GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT

(Please note: * indicates please rise in body or in spirit
VU refers to the red hymn book; MV is the coil bound book)

Welcome and Announcements

Invitation
Light and darkness, light and darkness
- words and music: anonymous

In silence we wait, in darkness you come to us;
bring us your light.
-words and music: Susan Masters

Opening Prayer
God of promises, sometimes we wait generations
for the dawn from on high to break upon us;
sometimes only years.
We wait for justice and hope and light and kindness
to mingle in the tangle of our days.
And we age while we hope.
So may we age and hope with tenderness and truth.
Because you are tender and true
even though sometimes we wonder.
Amen - Padraig O'Tuama

***Hymn VU 5 All Earth is Waiting vs. 1-4**

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Opening to the Word

Send out your light, Lord, send your truth
to be my guide.
Then let them lead me to the place where you reside.
-words and music: The Iona Community

Scripture reading: Luke 1: 76-80; Luke 3: 17

God's Word is Life!
All: Thanks be to God

Reflection

Hymn We Pray for Peace [see back page]

RESPONDING WITH OUR WHOLE HEARTS

Lighting the Candle of PEACE

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

When God is a child there's joy in our song,
the last shall be first and the weak shall be strong
and none shall be afraid.

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.
- VU 7 words: Brian Wren music: Joan Collier Fogg

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Offering our Gifts
Your will be done, be done on earth [x3]
Your will be done on earth. Your will be done on earth.
-MV 151 traditional song, South Africa

Communion Celebration
Please note: all the bread is gluten free;
each chalice is filled with grape juice]
Great Thanksgiving [see insert]

GOING OUT TO SERVE

***Hymn MV 120 Canticle of Turning**

*Commissioning and Blessing
Hope shines as a solitary star. Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.

Peace shines as a solitary star …

MV 220 -words: Catherine Faith MacLean
music: Janet Bauman Tissandier

We Pray For Peace

We pray for peace, but not easy peace
built on complacency
and not the truth of God.
We pray for real peace
the peace that love alone can seal.

We pray for peace, but not the cruel peace
leaving humankind to die in their distress.
We pray for real peace
enriching all humanity.

We pray for peace, and not the evil peace
defending unjust laws
and nursing prejudice.
But for the real peace,
of justice, love and unity.

God give us peace;
If you withdraw your love there is no peace for us
or any hope of it.
With you to lead us on, through death or tumult,
peace will come.

- Alan Gaunt, adapted

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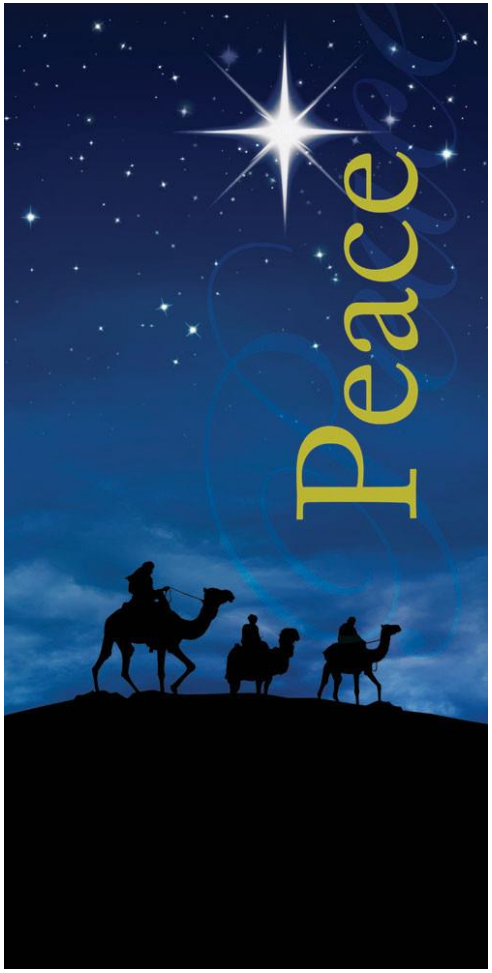
Minister: Karen Dickey kdickey@shaw.ca
Music: Daniel Brandes music.jamesbayunitedchurch@gmail.com
Office Administrator: Vanya Smith jbuchurch@gmail.com
Communication & Neighbourhood Engagement: Gordon Miller
communication.jbuc@gmail.com
Office phone: 250-384-5821
Website: www.jamesbayunited.com

