

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 7 Hope is a Star**

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: 39-56

God's Word is Life!

All: Thanks be to God

Reflection

Hymn VU 17 O Ancient Love

RESPONDING WITH OUR WHOLE HEARTS

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Lighting the Candle of Love

Anthem: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

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 VU 9 People Look East**

***Commissioning and Blessing**

Love shines as a solitary star. Faith is the inner light.

**You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.**

MV 220 -words: Catherine Faith MacLean

music: Janet Bauman Tissandier

James Bay United Church

ADVENT 4

December 23, 2018

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Minister: Karen Dickey kdickey@shaw.ca

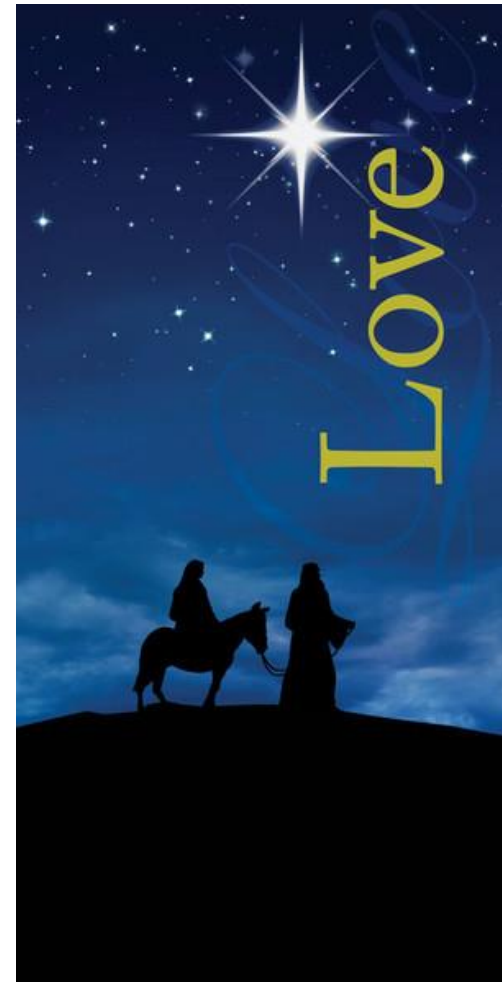
Music: Daniel Brandes music.jamesbayunitedchurch@gmail.com

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

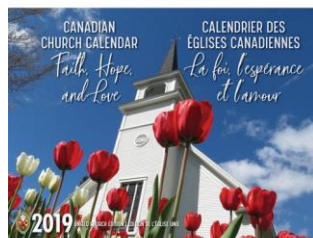
Seasonal/Winter Closure for James Bay United Thrift Shop

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!

COURSE on CHRONIC PAIN MANAGEMENT will begin again on **Tues. Jan. 8 at 2 p.m.** Class leaders: Irene Fraser, Reiki Specialist & Gary Brandstadt - author of the book 'HEAL THE PAIN - 18 Lessons in Living with Chronic Pain' Copies of the text are in our library. For details, refer to the note on the JBUC website. Call Gary Brandstadt at 250-385-4636 if special problems over the Christmas holidays. "

If you are looking for a last minute gift we still have some **2019 Church Calendars. They are available in the lower hall during cup and conversation.**

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

Scripture Reader: Cheryl Caldwell

Ushers & Greeters: Sylvia Scott, Paul Barker

Communion Servers: Paul Barker, Cheryl Caldwell, Colleen Nichol, Steve Nichol and Christine Wilson

Cup & Conversation: Bev Tracey and Marion Handcock

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK:

Closed Tuesday and Wednesday for Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Open 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:

Sunday, December 23 - Special Christmas Coffee-Time following worship today. Please join us in the lower hall

Monday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

7 pm Joy to the World

A celebration for all ages

Monday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

10 pm Carols, Candlelight and Communion

Celebrate the wonder of God coming close

Tuesday, December 25 – OUTREACH CLOSED

The planned **New Year's Eve dinner with movie** has been cancelled due to people being out of town.



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.

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 ...

.....over

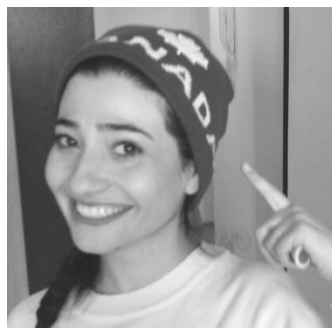
Hello Friends of the James Bay Refugee Initiative –

“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