

Minister: Rev. Greg Powell  
Music Minister: Jennifer Turner

### GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT

Gathering Song *~ Bernadette Farrell ~*

♪ ♪ **Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness. Christ be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.**

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
your holy people, light for the world to see. (R)**

Welcome: Rev. Greg Powell

Lighting the Christ Candle

Territorial Acknowledgement

**We gather on land that sustained bodies, hopes, and dreams long before contact with Europeans and then others. We acknowledge the Kosapsum and Songees, Ləkʷəŋən peoples—all relations yearning for right relationship. And so we recommit to a journey toward reconciliation, one that is not easy.**

Opening Prayer

**Patient, steadfast God, you remain unchanging even as our understanding of you changes day by day.  
In this Advent season, as always, make your presence known to us. Help us to see you in the twinkling lights, in the familiarity of music and carols, and in each other.  
Grant us the deepest joy of the season, as we offer you our gratitude for all that sustains us. (silence)**

Hymn: VU 820 Make a Joyful Noise

Advent Unwrapping

Advent Candle Lighting: Joy – Mahima Silvester

♪ **We light this candle for joy.  
Await the new life within.  
May our hearts now live each day,  
so joy can find a way (x2)** *~ TLUS 55 ~*

Sharing the Peace of Christ

### SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Opening to the Word

♪ **Prepare ye the way of the Lord.  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.  
Make room, make room in your hearts O children.  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.** *~ Jim Strathdee ~*

Scripture Reading Matthew 11:2-11  
Read by: Milt Papageorge

♪ **Prepare ye the way of the Lord.  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.  
Make room, make room in your hearts O children.  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.**

A Shepherd Speaks: by Owen McCooley

Reflection: Rev. Greg Powell

### RESPONDING WITH OUR WHOLE HEARTS

Hymn: MV 147 God, Help Us to Treasure

Communion (See insert)

Communion Songs

♪ ♪ **Eat this bread, drink this cup;  
come to me and never be hungry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup;  
trust in me and you will not thirst.**

~ VU 466 ~

♪ **Bread of life, feed my soul,  
as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.  
Bread of life, fill my heart  
with the grace and mercy you impart.**

~ MV 194 ~

Offering

Offertory Response

~ Burt Bacharach ~

♪ **What the world needs now is love, sweet love  
It's the only thing that there's just too little of.  
What the world needs now is love, sweet love.  
No, not just for some but for everyone.**

Announcements: Work of the People

### GOING OUT TO SERVE

Hymn: VU 23 Joy Shall Come

Commissioning and Blessing

Response: Choir & Congregation

~ Becki Slagle Mayo ~

♪ **Be a candle of joy. Be a candle of light  
A beacon of truth in a dark, hopeless night.  
Share the light with a friend and watch the flame grow.  
The more light we give, the more love we'll know.**

## James Bay United Church

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

**December 14, 2025**

**3rd Sunday of Advent: JOY**

