

GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT

Gathering Song: ~ MV 10 ~

♪ ♪ **Come and Seek the ways of Wisdom, she who danced when earth was new. Follow closely what she teaches, for her words are right and true. Wisdom clears the path to justice, showing us what love must do.**

♪ ♪ **Listen to the voices of Wisdom, crying in the marketplace. Hear the Word made flesh among us full of glory, truth and grace. When the word takes root and ripens, peace and righteousness embrace.**

♪ ♪ **Sister Wisdom, come assist us; nurture all who seek rebirth. Spirit-guide and close companion, bring to light our sacred worth. Free us to become your people, holy friends of God and Earth.**

Welcome: Rev. Greg Powell

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: Mahima Sylvester

♪ ♪ **O radiant Christ, incarnate Word, eternal love revealed in time: come, make your home within our hearts, that we may dwell in light sublime.**

♪ ♪ **Our bartered, busy lives burn dim, too tired to care, too numb to feel. Come, shine upon our shadowed world: your radiance bathes with power to heal.** ~ VU 84 ~

Opening Prayer

God of all times and places, One who blesses each of us with life, we gather in your presence to be reminded of the goodness that surrounds us. Despite all other stressors in our lives, there is always enough love and there is always enough beauty. Receive our prayer, receive our song – as we remember and celebrate the life and faith of Ruth Duck. Bless this gathering. Amen.

Hymn: MV 30 It's a Song of Praise to the Maker

Sharing the Peace of Christ

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Choir Anthem: Spirit, Open My Heart

Scripture reading: Luke 5:1-11
Read by Colleen Nichol

Hymn MV 72 Why Stand So Far Away

Reflection: Jennifer Turner

Hymn VU 295 The Earth and All Who Breathe

Reflection: Rev. Greg Powell

RESPONDING WITH OUR WHOLE HEARTS

Hymn: MV 126 Are You a Shepherd

Prayers of the People

Offering Ourselves with our Gifts

Offertory Response

~ VU 394 v.3 ~

♪ ♪ **O Spirit, breathe among us here, inspire the work we do. May hands and voices, eye and ear attest to life made new. In worship and in daily strife, create among us still. Great Artist, form our common life according to your will.**

Announcements: Work of the People

GOING OUT TO SERVE

Hymn: VU 578 As a Fire Is Meant for Burning

Commissioning and Blessing

Response

~ MV 143 ~

♪ ♪ **We cannot own the sunlit sky,
the moon, the wildflow'rs growing,
for we are part of all that is within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share
the gifts of God's creation,
that all may have abundant life in ev'ry earthly nation.**

♪ ♪ **God calls humanity to join as partners in creating
a future free from want or fear, life's goodness celebrating,
that new world beckons from afar,
invites our shared endeavour,
that all may have abundant life
and peace endure forever.**

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James Bay United Church

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

February 9, 2025

*Celebrating the Hymn Texts
of the late Ruth C. Duck*



~ Photo by Ulrick Trappschuh