

Quispamsis United Church

November 26, 2023 - *Reign of Christ Sunday*

Liturgical Colour: White

Presider: Rev Ian Manson

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Sally Allanach

Centering Reflection: *“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”*

- Dr. Seuss

GATHERING TOGETHER

Opening Music (Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus - Roger C. Wilson) & Time of Prayer and Candle Lighting

Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Lighting of Affirm Candle & Acknowledgment of Territories

Celebrations

Introit:

Psalm 148 Refrain

VU 871

**Let the whole creation cry,
Glory be to God on high.**

Call to Worship (Responsive):

God gives voice to the voiceless and power to the dispossessed.

God offers the world a vision of justice, compassion and peace for all.

In God’s realm, the weak are supported, the hurting are healed, and the lost are offered direction and hope.

God guides us as we explore and embrace Christ’s reign of justice and compassion. Let us worship God.

Prayer of Approach (Unison)

God of majesty and mercy,

we give you thanks and praise for your commitment to your creation.

In Christ, you have turned the world upside down,

revealing your strength through weakness,
and your power through compassion.
Turn the world upside down once more,
so that your mercy prevails over those
who would rule by force,
and your truth triumphs over the world's deceptions.
Amen.

Opening Hymn:

When Morning Gilds the Skies
**When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awakening cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

VU 339

**To God, the Word on high,
the hosts of angels cry:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let mortals, too, upraise
their voice in hymns of praise:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Let all of humankind
in this their concord find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around
ring joyous with the sound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Be this, while life is mine,
my canticle divine:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this th'eternal song,
through all the ages long:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**We confess that we have failed to love fully or forgive wholly.
You offer us freedom but we settle for the familiar.
You offer us hope but we prefer knowing what will happen next.
Teach us to give up cautious faithfulness,
so that we can offer you our whole lives,
and commit to following Jesus into the future you are creating.**

(Silent Contemplation)

Words of Assurance

Time for All Ages

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

O God, by your gifts of Word and Spirit, open our minds to greater understanding, our hearts to deeper love, and our wills to eager service, through Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

Reading: Matthew 25: 31-46

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

Sung Response to Scripture

VU 949

**Grant to us, O God, a heart renewed
Speak to us afresh your forgiving word.**

Gift of Music Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above

Message “Revolutionary Love”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn:

Love Divine

VU 333

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Life and Work of the Church

Sharing of Gifts and Talents

Offertory Dedication Hymn:

Grant us, God, the Grace
Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
With a spirit large and free,
That ourselves and all our living,
We may offer faithfully.

VU 540

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Generous God, you envision a world where the hungry are fed and strangers are welcomed. Bless these gifts and the lives they will touch so that the love of Jesus Christ wears a human face again. Amen.

Communion Hymn

We Gather Here

VU 469

We gather here in Jesus' name,
his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
for through the loving son God fashions us as one:
Come take the bread, come drink the wine,
come, share the Lord.
No one is a stranger here, - everyone belongs;
finding our forgiveness here,
we in turn forgive all wrongs.

He joins us here, he breaks the bread,
the One who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
the One we love the most is now our gracious host:
Come take the bread, come drink the wine,
come, share the Lord.
We are now a family of which Christ is the head;
though unseen he meets us here
in the breaking of the bread.

We'll gather soon where angels sing;
we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;
now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
Come take the bread, come drink the wine,
come, share the Lord.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

Glory to God in the highest.

And on earth, hope and peace to all!

Blessed are you, Gracious God....

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus, who taught us when we pray to say:

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Post-Communion Prayer (Unison):

For the bread we have eaten, for the wine we have tasted, we give you thanks, Holy One. Now send us forth, united in courage, peace and love, to give light to those in need, and be Christ's hands and feet in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn:

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

VU 481

**Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.**

**The supper is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.**

**The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.**

**God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us
to work for the kingdom and answer its call.**

**With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.**

**Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.**

**With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.**

**Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.**

Commissioning (Responsive):

Let us go forth with open eyes and open hearts,

watching for lives that need gifts of love and grace.

Let us remember Christ's call to serve

and do our part to be ambassadors of justice, compassion and peace.

Benediction

Choral Closing:

3 Fold Amen

VU 967

Amen, Amen, Amen

Closing Music

The Festive Trumpet - Brian Glyncannon