

# Quispamsis United Church

November 27th, 2022 - First Sunday of Advent

*In Search of Hope*

**Liturgical Colour:** Blue/Purple

**Presider:** Rev. Richard Bowley

**Director of Music:** Stephen Alexander

**Reader:** Sue King

**Centering Passage:** *Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.'*

-Matthew 26:36-38

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## GATHERING TOGETHER

**Opening Music** Veni Emmanuel - adapted from Plainsong by Thomas Helmore

**Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle**

**Acknowledgement of Territories**

**Celebrations & Announcements**

**Introit:** A Candle is Burning VU 6 (vs 1)

**A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,  
A candle of HOPE in November's dark night  
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,  
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh**

**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 start another advent journey today,

**We come together so we do not have to walk alone.**

The journey will take us through the joys and sorrows,

**We come to be led to the place where God touches the brokenness of the world, with healing and grace. We come to be moved to jump for joy and gratitude in God mercy and blessing.**

Together here, we find hope for the future, hope for now.

**As we worship together, in our joy and sorrow, lifting our praise for the one who has come and is coming.**

**Prayer of the Day:**

Lord, in our broken relationships and fallen world there is so much anger, hurt and violence that is our own doing. We cry out to you asking “why do you not save us?” Yet you have made the way clear, you have written on our hearts the truth, you come among us to show us the way and still we turn from you upset that we do not see instant results, that the way is not easy. Forgive us God when our pride clouds your vision. Forgive us when we believe our call to you falls on deaf ears. Forgive us when we forget that you are the one who strengthens us and calls us to a better way. In the name of Christ, we offer this and all our prayers. AMEN

**Hymn:**

O Come O Come Emmanuel  
**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.**

VU 1 (vs 1, 2, 4, 7)

**Refrain:**

**Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
who orders all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and teach us in her ways to go. R**

**O come, thou Rod of Jesse's stem  
from every foe deliver them  
that trust your mighty power to save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave. R**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind;  
O bid our sad divisions cease,  
and be yourself our Prince of Peace. R**

## LISTENING FOR TRUTH

### **Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy (Responsive) Diane & Ray Tonge:**

Hope isn't about knowing what's coming

**It's about not knowing and trusting anyway.**

It's about watching the leaves fall, and trusting in the cycle of the season.

**It's about waiting through the long nights for the coming dawn.**

Hope is rejoicing the the Lord even when we are burdened,

**because we know that life is a blessing.**

*light HOPE candle*

We light this candle to symbolize our Hope in the Lord,

**our trust in the one who never fails to bring us from what is into what might yet be.**

*Silent Reflection*

### **Theme Conversation**

### **Sung Prayer of Illumination:**

Kindle a Flame

VU 19 X2

**Kindle a flame to lighten the dark and take all fear away**

**Reading:** Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:17-19

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you 'Violence!' and you will not save? Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law becomes slack and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous—therefore judgement comes forth perverted.

Look at the nations, and see! Be astonished! Be astounded! For a work is being done in your days that you would not believe if you were told. For I am rousing the Chaldeans, that fierce and impetuous nation, who march through the breadth of the earth to seize dwellings not their own. Dread and fearsome are they; their justice and dignity proceed from themselves. I will stand at my watch-post, and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me, and what he will answer concerning my complaint. Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.

Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, and makes me tread upon the heights.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** Sans Day Carol -Senior Choir

**Message** Waiting for an Answer

### **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn:** People Look East VU 9

**People, look east. The time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the guest, is on the way.**

**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
One more seed is planted there:  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
That in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the rose, is on the way.**

**Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
Guard the nest that must be filled.  
Even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the bird, is on the way.**

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:**

**Love, the star, is on the way.**

**Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

### **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](mailto: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](http://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 the bleak midwinter

VU 55 (vs 4)

**What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him -- give my heart.**

### **Prayer of Dedication (Unison):**

**Having searched for your presence in our lives O God, we offer these gifts with praise for all the times we have seen your guiding hand, received your strength in adversity and experienced your faithfulness revealed. Bless these gifts and those given through PAR, that they may be used to demonstrate your love and foster hope in our hurting world, through Christ we pray. AMEN**

### **Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer**

Hymn:

Bless Now O God the Journey

VU 633

**Bless now O God the journey that all your people make,  
The path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.  
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round,  
Then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.**

**Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way,  
Whose hope burns through the terrors, whose love sustains the day.  
We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound.  
Together we are seeking the road where faith is found.**

**Divine eternal lover, you meet us on the road.  
We wait for lands of promise where milk and honey flow.  
But waiting not for places, you meet us all around.  
Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.**

#### SENDING FORTH

**Commissioning & Benediction (Responsive):**

We go from here in hope

**Hope born not from wide eyed dreams and ungrounded optimism, but in the hope born as a child in Bethlehem**

We go to face the world with hope,

**Even though the world seems crazy and the challenges of life seem overwhelming, we go with hope because of Emanuel, God is with us!**

Greet the week all that comes rejoicing in the Lord, and as you take this advent journey know deeply the love of God is with you, the light of Christ will guide you and the Holy Spirit will sustain you, each step of the way. AMEN

**Choral Closing:**

Hope is a Star

VU 7 (vs 1)

**Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.**

**Refrain:**

**When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.**

**Closing Music**

Wake, Awake for Night is Flying - Johann Gottfried Walther