

# Quispamsis United Church

March 17, 2024 - *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

*Liturgical Colour: Purple*

*Presider: Rev Ian Manson*

*Director of Music: Stephen Alexander*

*Reader: Ruth Buckley*

**Centering Reflection:** Our lives no longer belong to us alone; they belong to all those who need us desperately.

- Elie Wiesel

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## GATHERING TOGETHER

### Gathering Chord

As we gather to worship we take time to greet and chat with members of our church family. These reconnections are an important reminder that we share a common bond as followers of Christ.

However, there comes a time to leave the hustle and bustle of daily life and come together to worship God. For the coming weeks, a “Gathering Chord” will signal that transition and alert us that worship is about to begin. This will be followed by our choral introit and a time for meditation and candle lighting.

### Introit:

Gather Us In

MV 7 (X2)

**Gather Us in, ground us in you.**

**Gather us in, ground us in you.**

**Gather us in, gather us in.**

**Ground us, ground us in you.**

### Opening Music... An Invitation to Prayer and Candle Lighting

(Come Thou Fount - arr. Harold DeCo)

### Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

### Lighting of Affirm Candle & Acknowledgment of Territories

### Celebrations

**Call to Worship** (from Psalm 46):

God is our refuge and strength

**A very present help in times of trouble.**

We will not fear, though the earth be moved,

**though the mountains be toppled into the sea,**

though the earth's waters rage and foam,

**though the mountains tremble at its tumult.**

The Lord of hosts is with us.

**The God of Jacob is our refuge.**

**Prayer of Approach (Unison)**

**Holy One, you promise to sustain the weary,**

**protect the oppressed, and give strength and hope to those who despair.**

**Be with us when we feel overwhelmed by the struggles and challenges of life,**

**and sustain all those who are burdened by adversity and difficulty.**

**Bestow your courage and hope on us all, we pray this day. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn:**

Come and Find the Quiet Center

VU 374

**God, reveal your presence: as we now adore you  
and with awe appear before you.**

**Here in this your temple: all within keep silence,  
gather now with deepest reverence.**

**You alone God we own,  
you, our God and Saviour: praise your name for ever.**

**God, reveal your presence: hear the harps resounding;  
see the crowds the throne surrounding.**

**'Holy, holy, holy!' Hear the hymn ascending,  
angels, saints, their voices blending.**

**Bow your ear to us here;  
hearken, O Lord Jesus, to our humble praises.**

**O great Fount of blessing, purify my spirit,  
trusting only in your merit;**

**like the holy angels gathered all before you,  
may I ceaselessly adore you.**

**Let your will ever still  
rule your church terrestrial, as the hosts celestial.**

**A Time of Contemplation**

## Time for All Ages

### Sung Prayer of Illumination:

Wonderful Words of Life  
Speak them over again to me  
Wonderful words of life  
Let me more of their beauty see  
Wonderful words of life  
Words of life and beauty  
Teach me faith and duty  
Beautiful words, wonderful words  
Wonderful words of life  
Beautiful words, wonderful words  
Wonderful words of life

Songs of the Gospel

### Readings:

John 12: 20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Gift of Music**

How Deep the Father's Love For Us

**Message**

When Hearts Are Hardened

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn:**

Now the Green Blade Rises

VU 186

**Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
love is come again, like wheat arising green.**

**In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,  
thinking that he would never wake again,  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;  
love is come again, like wheat arising green.**

**Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;  
love is come again, like wheat arising green.**

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
your touch can call us back to life again,  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;  
love is come again, like wheat arising green.**

**Life and Work of the Church**

**Sharing of Gifts and Talents**

**Offertory Dedication Hymn:**

**We Give You But Your Own  
We give you but your own,  
What e'er the gift may be,  
All that we have is yours alone,  
We give it gratefully.**

VU 542

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

**God of growth and new life, with our gifts we offer you our thanks and praise for the promise of spring and the promise of resurrection. With these gifts, accomplish more than we can ask or imagine, as they bear fruit in the world you love. Amen**

**Introduction to Prayers of the People**      **May We But Wait**      MV 175  
**May we but wait upon Love's word,  
Knowing our prayer is heard.**

**Prayers of the People**

**Sung Lord's Prayer**      VU 959

**Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil for the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours,  
Now and forever.**

#### **SENDING FORTH**

**Closing Hymn:**      **Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life**      VU 681  
**Where cross the crowded ways of life,  
where sound the cries of race and clan,  
above the noise of selfish strife,  
we hear your words of life again.**

**In haunts of wretchedness and need,  
on shadowed thresholds, dark with fears,  
from paths where hide the lures of greed,  
we catch the vision of your tears.**

**The cup of water given for you  
still holds the freshness of your grace;  
yet long these multitudes to view  
the strong compassion of your face.**

**O Jesus, from the mountain side,  
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;  
among these restless throngs abide,  
and tread the city's streets again,**

**till all the world shall learn your love  
and follow where your feet have trod,  
till glorious from your heaven above  
shall come the city of our God.**

**Commissioning (Responsive):**

As we continue our journey through the season of Lent,  
let us remember the words of the prophet Micah:

**What does the Lord require of us?**

**To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.**

**Benediction**

**Choral Closing**

We Shall Go Out With Hope

VU 586 vs. 1

**We shall go out with hope of resurrection;  
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;  
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;  
tales of a love that will not let us go.  
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;  
we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;  
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
within the vision of new life in Christ.**

**Closing Music:** Let There Be Joy - Beatrice A Miller