

Quispamsis United Church

June 11th, 2023 - Summer Kick-Off
1st Affirming Anniversary & Sunday School Celebration

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Karen Young

Centering Passage: Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'

-John 8:12

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting of the Christ Candle: A great light shines in our lives. It guides us when we are lost. It encourages us when we feel hopeless. We light this candle to represent that light - that Christ light - that burns in us. May it show us the way as we strive for deeper faith and unity.

Opening Music

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Introit:

We Are One

VU 402 (vs 1)

**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.**

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):

To those who sit in darkness, light will come.

To those who dwell in gloom and despair, God's glorious presence is eternal.

God is our light and our salvation.

We will follow, unafraid, where God and Jesus lead us.

Let us worship our God of light and promise.

Let us celebrate the hope and joy of our salvation.

Opening Prayer:

God of light, there can be overwhelming darkness in this world. But you shine your light and increase joy, and for your brilliance we are grateful. As we gather here today, we celebrate stepping out into the light, to proclaim so that all might hear that the depth and breadth and height of your love knows no limits. As your people we are diverse in ways beyond counting and we praise you for the opportunity to explore what creation has to offer. Shine in and through our worship and our lives. This we pray in the strong name of Christ, our brother and guide.

AMEN**Hymn:**

I am the Light of the World

VU 87

Refrain:

**I am the Light of the World
You people come and follow me.
If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be.**

**When the song of the angels is stilled.
When the star in the sky is gone.
When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home.
The work of Christmas is begun! R**

**To find the lost and lonely one,
To heal that broken soul with love,
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below the sky above! R**

**To free the prisoner from his chains,
To make the powerful care,
To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,
To call a man your brother everywhere. R**

**To bring hope to every task you do,
To dance at a baby's new birth,
To make music in an old man's heart,
And sing to the colors of the earth! R**

LISTENING FOR TRUTH**Prayer of Confession (Unison):**

Compassionate God, we know there have been times where we have shied away from your light, or have failed to take it with us into the dark places of our world and ourselves. Open our eyes to see the love that lives at the heart of that light. Help us to lay bare all that we are: the good and the bad, knowing that your forgiveness knows no end. Call to us again to follow you into that light, saturate us with it, that we might be beacons of your Good News. In the name of Christ we offer this and all our prayers. AMEN

Assurance of God's Love:

The light of God's love is the same light that shone at the dawn of creation. It is eternal. It saturates our lives, our world, and the whole of creation. Because that love is a part of us, so too is God's forgiveness assured for those times when we stumble in sharing that light. Thanks be to God for such a love as this. AMEN

Puppet Conversation

Children's Certificates/Bible presentations

Hymn:

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Don't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.

Don't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.

Don't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Shine all around the neighbourhood, I'm gonna let it shine.

Shine all around the neighbourhood, I'm gonna let it shine.

Shine all around the neighbourhood, I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Flower Presentation to Sunday School Facilitators

Sung Prayer of Illumination:

Open our Hearts

MV 21 (X2)

Open our hearts,

open our minds.

Open our lives to you,

O loving God.

Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shone. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message Hurry up and wait

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

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.**

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:

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):

You bless this world continuously, O God, with light and love. Generation after generation you enter the hearts of your people and move them ever closer to your kingdom. Bless us again, and bless gifts given through our time, talent and treasures, that all might be used to amplify your light as we strive to scatter the gloom that often holds this world. AMEN

Moment for Community: A Year of Affirming

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer - *Affirming Committee*

**Blessed One, our father and our mother,
Holy is your name.
May your love be enacted in the world.
May your will be done
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For all that we do in your love,
and all that your love brings to birth and the fullness of love that will be
are yours, now and forever. Amen**

Hymn:

Wherever You May Go

MV 216

Refrain:

**Wherever you may go, I will follow,
And your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go, I will follow:
For I will be faithful, loyal and true.**

**Say the word and I will stay,
I will never go away,
We will travel side by side
And God's love will be our guide. R**

**From beginning to the end
I will always be your friend,
When you need me, I'll be there,
You can trust my faithful care. R**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

We, the people of hope, have seen a great light

A light that shines within us giving us life. A light that shines before us showing us the way.

Let us rejoice as we go out in the name of the one we call Promise Keeper and Light bringer.

No matter the name we use, you are our God, we your people, your hands and feet in the world. Walk through us. Work through us.

Now go with the love of God in your heart, the peace of Christ in your hands, and the power of the Holy Spirit at your backs to share the good news you have heard this day.

AMEN

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 great news you've heard this day. AMEN

Choral Closing:

Take up This Song

MV 213 (faith)

Take up this song of faith, and go into the world.

Take up this song of faith in every moment.

**In every moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives,
Lay them down in faith, lay them down, and take up this song.**

Closing Music