

Music Minister: Jennifer Turner  
Presiding: Anne Manikel  
Poetry Reader (Pre-Service): Karen Dickey

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## GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT

Gathering Song

~ Bret Hesla ~

♪ **God of earth and every creature,  
God of wind and God of sky,  
God of old and new creation,  
Be with us now. Be with us now.**

♪ **God who weaves each golden sunset,  
God who weaves the web of life,  
God who weaves us all together,  
Be with us now. Be with us now.**

Welcome

Silent Meditation

Territorial Acknowledgement

**We gather on land that sustained bodies, hopes, and dreams long before the Kosapsun and Songees encountered others from far away. And so we recommit to a journey toward reconciliation, one that is not easy.**

Lighting the Christ Candle

Opening Prayer (written by Colleen Adair)

**Gracious God, you are in the green of the river, and in the blade of grass bent under the weight of the rain. In the blue of the sky and the egg of the robin, as well as in the eyes of our children. You dance with the yellows of the daffodils and shine from both star and sun, yellow washes that help light our way. And yet, some days we forget that you are in every creature, every plant, every body of water, and in all of the sky.**

**Remind us this day and every day to lift up this earth. To care for our home that we share with all living things. Crawling, winged, running, creeping, climbing creatures that ask us to stop and be intentional about our use of the land, water and air. The hymnist, Shirley Erena Murray, reminds us that we can learn again how to “Touch the Earth Lightly.”**

**Help us, teach us, guide us to remember the way – your way – to be good stewards of all that we have. To understand that we are caretakers and not owners, that we have a responsibility to be intentional about our use of all that is given, of all that you reside in on Earth Day and every day. Amen**

Hymn VU 307 Touch the Earth Lightly (V. 1, 2, 4)

## SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Passing the Peace of Christ

Opening to the Word

~ MV 16 ~

♪ **Come and fill our hearts with your love.  
You, the source of life, are Holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your love,  
Alleluia!**

Scripture Reading: Job 12:7-10 Read by: Sarah Hovey

Reflection: Deborah Davis

Hymn MV 10 Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

## RESPONDING WITH OUR WHOLE HEARTS

Prayers of the People Adapted from “Celebrate God’s Presence”

The Lord’s Prayer VU 910

Offering

Offertory Response

~ MV 85 ~

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

Announcements: Work of the People

### GOING OUT TO SERVE

Hymn MV 135 Called by Earth and Sky

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.**

**Pre-Service Poems:** *Voices of Earth*, Archibald Lampman; *Watering the Stones*, Mary Oliver; *The Lake Isle of Innisfree*, William Butler Yeats; *Homecoming*, Edith Sodergran (tr. by Stina Katchadourian); *Book of Hours*, Rainer Maria Rilke (tr. by Anita Barrows and Joanna Macy); *Be With Us Now* Words, music ©1990 Bret Hesla, bret.hesla@gmail.com; **VU307** Words: Shirley Erena Murray 1991 Music: Colin Gibson 1991 ©1992 Hope Pub. Co.. All rights reserved. Used w/ permission; **MV16** Words: Taizé Community. Music: Jacques Berthier, 1982 ©1982 Taizé Community, Fr., admin. GIA Pub. Inc., excl. N. American agent; **MV10** Words: Ruth Duck © 1996, Music: Donna Kasbohm 1995, ©1997 The Pilgrim Press; **MV85** Words: John L. Bell & Graham Maule, 1995; Fr. trans. David Fines, 2005, Music: John L. Bell ©1995 WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland, admin. GIA Pub. Inc., excl. N. American agent; **MV135** Words, music: Pat Mayberry ©2005 www.patmayberry.com, Fr. trans.: David Fines 2006, Arr. Margaret Stubington ©2005; **MV143** Words: Ruth Duck Music: Marty Haugen © GIA Pub. Inc. All rights reserved, www.giamusic.com; Reprinted / podcast /streamed w/ permission under ONE LICENSE #A-741594 All rights reserved.

## James Bay United Church

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

**April 26, 2026  
Earth Day**



~ photo by Deborah Davis