

## GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT

Music to Enliven

### Gathering Song

♪ ♪ **Walk in the Light, the beautiful light  
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright  
Shine all around us by day and by night  
Love is the light of the world.** (trad.)

Welcome: Rev. Greg Powell

Territorial Acknowledgement

**Well over 100 years ago, industrious volunteers laid the cornerstones of this building.**

There was likely little thought of the Indigenous folks who once called this home.

**Nearly 100 years ago, this church united with other denominations to form The United Church of Canada, with little regard for the role of Indigenous folks.**

Indian residential schools opened and closed with support from our church, which stood by as Indigenous children were taken and given to non-Indigenous families.

**In 1986, The United Church apologized for its role in disenfranchising Indigenous people.**

**In 1998, it apologized for its role with the residential schools.**

We recognize the Esquimalt and Songhees, parts of the ləkʷəŋən family, whose care of this land predates contact with Europeans and others.

**As the journey of reconciling continues, we trust God will lead us all to right relationship, however long and arduous the journey.**

Lighting the Christ Candle ~ Deborah Davis

*Leader:* This is such a small light –

*Cantor:* This small light; Not like sun or moon.  
A tiny, fragile glowing; Flickering in this room

*Leader:* This simple candle holds much power. It would show a way out of complete darkness. It would show a way in for all who need it. It can show us the Way of Jesus.

*Congregation, Sung:*

♪ ♪ **Kindling joy and peace and love within for all who draw near. Kindling joy and peace and love all draw near.**

Opening Prayer

**In the morning light, O God, may I glimpse again your image deep within me,  
the threads of eternal glory woven into the fabric of every human being. Again may I catch sight of the mystery of the human soul fashioned in your likeness, deeper than knowing, more enduring than time.  
And in glimpsing these threads of light amidst the weakness and distortions of my life let me be recalled to the strength and beauty deep in my soul. Let me be recalled to the strength and beauty of your image in every living soul.**

~ adapted from Celtic Benediction by J. Philip Newell

Opening Hymn

♪ ♪ What the World Needs Now (see white insert)

Sharing the Peace of Christ

## SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

♪♪ Open our hearts, open our minds  
Open our lives to you O loving God,  
Open our hearts. ~ MV21~

Scripture: Matthew 25: 32-40 ~ Reader, Charlotte Caron  
Reflection ~ "See No Stranger" ~ Reader, Carol Yanisch  
(excerpt from "The Amen Effect" by Sharon Brous)

## RESPONDING WITH OUR WHOLE HEARTS

~ VU 600 ~ When I Needed a Neighbour

**COMMUNION** (see yellow insert)

Responsive Lord's Prayer

Offering Ourselves with our Gifts

**Grateful for the life you give us,  
Thankful for your Holy Son,  
Joyful in your Spirit flowing  
Over all, O God of love.  
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,  
Thankful for your Holy Word,  
Joyful in your mercy flowing,  
We will praise you. ~ MV 182 ~**

## GOING OUT TO SERVE

Hymn: ~ MV 145 ~ Draw the Circle Wide

Commissioning and Blessing

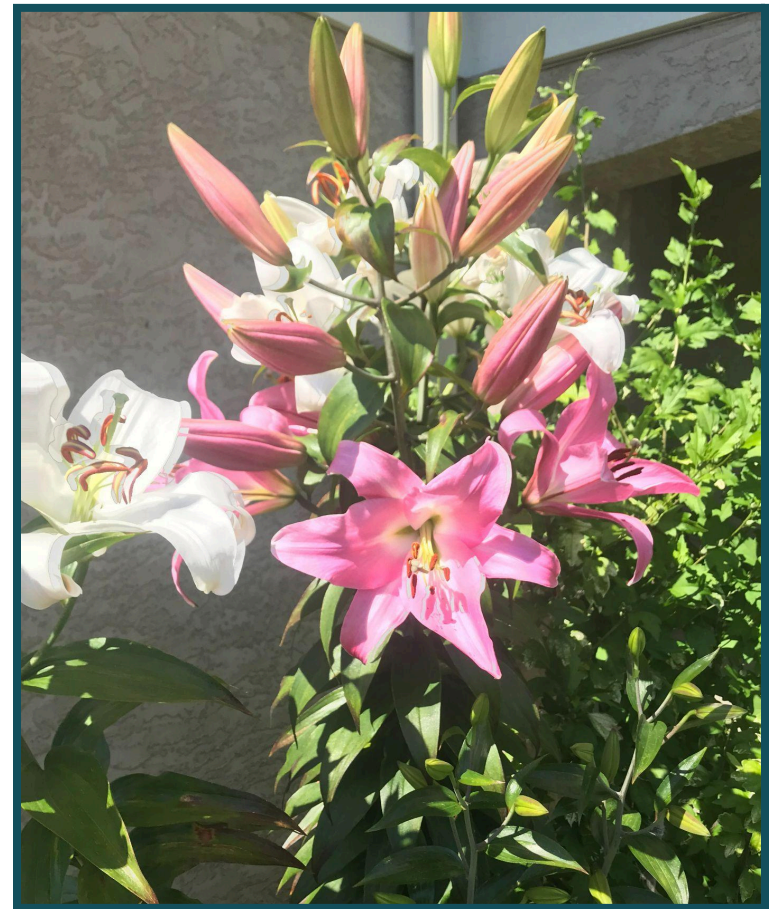
Hymn: ~ VU 646~ Siyahamba

# James Bay United Church

*Following in the way of Jesus  
on the journey inward  
and the journey outward*

**July 21, 2024**

**"JULY LIGHT"**



*Photo: Thanks to Carol Garceau*