James Bay United Church

ADVENT 2

December 9, 2018



James Bay United Church
Christmas Services and Events

An early Christmas Dinner
with Caroling
Saturday, December 15
Dinner at 6 pm
Caroling at 8pm

A Big Community Carol Sing
In the Church sanctuary

Dinner by donation to the James Bay Refugee Initiative
RSVP ~ sign up at the church or contact
bevtracey@shaw.ca or 250-592-5931

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Special Christmas
Coffee-Time following worship on
Sunday, December 23
You might like to bring a small plate of
Christmas goodies to share

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Christmas Eve
Joy to the World
7 pm
A celebration for all ages

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Carols Candlelight Communion
10 pm
Celebrate the wonder of God
coming close

Scripture Reader: Paul Barker
Ushers & Greeters: Sylvia Scott, Paul Barker
Communion Servers: Heather Caldwell, Irene Fraser, Beverley McLean, Duncan McLean and Kathie Putt
Cup & Conversation: Bev Tracey, Marion Handcock and Pamela Florent

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK:
Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9 am – 12 noon
For Pastoral care emergencies please contact:
Rev. Karen Dickey at 250-592-5931.

Please remember in prayer: Linda and David, Gary Coburn, Sam and family, Ahmed, Leyla, Laurie, and Judith Brunt

THIS WEEK AT JAMES BAY UNITED CHURCH:

Tuesday, December 11 – OUTREACH
9:00am – 11:30am - Front Office Reception

Tuesday, December 11 – Jazz in the Sanctuary 7- 8:30pm

Wednesday, December 12 - SEASON OF LISTENING
This opportunity awaits us to deepen our knowing of one another. We will be engaging in a listening practice in which we pair up, and through the prompt of a question or two, we give the other the room to speak as we listen attentively.
Our last session before Christmas will be in the sanctuary. We'll meet upstairs **beginning at 7pm.** No dinner ahead of time.

Friday, December 14 - JBUC Thrift Shop Open 10am – 2pm
Your donations are gratefully received
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9:00 - 11:30am

Saturday, December 15 - An early Christmas Dinner
Followed by A Big Community Carol Sing in the sanctuary.
Dinner at 6 pm in the lower hall. Caroling at 8pm.
Dinner by donation to the James Bay Refugee Initiative
RSVP ~ sign up at the church or contact
bevtracey@shaw.ca or 250-592-5931.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flowers in the sanctuary today were graciously provided by Irene Fraser.

Thank you in your support with the Angel Gifts this year.

Extending our care in the neighbourhood -- We're looking for someone to respond to a request of a woman in our neighbourhood, unable to get to church, to deliver copies of bulletin and sermons.
If you would like to share in this, please be in touch with Karen or Doug Lunam, 250-658-6206.

2019 Church Calendars
are ready to pick up in
the Church office.
Cost is $5 each.

Ready for a deeper dive? into your faith, your life, into connection with others? This small group opportunity may be for you. Meet together (at a time and frequency determined by participants) to reflect on your life, bringing what's unfolding in your life into conversation with your faith. A chance to consider the questions, insights, surprises life is raising about what you believe. An opportunity for spiritual growth within the surround of compassionate friendship. *Facilitated by Karen Dickey*
More info: www.jamesbayunited.com

Jazz in James Bay for the neighbourhood!
The people of James Bay United Church are opening the sanctuary of the beautiful heritage building at 511 Michigan on Tuesday evenings for the benefit of our local community. Accessible music venues that you can walk to right in the neighbourhood encourages good mental and spiritual health. And with the help of local jazz legend Kelby MacNayr, we will bring some of the best of the best in the Victoria jazz scene to the heart of James Bay -- A venue without distractions - where the focus is you, the music and the sacred space to listen. Running for six consecutive Tuesday evenings beginning November 6.
A suggested donation of $10 (as you are able) will be taken at the door.

New in the JBUC library:
THE VARITIES OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE, A Study in Human Nature by William James. This book is a classic in non-fiction literature, written in the late 1800s, and in a style characteristic of the era. William James believed that individual religious experiences, rather than the precepts of "organized religions", were the backbone of the world's religious life. He discusses conversion, repentance, mysticism and saintliness; his observations on actual, personal religious experiences are designed to support this thesis.

