

Music: 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

The land on which we gather has sustained the Lək'wəŋən peoples since time immemorial. This same land now has a title that reads, "James Bay United Church," which complicates efforts of reconciliation.

We believe God yearns for all to recognize each other as one, as related. May we be so courageous as to take those complicated but necessary steps toward unity and right relationship.

Lighting the Christ Candle: Peggy Hodding

♪ ♪ 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

God of hope who reveals yourself, We gather to give thanks. We bring our whole selves to this moment - complete with our wounds, our questions, and our doubts. Your Way, revealed by Jesus, is one of truth, compassion, and justice. Fill us with joy, that we might also reveal the new life you provide. Receive our thanks today. Amen.

Hymn: MV 27 Creator God You Gave Us Life

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 2:1-11

Reader: Carol Yanisch

Reflection

Hymn: MV 144 Like a Healing Stream

Prayers of of the People

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 138 My Love Colours Outside the Lines

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 19, 2025
~ 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

