

Quispamsis United Church

September 10, 2023 - 15th Sunday After Pentecost

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Rev Ian Manson

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Sally Allanach

Centering Reflection: *"I trust that wherever two or three are gathered Jesus is in their midst. Where love is, Jesus is there."*

- Diana Butler Bass

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Opening Music Prelude on the Hymn Tune 'Nicaea' - Lani Smith

Welcome & Lighting of Affirm Candle

Acknowledgment of Territories

Celebrations & Announcements

Introit: The Church is Wherever God's People are Praising VU 579
The church is wherever God's people are praising,
Singing God's goodness for joy on this day.
The church is wherever disciples of Jesus
remember his story and walk in his way.

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):

God's wisdom is made known in many ways.

Through prophets and sages, Scripture and tradition, reason and experience, the Christ-light shines and God's way is revealed.

In Jesus, God came among us with words and deeds of love and mercy, grace and acceptance.
In this hour, may the Spirit of grace and truth draw close to us and unite us in bonds of love.

Prayer of Approach (Unison)

**In this moment, gracious God,
you have called us away from the world
to a place where your wisdom and grace is pondered and received.
Ground us in your presence,
that we may hear your words of life and hope,
discern your truth for our lives and community,
and embrace the guidance and strength you offer.
Bless us with the reality of your all-embracing Spirit,
and bless this time together. Amen.**

Opening Hymn:

**Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped
Sing praise to God, who has shaped
and sustains all creation!
Sing praise, my soul, in profound and
complete adoration!
Gladsome rejoice -
organ and trumpet and voice -
joining God's great congregation.**

VU 221

**Praise God, our guardian, who lovingly offers correction,
who, as on eagle's wings, saves us from sinful dejection.
Have you observed,
how we are always preserved
by God's parental affection?**

**Sing praise to God, with sincere thanks for
all your successes.
Merciful God ever loves to encourage and bless us.
Only conceive
what godly strength can achieve:
strength that would touch and caress us.**

**Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high
God commending.
All that have life and breath join you,
their notes sweetly blending.
God is your light!
Soul, ever keep this in sight:
amen, amen never ending.**

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**Holy God, through the words and deeds of Jesus and the prophets,
you have revealed the way of truth and life.
Yet we confess that we often struggle to be guided by your Spirit.
We believe our own wisdom and knowledge is sufficient for our every need.
We pursue profit and pleasures which harm creation,
and give no thought to the wellbeing of less privileged peoples.
We forget that, with freedom, comes responsibility for others,
for our community, and for our world.
Free from these tendencies,
so we might serve you as agents of your love and grace.**

(Silent Contemplation)

Words of Assurance

Time for All Ages

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

**God of Word and Wisdom, send us your Holy Spirit, so that by your light, we may see clearly
what you call us to be and to do. Engage us by your truth so we know how best to follow Jesus,
your living Word. Amen.**

Reading: Matthew 18: 10-14

Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So, it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

“Lost and Found”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn:

Are You a Shepherd?

MV 126

**Are you a shepherd, good shepherd who leads us
safely through danger, while calming our fears?**

**Are you a father who shelters and feeds us,
shares in our laughter and wipes away tears?**

Refrain

**Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,
but you are greater than all that we know.**

**Holy and living, loving and giving,
God, you are with us wherever we go.**

**Are you a mother, good mother who bears us,
comforts, protects us and helps us to rest?**

**Are you a teacher who daily prepares us,
challenging students to offer their best? R**

**Great, gentle shepherd, forever beside us,
lead all you children in paths that are right.
Great, loving parent, wise teacher, you guide us.
We want to love you and bring you delight. R**

Offering Our Gifts

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Receive these gifts, O God, as we pledge ourselves to answer your call to serve one another in love. Take and use these gifts to further your work in the world, in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Offertory Dedication Hymn:

For All Your Goodness, God
For all your goodness God,
we give you thanks,
Thanks for the food we eat
and for the friends we meet,
And each new day we greet,
we give you thanks.

VU 549

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn:

May the God of Hope Go With Us
May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

VU 424

Refrain

*Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed. R

Commissioning (Responsive):

Let us leave with confidence that Jesus our shepherd is with us.

Let us trust in Christ to guide and strengthen us.

Let us go forth with the assurance that all people are uniquely created in God's image.

Let us go forth to be Christ's hands and feet in the world.

Benediction

Choral Closing:

The Church is Wherever

VU 579 (Vs 2)

**The church is wherever God's people are helping,
caring for neighbours in sickness and need.
The church is wherever God's people are sharing
the words of the Bible in gift and in deed.**

Closing Music

Trumpet Tune in G - John S. Dixon