

Quispamsis United Church

February 6th, 2022 - Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Musician: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Jacob Bowley

Centering Passage: *Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods. You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.*

-Psalm 40:4-5

GATHERING TOGETHER

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

The light of Christ not only shows us the way, it is our way. It reveals to us a broken world in need of healing. May this light guide us through worship as well as our lives.

Opening Music

Variations on "AR HYD Y NOS" - Deborah Zufall

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 enter into this time, eager to catch a glimpse of Christ.

On his way, he is teaching, healing, and holding the world close.

May our faith inspire us to bring his healing into our communities.

May all who enter into this time find wholeness in our reflection of God's love.

Opening Prayer

We are so drawn, O Christ, to stories of your healing. They give us a hope for wholeness, especially when we see how broken the world can be. Open your Word to us, even as you reveal your way to us. As we journey together, open us up to those we leave behind, who we forget.

Inspire in us a deep unity and connectedness to one another, so that the margins are so thin that there is no room because all have found a place in the light of your love. We offer this and all our prayers in your strong name, O Christ. AMEN

Hymn: Will you come and follow me VU 567

**Will you come and follow me If I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know And never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown In you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind If I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind And never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r In you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see If I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free And never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, And do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean In you and you in me?**

**Will you love the 'you' you hide If I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside And never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found To reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound In you and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you And never be the same.
In your company I'll go Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow In you and you in me.**

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Theme Conversation How are we broken?

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

We love these stories of your healing, O Christ. We love reading them, but rarely do we take these readings to heart. We assume that Christ is only reaching out to those who live with disability of body or mind, that his healing is not for us, or for something else entirely. Remind us that when he healed people, he did not make whole a body that was lacking, but a person who was cut off from community. We need that kind of healing too. Forgive us when we hide our brokenness from your healing touch. Forgive us those times when we as a community have not offered a welcoming - an inviting - hand to those who feel cut off from your love.

Encourage and inspire us to be your healing hands in the world. We offer this and all our prayers in your name, O Healer of our Hearts. AMEN

Affirmation of God's Love

Christ never stops reaching for us. We need to know that. Christ never stops reaching for us, reaching to take us by the hand - by the heart - to offer forgiveness, healing and hope. May we grasp firmly his hand, stand boldly in our brokenness, and find wholeness in him. AMEN

Reaffirmation of Faith (Unison):

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us. We are not alone.**

Thanks be to God.

Reading: John 4:46-54, 5:1-18

Then he came again to Cana in Galilee where he had changed the water into wine. Now there was a royal official whose son lay ill in Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. Then Jesus said to him, 'Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe.' The official said to him, 'Sir, come down before my little boy dies.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your son will live.' The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started on his way. As he was going down, his slaves met him and told him that his child was alive. So, he asked them the hour when he began to recover, and they said to him, 'Yesterday at one in the afternoon the fever left him.'

The father realized that this was the hour when Jesus had said to him, 'Your son will live.' So he himself believed, along with his whole household. Now this was the second sign that Jesus did after coming from Judea to Galilee.

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?' The sick man answered him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.' Jesus said to him, 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath. So, the Jews said to the man who had been cured, 'It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.' But he answered them, 'The man who made me well said to me, "Take up your mat and walk." ' They asked him, 'Who is the man who said to you, "Take it up and walk"?' Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, 'See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you.' The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. Therefore, the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the sabbath. But Jesus answered them, 'My Father is still working, and I also am working.' For this reason, the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the sabbath, but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God.

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Anthem

Message True Healing

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: We Are Pilgrims VU 595
**We are pilgrims on a journey. Fellow travellers on the road.
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**

**Sister, let me be your servant. Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night time of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you; speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping. When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, let me be your servant. Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

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/ 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.

4/ mail or deliver your giving's to our treasurer, Brion Crossman, 22 Country Crescent, Quispamsis, E2E 1T2

Offertory Dedication Hymn: For the Gift of Creation VU 538

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

When we offer all that we are, it means offering our brokenness too, O God. Receive all that we are. Bless all that we bring before you. Use us and our gifts to bring wholeness to our community and to our world. We offer this prayer in the name of Christ who brings healing, and asks us to share that healing and love with the whole world. AMEN

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Hymn:

Guide me O Thou Great Jehovah

VU 651

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more.
Feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through;
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer, be thou still my Strength and Shield.
Be thou still my Strength and Shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee.
I will ever give to thee.**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

We are all in need of healing.

And in our brokenness, we come together seeking mending.

Ours is to take Christ's healing to a fractured community.

Ours is to bring God's love to all seeking wholeness.

Benediction

Now go inspired by God, partnered with Christ, and guided by the Holy Spirit, to love a world that God so loves.

Choral Closing:

Behold, Behold

MV 115

**Behold! Behold! I make all things new,
beginning with you and starting from today.
Behold! Behold! I make all things new,
my promise is true, for I am Christ the way!**

Closing Music

Trumpet Finale = Domenico Gabrieli