things you call us to strive for grace, for love, and for the building up of one another. In what we offer of ourselves everyday, may your eternal grace be felt, may your limitless love be shared, may your kingdom of peace be built. Bless us and our gifts in this work, we pray. We offer this and all our prayers in the name of our teacher and our guide, Jesus Christ. AMEN**

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

<b>Hymn:</b>	How Firm A Foundation	VU 660
	<b>How firm a foundation, you servants of God,</b>	
	<b>is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!</b>	
	<b>What more can be said than to you has been said,</b>	
	<b>to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?</b>	
	<b>"Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!</b>	
	<b>For I am your God and will still give you aid;</b>	
	<b>I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,</b>	
	<b>upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.</b>	
	<b>"When through the deep waters I call you to go,</b>	
	<b>the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;</b>	
	<b>for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,</b>	
	<b>and sanctify to you your deepest distress.</b>	

**"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:  
the flame shall not hurt you, I only design  
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.**

**"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not -- I will not desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,  
I'll never -- no, never -- no, never forsake!"**

### **SENDING FORTH**

#### **Commissioning (Responsive):**

When we come together here we are the church in worship. As we leave we are the church in action, go now to that high calling.

**We go now to live the way of Jesus Christ putting God first, reflecting more of God's likeness each day, showing mercy and grace, sharing God's welcome and love with all who we meet.**

#### **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 Good News you have heard this day. AMEN

#### **Choral Closing:**

I Am Walking

MV 221 (x2)

**I am walking a path of faith  
I am walking a path of faith  
I am walking a path of faith  
Lead me home. Lead me home.**

#### **Closing Music**

Go, Ye Blessed - Chester Nordman