

A Warm Welcome to All Who Gather for Worship

Quispamsis United Church

372 Hampton Road, Quispamsis NB E2E 4T8

847-4924 (Study/Office) www.quc.ca

E-mail quc@nb.aibn.com

MINISTER Rev. Audrey Louder

ORGANIST Pat Vincent

GREETERS Carol Ann and Barry nice

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS Alisha Perry, David, Ethan,
Hayley, and Olivia Goodwin.

December 13, 2009

Advent 3

(Congregational responses are in bold type.)

***Please stand as you are able)**

Prelude *Es Ist ein Rose* (Brahms)

Welcome & Announcements

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Lighting of the Memorial Candles and the Peace Candle

Call to Worship

Sing!

Shout!

And rejoice with all your heart!

God is here, in our midst, we have nothing to fear;

we are renewed by Love's song

exulting over us with loud singing

as though this were a great festival day.

Through Mary we have been brought home,

gathered into the heart of the Homemaker;

here our deepest longings are met,

here our deepest yearnings are fulfilled,

here is God incarnate,

Christmas Prayer

*Dear God of power, ages, might,
How came the thought to Thee
To come as infant tiny one
Inside nativity?*

*How came this willing, gentle girl
To give such heart to Thee
That in her body there did form
All earth's nativity?*

*Dear God of glory, eons, light,
Creator of us all,
Make me thy manger full of faith
As Mary's cattle stall.*

Herbert Brokering



Sing your praise be to God!
Shout your praise to God!
Rejoice with all your heart!



Lighting the Advent Candles

Advent Chant:

*Twilight then darkness, night falls and candles glow
Gently surrounding us, a new birth of hope.
Watching, waiting, awakening a new birth of hope.*

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John 5:2-4

The Angel Raphael

Prayer:

Ever present God, whose angel Raphael accompanies us on our journey, we ask that this candle light the path before us as we journey towards Bethlehem. Amen.



Unto Us is Born – Conversations with Mary

Narrator – Laura Crossman

Mary – Jacqueline Young

Interviewer – Sarah Hill

*Opening Hymn: #46VU *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

Opening Selection: *Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts*
(Saint-Saens Christmas Oratorio)

Narrator: Luke 1:26-33 *Mary Accepts*

Conversation with Mary

We pray together: **O God, how often we invite you to live in us. Make your life in us real, so that we, like Mary, may feel your presence within and carry you to others. Amen.**

Choir Selection: *Bethlehemtown* (Clatterbuck)

Narrator: Luke 1:34-38 *Mary Embraces*

Conversation with Mary

We pray together: **O God, by your grace move us to embrace you and carry you to others. Amen.**

Duet: Prepare Thyself, Zion (J.S. Bach)

Narrator: Matthew 1:18-25 *Mary and Joseph Believe*

Conversation with Mary

We pray together: **O God, give us the peace that comes with believing. Amen.**

Congregational Hymn: #64 VU v.1 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Narrator: Genesis 12:1-3, Isaiah 7:14 *Mary Awaits*

Conversation with Mary

We pray together: **O God, thank you for those who were there at my birth, who were there at my early life and helped me to know your presence. Amen.**

Congregational Hymn: #64VU v.2 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Choir Selection: *Mary Did You Know?* (Lowry)

Narrator: Luke 2:7-12, 2 Corinthians 8:9 *Mary Gives Birth*

Conversation with Mary

We pray together: **O God, make where I am a place where all can kneel and worship you. Amen.**

Congregational Hymn: #64 v.3 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Ladies and Children Choir Selection: *Gentle Mary, Tender Mary*
(Jay Althouse)

Narrator: Luke 2:13-20 *Shepherds Adore*

Conversation with Mary

We pray together: **O God, thank you that we may come to you – just as we are. Amen.**

Choir Selection: *Rise Up, Shepherds and Follow*

(Besig and Price)

Narrator: Isaiah 60:1-3, John 12:32-33, Luke 7:20-23

Mary Invites

Conversation with Mary

We pray together: **O God, thank you for drawing the whole world to yourself. Help us to be part of the drawing power. Amen.**

Choir selection: *In the Bleak Midwinter* (Harold Darke)

Narrator: Luke 9:46-48, Mark 10:13-16 *Mary Shares*

Conversation with Mary

Choir Selection: *And the Glory of the Lord* (Handel)

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Our Gifts to God: Hymn: #95VU *Born in the Night, Mary's Child*

*Dedication: *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.

