

## GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT

Gathering Song

♪ ♪ **Come and Gather Beneath the Tree of Life (x 2)**  
**Root of wisdom, branch of peace, fruit of healing**  
**and release.**  
**Come and Gather Beneath the Tree of Life.**

Welcome

Territorial Acknowledgement

**We acknowledge that ləkʷəŋən peoples did not give up**  
**the right to the land that sustained bodies, minds and**  
**spirits for thousands of years—despite colonial**  
**interpretations of the Douglas Treaty.**  
**We, the people of James Bay United Church, now use**  
**this same land and so we recommit to taking on the**  
**challenging and healing work to move toward**  
**reconciliation and right relationship.**

Lighting the Christ Candle: Deborah Davis

♪ ♪ **God of earth and every creature,**  
**God of wind and God of sky, God of old and new creation,**  
**Be with us now. Be with us now.**

Opening Prayer

**Creating God, we come together to worship you, to**  
**give thanks for your magnificent creation, to**  
**encourage each other to care for that which you**  
**have made. We come seeking to feel your presence**  
**and to know your love. Make them known to us in**  
**this time. Receive our thanks today. Amen.**

Hymn MV 27 Creator God You Gave Us Life

Sharing the Peace of Christ

### SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

♪ ♪ **Spirit of Life, come unto me,**  
**sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.**  
**Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;**  
**move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.**  
**Roots hold me close; wings set me free;**  
**Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.**  
**VU 381 Words, Music: Carolyn McDade ~ VU 381 ~**

Scripture Reading Genesis 2:4b-13 Revelation 22:1-9

Reader: Mahima Sylvester

Reflection: Rev. Greg Powell

## RESPONDING WITH OUR WHOLE HEARTS

Hymn VU 660 How Firm a Foundation

Prayers of the People: Rev. Greg Powell

**O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos, you create**  
**all that moves in light. Focus your light within us —**  
**make it useful: as the rays of a beacon show the way.**  
**Unite our “I can” to yours, so that we walk as kings**  
**and queens with every creature.**  
**Create in us a divine cooperation — from many**  
**elves, one voice, one action.**  
**Grant what we need each day in bread and insight.**  
**Forgive our hidden past, the secret shames, as we**  
**consistently forgive what others hide.**

**Deceived neither by the outer nor the inner — free us to walk your path with joy. From you is born all ruling will, the power and life to do, the song that beautifies all from age to age it renews. Amen**

Offering Ourselves with our Gifts

♪ ♪ **For the Gift of Creation, the gift of your love,  
And the gift of the Spirit by which we live,  
We thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.  
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**  
~ VU 538 ~

Announcements: Work of the People

### **GOING OUT TO SERVE**

Hymn: from *Song of Community* (V.1-4 – see insert)

Commissioning and Blessing

Response

♪ ♪ **We'll weave a love with roots growing deep  
and sap pushing branches to wake from their sleep,  
Bearing leaves burnt amber with mornings full sweep,  
Together with God, we'll weave on, we'll weave on.**

**A love that heals, friends, that bends, friends, that rising  
and turning then yields, friends, like the mountain to rain,  
or frost in the spring, or darkness that turns with the  
dawn. It's by turning , turning, turning my friends,  
by turning that love moves on.**

## **James Bay United Church**

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

**September 8, 2024**

*Season of Creation 1  
~Tree of Life Roots*

