

Quispamsis United Church

January 14, 2024 - *Baptism of Jesus*

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Rev Ian Manson

Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Barb McBean

Centering Reflection: “In Holy Baptism, God just chooses us... God says that we are enough. Already. That we are pleasing to God and deserve to be loved. And that identity of being God’s beloved child - precisely because it is established by God - cannot be taken away from us or, for that matter, lost by us.”

- David Lose

GATHERING TOGETHER

Opening Music: (The Kingsfold Trumpet - Alfred V. Fedak) & **Time of Prayer and Candle Lighting**

Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Lighting of Affirm Candle & Acknowledgment of Territories

Celebrations

Introit:

**The light of Christ has come into the world,
The light of Christ has come into the world. (2x)**

Call to Worship (Responsive):

The time has come!

The time is now!

The reign of God has drawn near.

The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Let us embrace the news of God’s love for us and all creation.

Let us worship and give God thanks and praise!

Prayer of Approach (Unison)

God of grace and glory, you call us with your voice of flame to be your people, faithful and courageous. As your beloved Child embraced his mission in the waters of baptism, inspire us with the fire of your Spirit, and fill our hearts with grace. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives, guides and loves us, now and always. Amen.

Opening Hymn:

**When Jesus Comes to Be Baptized
When Jesus comes to be baptized,
he leaves the hidden years behind,
the years of safety and of peace,
to bear the sins of humankind.**

VU 100

**The Spirit of the Lord comes down,
anoints the Christ to suffering,
to preach the word, to free the bound,
and to the mourner, comfort bring.**

**He will not quench the dying flame,
and what is bruised he will not break,
but heal the wound injustice dealt,
and out of death his triumph make.**

**O Spirit help us be like Christ:
to live in love and charity,
to walk in truth and justice now,
and grow in Christian dignity.**

**We praise you, God, source of all life,
we praise you, Christ, eternal Word,
we praise you, Spirit, gracious gift;
your triune presence fills our world.**

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we celebrate that your love is inclusive and welcoming of all, and that you accept us as we are.

Yet we know that we do not always respond to others in this way.

You invite us to treat one another with dignity and respect,

yet we pretend not to notice the lost and hurting of our world.

We know that the “golden rule” teaches us to treat others as we would like to be treated,
yet we steer clear of those who make us uncomfortable, and judge many to be unworthy.

Remind us again that we are loved, and of how to love in inclusive and caring ways.

Bring us to new understandings, bestow forgiveness when we falter, and hear us as we continue our prayer in silence.

(Silent Contemplation)

Words of Assurance

Time for All Ages

Sung Introduction to Scripture: Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

VU 272 (Vs 1)

**Open your ears O faithful people,
Open your ears and hear God's word.
Open your hearts O faithful people,
God now speaks to you.**

Readings:

Isaiah 43: 1-3a

But now thus says the Lord,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

Mark 1: 4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me;

I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gift of Music Sans Day Carol - Senior Choir

Message "Called By Name"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

I Have Called You by Your Name
**I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you;
all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen;
you are mine.**

MV 161

**I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.**

**Pour the water in my name,
speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.**

**I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.**

**Like the woman reaching out,
choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe,
then let it go.**

**I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people
they are mine.**

Life and Work of the Church

Sharing of Gifts and Talents

Offertory Dedication Hymn: **As Those of Old Their First-fruits Brought** **VU 518 (Vs 3)**
**With gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to you,
Not just to serve your cause, but share your love with neighbours too.
O God who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your son,
help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

God our Maker, we offer our gifts to you in thanksgiving for your gifts to us in Christ and in creation. Bless what we bring and who we are, so that our gifts will bless the world you love in Christ's name. Amen.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn: **Songs of Thankfulness and Praise** **VU 101 (vs. 1,3,4)**
**Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus Christ, to you we raise,
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem
in your birth at Bethlehem;
anthems be to you addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.**