Words: Christina Rossette ca. 1873. Music: Gustav Theodor Holst 1906.**

*Offertory Prayer:

God calls us to live in ways that reflect God's love
and we wonder: What then should we do?

Whoever is blessed with much must share with those in need.

What then should we do?

Live honestly and do not acquire more than we need.

What then should we do?

Live in right relations with each other and love our neighbours as ourselves.

May this offering be a symbol of our faithful living.

Amen

*Hymn: #73VU *The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy*

*Commissioning and Benediction

We have heard the songs of the shepherds...

We have heard the words of Mary...

We have been blessed.

Go now, pondering all that you have heard
and know that God is loving Creator,
Love Embodied, Love Enlivened.

Let us go now to be people of good news.

We are on the way! Thanks be to God!

*Choral Benediction:

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;

cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

**Words: Phillips Brooks 1868. Music: Lewis Henry Redner 1868.

Postlude: *Mary's Boy Child* (Hairton)

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The program today is taken from *Unto Us Is Born...Christmas Conversations with the Mother of Jesus* by Herbert Brooking; copyright©1999 Augsburg Fortress.

Stewards responsible for checking the church:

this week – December 13 – Kevin Winchester

next week – December 20 – Dannie Forret

Scripture Readings for December 13: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55).

*** DETAILS OF THESE ANNOUNCEMENTS ON
BULLETIN BOARDS***

*Check out the announcements and other information from **Maritime Conference**, currently updated regularly.*

***Community Ecumenical Carol Sing**; Sunday, Dec. 13, 7:30pm at Trinity Church.*

*Humorous Christmas musical *An Unexpected Christmas*; Sunday, Dec. 13, 7pm at Calvary Temple.*

***Handel's Messiah**; Monday, Dec. 21, 7:30pm at Trinity Church.*

Portland UC is looking for an individual to work with their young families.



Announcing

LIFE of the CONGREGATION and COMMUNITY

This Week: December 13-19

TODAY 10am Cantata: *Conversations with Mary*

Final pick-up date for Evangeline.

2-4pm Open House at Rev. Audrey's; 2 Crestwood Drive, Rothesay

TUESDAY 10:30am **N. B.** Tuesday morning Study Group on leave until Jan.5

WEDNESDAY 7:00pm Mid Week Service

THURSDAY 7:00-8:30pm Adult Choir Practice

Copies of the *Upper Room* for January/February *and Mandate Magazine* are available in the church entry ways.

The Youth Group is selling **calendars and decorative unscented candles**. Calendars are available in the church office or contact Karen Young.



Do you have any "gently used" pots and pans, iron, ironing board, or home telephones? We could give them a good home! Contact Barb McBean at 847-2275.



The Agnes Allingham UCW **Mitten Tree** is ready for knitted items. Socks, mittens, gloves or scarves will be very much appreciated. If you are not a knitter, we accept all types.



FINANCE



11:15am Angel Show The Worship Committee invites you to join us downstairs for coffee, cake, and a “multitude of heavenly host.” Please bring your favourite angel from home, whether it’s the one from your treetop, the one you made in kindergarten, or something in between. We’ll set them up in the Hall and have a look at these messengers of the Christmas story. See you there!

Please return all gifts for the Christmas families.

Monday, December 21, 7pm Longest Night Service

Wednesday, December 23, 7pm Mid-week Service

“O Come, All Ye Faithful...and the not so faithful are welcome, too...”

Thursday, December 24, 6:30pm Children’s Christmas Eve Service

11pm Candlelight Communion

LOOKING AHEAD



December 20 10am Sunday School Christmas Pageant