2019 Perogie Pinchers of Victoria
Classes offered at James Bay United Church

James Bay Perogie Jive 2019
Experience the culture, have fun, learn family secrets from 1863!
Make your very own 24+ Authentic Ukrainian Perogies
Call to register for any of the classes at 250-634-3108
Jan. 3: 2019 – 5:30 – 7:30
Jan, 26, Mar., 16 and May 18: 10am – 12pm
July 20, Sept. 21, Oct. 19 and Nov. 16: 10am – 12pm
There are a few posters up around the church with more info.

Great Thanksgiving

Come, people of God, come to the table of hope!
Our hope is in God, who made heaven and earth!
Come, people of God, come to the table of peace.
Christ is our peace, and healing for the nations!
Come, people of God, come to the table of life!
The Spirit will feed us and make us new!
You are our life, O God, our hope from the beginning of time to the end of the age.
In your presence, water springs from dry ground,
grapes hang heavy on the vine,
and grain abounds in valleys of peace.
Your word brings joy to the desolate,
and your steadfast love awakens
even those who are sleeping in death.
Therefore, we who cling to your promise
and wait for a Child to lead us,
raise our hearts to you, and with everything that lives,
we proclaim your endless glory, as we sing:

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space,
all earth and sea and sky above bear witness
to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heaven,
creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes
and bears your name always! -MV203

And now, O God, with gratitude we remember Jesus.

- silence –

We remember that he came to us humbly.
He put aside the glory that was his.
We remember that he announced your favour.
He taught us to welcome your mercy.

……over

We remember that he resisted evil,
loved well, and turned no one away.
He did your will, and trusted your love.

And we remember that on the night before he died,
eating supper with his friends,
he took bread, gave you thanks, and broke it.
He gave it to them and said, "take this, all of you, and eat it.
This is my body, broken for you.
Do this in the awareness that I am with you."
And when they were finished eating,
he lifted the cup
as though it was brimming with his whole life.
He thanked you for it, and passed it to them, saying, "this is the cup of a new covenant poured out
for you and for all, that the power of forgiveness may be released among you. Whenever you do this, remember me."

We remember also those in need of your saving grace this day. **God of all life, hear the prayers of our hearts …**

Come, Holy Spirit, satisfy our hungry hearts.
Bless this grain from the field, these grapes from the vine--gifts you have given, and work of human hands. As we share their goodness, give us love for each other **and make us servants of your peace,**
until the new age of justice comes, **and every creature beholds it.**
We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to be confident and pray …
Our Father/ Mother …

Hello Friends of the James Bay Refugee Initiative –

"You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" Deuteronomy 10:19

When you last heard from us it was with a note from Leyla in which she spoke about loving her new life in Victoria, about her gratitude for the ways in which she has been cared for and supported, and the loneliness she experiences living in Victoria when her husband and family are so far away. With that in mind we have begun the work necessary to sponsor Leyla's husband, Ahmad; a move we see as a continuation of our sponsorship of Leyla.

The re-grouped James Bay Refugee Initiative is composed of four members of the original group and a new member who comes with skills that will be helpful for us as we work towards bringing Ahmad to Victoria. Steve works for the federal government, is familiar with the Middle East, and has experience working with Internally Displaced Persons as part of a UN mission. And more importantly, Steve has a huge heart and wants very much to be part of this process.

Ahmad is eager to join Leyla in Victoria and start their new life together here. To that end, he is taking English lessons at the end of his days working as an embryologist.

Leyla dreams of Ahmad's arrival, of their making a future here and of one day having children who will be Canadian citizens and will be assured of the peace and security their parents were once denied.

Fundraising is part of what we will be about, of course, and it will be a somewhat easier task since there is still a positive balance in the JBRI account, largely because Leyla is a very good money manager and because she found a full time job before her first year was up.

As before, donations can be made through the church office. If you wish to make a donation you may do so by mailing or dropping off a cheque made out to James Bay United Church (with **"*refugee sponsorship*"** in the memo line), or through PAR.

Or you might want to make an online donation through CHIMP on the James Bay Refugee Initiative section of the James Bay United Church website – https://www.jamesbayunited.com/get-connected/james-bay-refugee-initiative/pages/contact-donation-information

All donations over $10 will receive a tax receipt and 100% of donated funds will be used towards the work of the James Bay Refugee Initiative.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in being part of this continuing work, please speak with Aleksa or Judy.

With thanks,
Aleksa Harkness
For the James Bay Refugee Initiative