

Quispamsis United Church

September 3, 2023 - 14th Sunday After Pentecost

Liturgical Colour: Green

Presider: Rev Ian Manson

Director of Music: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Ruth Buckley

Centering Reflection: *“Those who believe they believe in God, but without passion in the heart, without anguish of mind, without uncertainty, without doubt, and even at times without despair, believe only in the idea of God...”*

- Madeleine L'Engle

GATHERING TOGETHER

Lighting the Christ Candle

Opening Music Ein Feste Burg arr. Harold DeCou

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):

We gather to celebrate God's presence and the stories of God's love for the world.

We gather to remember Jesus's life and ministry, and the life we are called to live.

We gather to remember God's promises to lead us boldly into the future, and God's assurance that we are not alone.

We gather to draw on the divinely-inspired wisdom of our traditions, and to carry those insights forward. Let us worship God!

Prayer of Approach (Unison)

**Gracious God, you bless our lives
with hope, promise, and new life.**

Be present during this hour.

**Remind us of your constant love for us,
give us courage to follow the Spirit's movements,
and inspire us to be instruments of justice, compassion and hope.**

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn:

We Are One

VU 402 (vs 1, 2 & 4)

**We are one as we come,
as we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips
there's a sense that God is near.**

**We are one as we sing,
as we seek, we are found;
and we come needful of God's grace
as we meet, together in this place.**

**We are one as we share,
as we share brokenness and fear,
in the touch of a hand
there's a sense that God is here.**

**We are one as we care,
as we heal, we are healed;
and we share warmth in God's embrace
as we pray together in this place.**

**We are one as we hear,
as we hear, heart and hand unite;
in the word we receive
there's a sense that God is light.**

**We are one as we leave,
as we love, we are loved;
and we seek justice in God's ways
as we move together from this place.**

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Holy God,

**We confess we can forget that life is your gift,
especially when we face struggles or feel hard done by.**

**We can stop listening for your guidance,
and feel tempted to take the easy way out
and leave the hard work to others.**

**Forgive any hurt we have caused by action or inaction,
and show us how to make amends.**

**May we live with you and with each other in reconciling love
through the grace of Christ. Amen**

(Silent Contemplation)

Words of Assurance

Time for All Ages

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

God of wisdom, you teach us with love, you touch us with mercy, and you challenge us with truth. Send your Holy Spirit to help us grasp your love, mercy and truth in the Scriptures as we encounter your living Word today. Amen

Reading: Matthew 16: 21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message When the Load Feels Heavy

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn:

Jesus Calls Us

VU 562

**Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding,
saying, 'Christian, follow me.'**

**Long ago apostles heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.**

**Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, 'Christian, love me more.'**

**In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
'Christian, love me more than these.'**

**Jesus calls us: by your mercies,
Saviour, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all**

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.

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:

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

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.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn:

To Show By Touch and Word
**To show by touch and word devotion to the earth,
to hold in high regard all life that comes to birth,
we need, O God, the will to find
the good you had of old in mind.**

VU 427

**Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most,
our hearts to long for truth till pride of self is lost.
For every challenge that we face
we need your guidance and your grace.**

**Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule, and norm,
and let our lives portray your word in human form.
Now come with us that we may have
your wits about us where we live.**

Commissioning (Responsive):

Let's keep our eyes open as we walk in God's world,
Let's stay alert for occasions to share God's love.
And as we do so, may the God who made us,
The Christ who mends and guides us,
And the Spirit who gives us life
walk with us each and every day. Amen

Benediction

Choral Closing:

The Church is Wherever
**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.**

VU 579 (Vs 2)

Closing Music Sortie - G.F. Handel