

Music for Love & Justice: Jennifer Turner

GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT

Gathering Song

♪ ♪ Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth thou
hast for me, place in my hand the wonderful key, that shall
unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready
my God thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, spirit
divine. ~ VU 371 ~

Welcome: Colleen Nichol

Territorial Acknowledgement

**We gather on holy ground, land that sustained bodies,
minds and spirits for thousands of years.
Lək̓wəjən peoples use this land, James Bay United
Church uses this land, and folks from the community
use this land.**

**Beneath the building, under the layers of complexity
and history, we find God's ground. On God's ground we
are called to be one. So we recommit to taking the steps
that move us all toward reconciliation and right
relationship.**

Lighting the Christ Candle: Owen McCooey

♪ ♪ Holy light, still burning bright, presence of God that
frees us. Lift the shadows from our soul, shine through
our life, Christ Jesus. ~ Words, music: Jim Strathdee

Opening Prayer

**Loving and Liberating God,
We gather in Your presence, reminded of the waters
of baptism that call us to solidarity, justice, and love.
As the Spirit descended on Jesus at the Jordan,
descend upon us today, filling our hearts with
courage to walk alongside the oppressed and to work
for liberation in our world.**

**Open our ears to hear the cries of those on the
margins, open our hearts to embrace Your
transformative love, and open our hands to act with
compassion and justice. May this time of worship
renew us in Your mission and remind us that we are
Your beloved, called to be agents of hope and
change.**

**In the name of Christ, who stood in the waters with
us, we pray. Amen.**

Hymn: MV 1 Let us Build a House

Sharing the Peace of Christ

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

♪ ♪ Open our hearts, open our minds,
Open our lives to you O loving God. ~ MV 21 ~

Scripture Reading Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Reader: Chris Bodnarchuk

Reflection: André Fontaine

Hymn: MV 169 When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides

Prayers of of the People – Colleen Nichol

Lord's Prayer:

**O most Compassionate Life-giver,
may we honor and praise you;
May we work with you to establish your new order
of justice peace and love;
Give us what we need for growth, and help us,
through forgiving others, to accept forgiveness.
Strengthen us in the time of testing,
that we may resist all evil;
for all tenderness, strength and love are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Bill Wallace, Aotearoa/New Zealand

RESPONDING WITH OUR WHOLE HEARTS

Offering Ourselves with our Gifts

Offertory Response ~ Words: Steve Garnaas-Holmes

♪♪ Great holy giver of life and wonder,
deep like a river your blessings flow.
Gladly we give you praise and thanksgiving:
gifts we will give wherever we go.

Announcements: Work of the People

GOING OUT TO SERVE

Hymn: MV 143 Abundant Life

Commissioning and Blessing

Response ~ MV 145 ~

♪♪ *(Refrain)* Draw the Circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call.

Refrain

James Bay United Church

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

January 12, 2025

