

Music for Meditation

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: Rev. Greg Powell

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: Mahima Sylvester

♪ ♪ **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

God who created and is creating, we come from many walks, pursuing many paths, unified by a desire to know love, peace, and justice. Show us the path to righteousness; open the door to lovingkindness. Illuminate in us the fruits that already exist, gifts we already possess, that we might be a blessing to you and our neighbours. Help us to attune to your calls on our lives and to forego our designs that exclude your ways. We ask your blessing on this gathering. Guide us to be truly grateful. Amen.

Hymn VU 227 For the Fruit of All Creation

Sharing the Peace of Christ

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Anthem: *Simple Thanks* by Becki Slagle Mayo

Scripture Reading Leviticus 23:10-14

Reader: Owen McCooley

Reflection: Rev. Greg Powell

RESPONDING WITH OUR WHOLE HEARTS

Hymn VU 518 As Those of Old Their First-fruits Brought

Prayers of the People

Sung call: Jennifer Turner *Flow'r of Compassion*

Sung response: ♪ ♪ **Bloom within, bloom within, bloom within each heart.**

Offering

Offertory Response

~ VU 538 ~

♪ ♪ **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.

Announcements: Work of the People

GOING OUT TO SERVE

Hymn MV 143 We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

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 my friends, 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.**

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James Bay United Church

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

October 13, 2024

Thanksgiving Sunday

