

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)

Music for Meditation

Welcome and Announcements

Invitation

**Holy light, still burning bright,
presence of God that frees us.
Lift the shadows from our soul,
Shine through our life, dear Jesus.**

- words and music: Jim Strathdee

Opening Prayer

**We begin this day O God with gratitude ~
grateful for breath
grateful for the new light of this day
grateful for one another gathered here.**

**As you gather us into the guesthouse of your great heart,
draw us into the counsel of your summoning Spirit.
Free us to lean into your extravagant love and mercy
that we may take heart,
for there is much in our lives and in our world
that needs our courage.
May we drink deeply of your all sufficient grace ~
You in us and we in you.
We pray in the name of Jesus
in whom we see the power of your love at work
even in the likes of us!
Blessed are you. Amen**

*Hymn VU 82 A Light is Gleaming

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Opening to the Word

Christ is born; give him glory! [x2]

Christ is born. Alleluia! [x2]

VU 41 words: traditional Byzantine Christmas prayer
music: Raquel Mora Martinez

Scripture reading: Matthew 2: 1- 18

God's Word is Life!

All: Thanks be to God

Reflection

Hymn VU 93 When Heaven's Bright With Mystery

RESPONDING WITH OUR WHOLE HEARTS

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Offering our Gifts

**Take, O take me as I am.
Summon out what I shall be.
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

MV 85 words: John Bell, Graham Maule; music: John Bell

Communion Celebration

Great Thanksgiving [see insert]

[note: the Bread is gluten free; each chalice holds grape juice]

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*Hymn VU 96 Will You Come and See the Light

*Commissioning and Blessing

* **Holy light, still burning bright,
presence of God that frees us.
Lift the shadows from our soul,
Shine through our life, dear Jesus.**

- words and music: Jim Strathdee

James Bay United Church

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

EPIPHANY January 6, 2019

That one bright night,
angels and candles and all,
was not a singular event, but a lasting truth.
God, you are not just passing through.
You are here for the long haul:
the chemo regime,
the enduring grief,
the extra year of school,
the parenting that never ends,
the long work of aging.
Give me courage.
Give me perseverance, to last,
to go the distance
on the long road to wisdom,
to healing, to justice, to joy.
Help me trust you are here,
all the way.

- Steve Garnaas Holmes

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

2019 Offering Envelopes are ready for pick-up. They are in the front office reception. If you would like to sign up for offering envelopes or Pre-Authorized Remittance please see Vanya in the Church office during regular office hours.

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Seasonal/Winter Closure for James Bay United Thrift Shop
Once again, our Church Thrift Shop will be closed for rest and restoration during the holiday season and the month of January. **We will re-open, bright and sparkly, on Friday, February 1, 2019. Thank you for holding your donations until the last week of January.** A big thank you to all our volunteers for their tireless donation of time and energy and to all our valued customers. See you in the New Year!

2019 Perogie Pinchers of Victoria offered at James Bay United Church

The next date to sign up for classes is Jan 26,
10:00 am ~ 12:00 pm:

Experience the culture, have fun, learn family secrets from 1863! Make your very own 24+ Authentic Ukrainian Perogies. Call to register at 250-634-3108.



Scripture Reader: Colleen Nichol
Ushers & Greeters: Steve and Colleen Nichol
Communion Servers: Bev Tracey, Ralph Huston, Judy Krzesowski, Louise n'ha Ruby and Janet Russell
Cup & Conversation: Colleen Nichol, Allison and Terry Renner

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: Lori, Christine, Kris and Darcie, Lyman Butterfield and family, Joyce Reid and Cindy Garret-Owen, Linda and David, Gary Coburn, Sam and family, Ahmed, Leyla, Laurie, and Judith Brunt.

THIS WEEK AT JAMES BAY UNITED CHURCH:

TONIGHT! January 6, 7pm at Irving Park

CELEBRATE EPIPHANY WITH THE NEIGHBOURHOOD LABYRINTH WALK

- As the Wise Ones were guided by the star, walking the labyrinth is a way to open up to the Spirit's guidance as we move into a new year. This event is for everyone. James Bay United Church is partnering with James Bay New Horizons to host the neighbours in an opportunity to learn about this spiritual practice. No previous experience is necessary and elders and guides will be on hand to help you get started. You can: come and walk or watch and enjoy the candlelit Labyrinth, visit with neighbours and friends over a hot beverage, or help as a volunteer and host or guide.

We'll be walking the Labyrinth even in the event of heavy rain.

Tuesday, January 8 – OUTREACH 9:00am – 11:30am

Front Office Reception

Tuesday, January 8, 2-4pm Pain-Management Course

'Making a Difference to your pain-experience'

A 6-session course . Join us in the foyer/sanctuary of the church. Copies of the book 'Heal the Pain' by Gary Brandstadt can be found in the church library. Visit the church's web-site for details. To register, or for further information, contact Gary Brandstadt at 250-385-4636 or email garbrand@telus.net

Great Thanksgiving

The Holy One is here!

God's Spirit is with us!

Let us open our hearts.

With thanksgiving let us celebrate Christ in our midst.

We do give you thanks wondrous God
for in the beginning when the earth was a formless void
and darkness covered the face of the deep,
your Spirit moved, brooding over the watery chaos.

You said "light!" and there was light! You brought forth a universe of beauty and mystery, a world wild with the wisdom of interconnection.

And yet, through the ages, the world has known deep darkness
--**trouble has overshadowed the beauty, arrogance the mystery.** Greed, ignorance and fear have torn the web of relationships. **Even so, you have not left us to ourselves. Your steadfast love has endured all things.**

You send us prophets and poets, and stars to light the way.

You speak to us in dreams. You raise up leaders **and in the fullness of time, that young girl Mary delivered Jesus into the world.**

As a child he was carried by his parents, refugees fleeing danger. **He opened his heart to unlikely people in unlikely places and joined himself to them in friendship.** Neither birth nor death diminished him. **Neither power nor plenty distracted him.** In all things he shares our vulnerability. **In all things he reveals your companionship with us.**

And so, with all that is seen and unseen, **with all the faithful of every time and place,** we join our voices to sing your praise:

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 heav'n, creation sings your praise. And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always! MV 203

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus shared a meal with his friends. As he lifted the bread to bless it, it was as though his whole life was gathered up in that loaf. He thanked you. "My body," he said, breaking the bread to share with his friends. "Eat this, and let it become part of you. Do this in the awareness that I am with you."

Then 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 and hold in the light of your love the whole creation in need of your saving grace.

Holy One, hear the prayers of our hearts ...

Pour out your Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts.

Make us one with Christ in his self-giving, that our lives too may be broken open and poured out for the healing of the world. Make us one in love for you and the whole creation that your justice may roll down like a mighty river, and your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. In this hope and as your people we praise you, God most holy, now and forever.

Lord's prayer