

Music to Invite the Light

## GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT

Welcome: Rev. Greg Powell

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering Song

♪ ♪ **Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness. Christ be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.**

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth,  
we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light  
for the world to see. (R)** ~ Bernadette Farrell ~

Territorial Acknowledgement

**We gather on land that sustained bodies, hopes, and  
dreams long before contact with Europeans and then  
others. We acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songees,  
Ləkʷəŋən peoples—all relations yearning for right  
relationship. And so we recommit to a journey toward  
reconciliation, one that is not easy.**

Opening Prayer

**God of still waiting, in our anticipation you are there.  
In our hoping and searching, you are there. Now, here,  
in our praying, singing, and connecting, you are here.  
May it be your light that breaks through the darkness.  
May it be your warmth we feel in this place. Make us  
ever aware of your presence, as we thank you for  
this time. Amen.**

Choir: *Light an Advent Candle*

~ Becki Slagle Mayo ~

Advent Candle Lighting: James Bay Refugee Initiative

♪ ♪ **Be a candle of Hope of hope, be a candle of light,  
a beacon of truth in a dark, hopeless night.  
Share the light with a friend and watch the flame grow.  
The more light we give, the more love we'll know.**

Sharing the Peace of Christ

## SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

♪ ♪ **In Silence we wait, in darkness you come to us,  
bring us your light.** ~ Linnea Good ~

Scripture Reading Luke 21:25-36 and *Song of Faith*

Reader: Cheryl Macpherson

Interview and Reflection: Rev. Greg Powell

## RESPONDING WITH OUR WHOLE HEARTS

Hymn VU 17 O Ancient Love

Communion (see insert)

Communion Songs

~ MV 16 ~

♪ ♪ **Come and fill our hearts with your love, you  
the source of life are holy. Come and fill our hearts  
with your love. Alleluia!**

♪ ♪ **Bread of life, hope of the world, Jesus Christ,  
our brother: feed us now, give us life, lead us to one  
another** ~ Bernadette Farrell ~

Offering

Offertory Response

~ Linnea Good ~

♪ ♪ Oh, what a wonderful gift. Oh, what a wonderful gift.  
God gives lives of hope and love, Oh what a wonderful gift!

So as we bring our gifts, and offer them with pray'r. May we be people seeking peace and justice everywhere. (R)

Announcements: Work of the People

### GOING OUT TO SERVE

Hymn: Waiting for the Light

~ Bruce Harding ~

We are waiting, God, for the coming of your day,  
We are waiting for the light to come. x2

We are praying God, that the world will find a way,  
We are waiting for the light to come. x2

We are working, God, so that truth will have a say,  
We are waiting for the light to come. x2

There'll be justice, God, in a world that's gone astray,  
We are waiting for the light to come x2

Commissioning and Sung Blessing

Response

~ VU 424~

♪ ♪ May the god of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.

May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace, singing, share our joy with all. Working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

## James Bay United Church

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

**December 1, 2024**

**1st Sunday of Advent: HOPE**

