

Quispamsis United Church

May 7th, 2023 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Baptism of Benjamin James Tiberius Haché

Liturgical Colour: White

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Barb McBean

Centering Passage: *And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'*

-Matthew 9:10-13

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting of the Christ Candle: We light this candle with joy this day, because in this season we celebrate that the Light of Christ has overcome the darkest of darkness. It shines not just in this place, but in our lives, and through each one of us. May this light - within us and before us - guide us in our worship and in our lives.

Opening Music God, Give Us Christian Homes - B.B. McKinney

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgement of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Introit:

This is the Day

MV 122 (X2)

This is the day that God has made, we will rejoice and be glad!

This is the day that God has made, we will rejoice and be glad!

Singing hallelu, Singing hallelu, Singing hallelu,

We will rejoice and be glad!

Singing hallelu, Singing hallelu, Singing hallelu,

We will rejoice and be glad!

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 were created to be God's people, free to love and serve God with all our minds, all our hearts and all our strength.

So, we come to worship God, laying aside the things that bind us; our doubts and fears, our arrogance and our hopelessness.

We gather together because life is not meant to be lived alone. Through Jesus, even God, was born into the loving embrace of a family. As an adult Jesus shared love, laughter and tears with those he called friends. And shared the love of God with all who would receive it.

So, we come having experienced that love to honour God, celebrating God's presence within the companionship of fellow disciples of Christ.

Drawn together by the Holy Spirit

we lift our voices in praise and prayer as together we worship God!

Prayer of Approach

Uniting God, as we gather here today, we give thanks for the calling you have placed on each of our lives. Just as Paul was called to be an apostle and to proclaim the Gospel, we too have been called to be your children and to share your love with the world around us. We thank you for the ways that you bring us together as a community, bound to one another by our love for you and our desire to serve. Help us to answer your call with courage and conviction. May we be filled with the Holy Spirit, empowered to share your message of grace and love with those who need to hear it. As we journey together in this calling, may we be strengthened by our shared faith and our commitment to one another. We ask all of these things in the strong name of your Son and our saviour, Jesus Christ. AMEN

Hymn:

We have this Ministry

VU 510

**We have this ministry, and we are not discouraged,
It is by God's own power that we may live and serve
Openly we share God's word, speaking truth as we believe
Praying that the shadowed world may healing light receive.
We have this ministry, O God receive our living.**

**O Christ the tree of life, our end and our beginning
We grow to fullest flower when rooted in your love.
Brothers, sisters, clergy, lay, called to service by your grace
Different cultures, different gifts, the young and old a place.
We have this ministry, O God receive our giving.**

**The yoke of Christ is ours, the whole world is our parish
We daily take the cross, the burden and the joy.
Bearing hurts of those we serve, wounded, bruised and bowed with pain
Holy Spirit, bread and wine, we die and rise again.
We have this ministry, O God receive our loving.**

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

Prayer of Confession (Responsive):

You show us how to walk a life of faith and righteousness, O Christ,

Giving praise to God, being humble in spirit and opening our hearts to the world.

You show us what it means to act with God's power and authority,

You offered yourself in service to others, you refused to give up on love and mercy even when it meant death.

You model for us a life of vulnerability within faithful relationships and a pattern of life that seeks justice.

And yet Holy one, we often neglect to follow your pattern for life. Instead of mutuality and interdependence, we think first and foremost of ourselves. Using our positions and power to get what we want, we neglect the ways that our striving spreads injustice. Not wanting to show weakness we hide our true selves; our hopes and pains, our fears and failures and end up being bound by them.

Break the bonds we have created and bind us to each other instead that in this resurrection community we may experience new life yet again. This we pray in the strong name of Christ,

AMEN

Assurance of God's Love:

Even in those times when we would try to hide ourselves from God, we are known completely, brokenness and all. And in spite of those efforts to hide, we are loved to wholeness and called to services. Thanks be to God for such a love as this. AMEN

Time for All Ages

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Statement of Purpose:

The sacrament of baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God. By water and the Spirit, we are called, claimed, and commissioned: we are called God's own, welcomed as children of God; we are claimed by Christ, united with Christ, united with one another and the Christian community of every time and place; we are commissioned to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice, and strengthened by the Holy Spirit for the work of the church in the world.

Presentation of Candidates (Council Chair/Member):

On behalf of the congregation of Quispamsis United Church, I present for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism **Benjamin James Tiberius Haché**.

