

Minister: Rev. Greg Powell
Presiding: Rev. Bev Tracey
Music Leaders: Judy Krzesowski and JBUC Choir

GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT

Welcome: Rev. Bev Tracey

Hymn: VU 58 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Lighting the Christ Candle: Owen McCoe

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

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ your light shines on our darkness, giving joy in our sorrow and presence in our loneliness.

Fill us with the mystery of your Word made flesh, until our hearts overflow with praise and joy, for he is the beginning and the end of all that exists, living forevermore. Amen.

Hymn: VU 36 Angels from the Realms of Glory

Sharing the Peace of Christ

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Opening to the Word

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace,
You, the source of life, are holy.**

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia! ~ MV 16 ~

Scripture Reading: Psalm 148 (from Psalms for Praying
- Nan Merrill) **read responsively**

Reader: Sarah Hovey

Praise be the Blessed One!

Give praise from the heavens and from all the ends of the earth!

Give praise to all you angels, angels of earth and heaven!

Give praise, sun and moon, give praise all you shining stars!

Give praise, all universes, the whole cosmos of creation!

Praise the Blessed One! For through Love all was created, and firmly fixed for ever and ever; yes the pattern of creation was established.

Give praise to the Beloved all the earth, all that swim in the deep, And all the winged ones of the air!

Give praise all mountains and hills, all trees and all minerals!

Give praise all four-leggeds and all that creep on the ground!

Leaders of the nations and all peoples, young and old, Give praise! Unite together in all your diversity, that peace and harmony might flourish on earth!

Let all people praise the Beloved, who is exalted in heaven and on earth; whose glory is above heaven and earth.

For all are called to be friends, companions to the true Friend, giving their lives joyfully as co-creators and people of peace.

Praises be to the Blessed One, the very Breath of our breath, the very Heart of our heart.

Thanks be to God!

Reflection: Sarah Hovey

RESPONDING WITH OUR WHOLE HEARTS

Hymn: VU 44 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Offering

Offertory Response

♪ **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 ~

Announcements: Work of the People

GOING OUT TO SERVE

Commissioning and Blessing

Hymn: VU 43 Go, Tell it on the Mountain

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



December 28, 2025
Christmas 1

James Bay United Church