

Quispamsis United Church

June 26th, 2022 - Third Sunday After Pentecost

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Musician: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Brion Crossman

Though scripture and music will change from week to week, the order of service will remain the same for the most part from June 19th - July 24th

All Prayers for this service have been adapted from various parts of the First Letter of Peter

Centering Passage: *Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?*

-Matthew 16:24-26

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting the Christ Candle

This light is not new. It has been shining since the dawn of creation. And yet everyday it burns bright and new in our hearts and in our lives. It is the light of Christ, the light of God's grace and love that has drawn us into this time of worship, and guides us through our lives. Let us follow and embody this light.

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Opening Music Sweet Hour of Prayer - arr. Patricia Lou Harris

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):

Then Apostle Peter greets us, the people of God in this community.

In the name of God. In the name of Christ. In the name of the Spirit.

He greets us to share his experience of Christ, and a way that we might follow.

We have come to listen, to learn, to follow.

Let us worship God together.

Opening Prayer

God of all Creation, thank You for the life and ministry of Peter and all your apostles and prophets who penned the Scriptures for our learning. As we study and reflect on Your Word, we pray that You would give me a teachable spirit and a desire to learn the truth of the gospel of Christ. Guide us into all truth, equip us with discernment, prevent us from being self-serving in our interpretation, and we pray that we may grow in grace and in knowledge of our companion on the way, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Hymn:

Come O Fount of Every Blessing VU 559 - *QUC Recording*

**Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace,
Streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.**

**Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
Come to trust at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
Came to rescue me from danger, precious presence, precious blood.**

**O, to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O, take and seal it, seal it for your very own.**

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Prayer for Reconciliation (Responsive):

Risen Lord Jesus, what is it that keeps us from recognizing you?

When we are so full of ourselves, it is all too easy to block you right out of our lives.

Maybe it's the way we interpret Scripture that obscures the signs pointing to you.

Perhaps we are guilty of being slow of heart when we don't recognise you in our neighbour, or in the guise of the poor or the dispossessed.

Our eyes and ears have become so crammed with the sights and sounds of living that we simply fail to see you or to recognize your voice.

Risen Lord Jesus, help us to empty ourselves of all that hinders our awareness of your presence with us. Fill us with the joy of knowing your continuing presence, so that, like those travellers on the road to Emmaus, we too, hasten to share this great good news with others. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love:

We know that we have been born anew through the living and enduring word of God. In this we recognize God's great love for the world revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus who came into the world not to condemn it but to save it.

Thanks be to God!

Theme Conversation

Prayer of Illumination (Unison):

Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the light of eternity. Kindle our hearts with the presence of your Spirit, that we may hear your words of comfort and challenge in the reading of the scriptures, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading: 1 Peter 2:1-9, 19-25

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture.

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe.

'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner', and 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For

you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message Suffering: Good for the Soul?

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn: I Have Called You By Your Name MV 161

**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.**

**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.**

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:

Grant Us, God, The Grace

VU 540

**Grant us God the grace of giving
with a spirit large and free.
That ourselves and all our living,
we may offer faithfully.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Receive these gifts this morning, O God, author of every good gift. Out of the bounty of our hearts, we respond with faithful generosity and love. May these gifts become blessings for others as they have been blessing for us. AMEN.

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Hymn:

Make me a Channel of your Peace

VU 684

**Make me a channel of your peace:
Where there is hatred, let me bring you love;
Where there is injury, your healing pow'r,
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.**

**Make me a channel of your peace:
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, - only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.**

Bridge:

**O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul - .**

**Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all that we receive,
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

May grace and peace be ours in abundance,
in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.
May we be thankful for simple things,
for friendship, for health, for daily bread, for good news.
May we rise above the corruption of power
and become participants in the divine nature.
May we go from this place
to pursue goodness, wisdom, holiness and love.

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.

Choral Closing: Teach Me, God, To Wonder (vs 4 & refrain) VU 299
**Teach me God to know you,
hear you when you speak,
See you in my neighbour
when we meet.**

**Praise to you be given,
love for you be lived,
Life be celebrated,
joy you give.**

Closing Music Alleluia! Song of Gladness - Robert J. Powell