Profession of Faith and Promises:

Parents

Do you believe in God, Source of love; in Jesus Christ, love incarnate; and in the Holy Spirit, love's power.

I do, by the grace of God.

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you seek to resist evil, and to live in love and justice?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ, guiding **Benjamin** on the way, proclaiming the Good News of his love for all?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you join with your brothers and sisters in this congregation to share in the life, work, and ministry of Jesus Christ?

I will, God being my helper.

In baptism, **Benjamin** takes an important step in his journey of faith. Will you care for him, and help him to take his place within the mission and witness of Christ's Church?

I will, God being my helper.

A Journey of Faith:

One of the many blessings of our relationship with God, is that for each of us the shape and path of that relationship can weave its way through our lives in unexpected and unique ways. For **Benjamin**, his journey begins here, among all of you, his kindred in faith. Where this path will take him we can only imagine, but here we can give him a foundation of love and grace to learn and grow from.

Commitment of the Body of Christ:

Members of Quispamsis United Church stand

As Quispamsis United Church, do you commit yourselves to support and nurture this family within a community which worships God, loves and serves others, seeks justice, and resists evil?

We do, by the grace of God.

All stand

As parts of the body of The United Church, will you strive, insofar as you are able, to share the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the passion of the Holy Spirit with this child.

We will, God being our helper.

Affirmation of Faith - VU 918 (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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water:

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life, and, within it, the gift of water. Over its unshaped promise your Spirit hovered at creation. By water, comes the growth of the earth. Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom. In the waters of the Jordan your Child Jesus was baptized. Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray.

AMEN

The Act of Baptism

Baptism in the Name of the Triune God:

Benjamin James Tiberius Haché, I baptize you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Marking with the Sign of the Cross:

I mark you with the cross, the sign of Christ, Love Incarnate.

Lighting of a Candle:

Benjamin, let your light shine before others, that they may see the love of God reflected in your heart.

Laying On of Hands:

Benjamin, may the Holy Spirit, Love's power, guide you, inspire you, and work within you, all the days of your life.

Blessing (Responsive)

May the blessing of God, Source of Love, Jesus Christ, Love incarnate, and the Holy Spirit, Love's power, be with you today and always.

AMEN

Declaration and Welcome (Responsive)

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:

By one Spirit, we are all baptized into one body. We are children of the one God, Mother and Father of us all. We welcome you, Benjamin, into the community of faith.

Blessing:

The grace of Christ attend us,
the love of God surround us,
the Holy Spirit keep us.
Amen

Gift of Music (Video) Hand to Hold**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: Romans 1:1-17

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers, asking that by God's will I may somehow at last succeed in coming to you. For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as I have among the rest of the Gentiles. I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish — hence my eagerness to proclaim the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, 'The one who is righteous will live by faith.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message The Power of God in Community

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: In Gratitude and Humble Trust VU 544

**In gratitude and humble Trust we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

You have called us into community, O God, and by your grace we share who we are with one another and with the world. Bless all that we give and all that we are as we strive to be living reflections of your love in the world. We offer all that we bring in the name of Christ, our guide and our Saviour. AMEN

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Hymn:

VU 635

All the way my Saviour Leads me
**All the way my Saviour leads me;
what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt his tender mercy
who through life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
here by faith in him to dwell,
for I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.**

All the way my Saviour leads me,
cheers each winding path I tread,
gives me grace for every trial,
feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter,
and my soul athirst may be,
gushing from the Rock before me,
lo, a spring of joy I see!

All the way my Saviour leads me;
O the fullness of his love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
in my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed immortal,
wings its flight to realms of day,
this my song through endless ages,
"Jesus led me all the way."

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

As we leave this gathering of God's people we return to a world that is often isolating and cold, but we go with a commissioning to be God's own.

To encourage and support each other as we seek to follow Christ's way. To reach out in love to those in our inner circle and beyond. To allow the Holy Spirit to inspire and empower us to be an active part of God's kingdom here and now.

Beloved in Christ, the service has ended, but the work and life of faith has just begun, go out to the world as servants of the Lord, spreading the circle of God's grace.

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:

Hallelujah, Hallelujah

VU 179 (vs 2)

Refrain:

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, give praise to God's Name.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:

Jesus has died and is risen. R

Closing Music

Nordic Song - Robert Schumann