

LENT FOUR – MARCH 10, 2024

GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT

Music and conversation

Gathering Song: Gather Us In MV 7

♪♪ Gather us in, ground us in you. x2
Gather us in, gather us in,
ground us, ground us in you.

Welcome

Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are occupying unceded land of the Strait Salish, ləkʷəŋən speaking people who have been sustained in body, mind and spirit through their relationship with this land for thousands of years.

I am grateful to be part of a congregation that is hearing the call to continue learning of our colonial history and the on-going impacts of our privilege, and taking up the challenging and healing work toward reconciliation.

Call to Worship

Acknowledging the Light

Hymn: VU 121 Tree of Life & Awesome Mystery vs.1 & 1B

♪♪ Tree of Life and awesome mystery,
in your death we are reborn,
though you die I all of history,
still rise with every morn, still you rise with every morn.
In our call to be a blessing,
may we be a blessing true; may we live and die confessing
Christ as Lord of all we do, Christ as Lord of all we do.

Prayer of Transformation

♪♪ Return to God with all your heart,
the source of grace and mercy;
come seek the tender faithfulness of God

Extinguishing the Candles:

Carol Garceau and Judy Krzesowski from Healing Pathways

In the wilderness, roots run deep.
Shadows, Exhaustion, Brokenness.

Living with purpose, often crumbles when fear moves in.
We become cautious or unclear about the next steps.
As a Community of Faith, we actively support each other through the fear and move with confidence as we live into the vision we are called to.

Together, we lean into our new Vision:

Called by God, as disciples of Jesus, the United Church of Canada seeks to be a bold, connected, evolving church of diverse, courageous, hope-filled communities united in deep spirituality, inspiring worship, courageous community, and daring justice.

Embracing the Mission of 'Bold Discipleship' means having inner and outer skills. We will lead creatively, spiritually and biblically through the challenges and the fears. We continue to live into the strength of our collective identity and our hope.

As we extinguish this candle, we lean into our fear. We are willing to learn from our watchfulness and not let it overcome us.

♪♪ Where streams run dry, x3
in the wilderness, roots run deep.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Opening to the Word

♪♪ Listen in the silence,
Listen in the noise,
Listen for the sound of the Spirit's voice

Scripture reading: John 3:11-21

Reflection: Tools for Embracing Wilderness

RESPONDING WITH OUR WHOLE HEARTS

Hymn: VU 282 Long Before the Night

Prayers of the People

♪♪ Heal us God, and renew our lives. R

Offering our Gifts and Ourselves

Response: VU 537 Your Work O God

♪♪ Your work, O God, needs many hands
to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve
unless our gifts we share.

Because we love you and your work,
our offering now we make:
be pleased to use an as your own,
we ask for Jesus' sake.

Work of the People

GOING OUT TO SERVE

Hymn: MV 154 Deep in our Hearts

Commissioning and Blessing

Response: VU 402 We Are One vs. 4

We are one as we come, as we hear, heart and hand unite;
in the word we receive, there's a sense that God is light.
We are one as we leave, as we love, we are loved;
and we seek justice in God's ways
as we move together from this place.

MV 7 Words and music: David Hann, © 2005

VU 121 Words: Marty Haugen Music: Marty Haugen Words and music © 1984 GIA Publications Inc.

Return to God. Words: Marty Haugen. Music: Marty Haugen. © 1990, 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.

Where streams run dry © 1994 Borealis Music, Music and words: Linnea Good.

Listen in the silence. Music and words: Linnea Good. ©1998 Borealis Music

VU 282 Words: Carolyn McDade 1988, v. 5 alt. 1995. Music: Carolyn McDade © 1988

arr. David Kai © 1994

Heal Us, God. Music by Marty Haugen & Tom Witt from Holden Prayer Around the Cross

VU 537 Words: Calvin Weiss Laufer 1927, alt. Music: Neil Dougall ca 1831.

MV 154 Words: John Oldham, © 1995. Music: Ron Klusmeier, ©1996.

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James Bay United Church

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

MARCH 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Lent



This Week at James Bay United Church

March 11, - March , 2024

Monday, March 11 - Community Guitar Class aka Guitar Jam with Aaron Watson www.jamesbayunited.com *Classes approx.. \$12/ class payable either by drop-in or term registration.*

Tuesday, March 12 Tuesday Night Jazz. 7pm Sanctuary
Everyone Welcome! Admission by donation (\$20 suggested)

Wednesday, March 13 9-10:30 in the lower hall
Tai Chi and Chi Kung with Curtis Nadj - \$45/month

Every Wednesday, 7pm - 8:30pm Community Choir
Each week, join Christine Chepyha as we create a new choral community in our neighbourhood.
New members always welcome.

Thursday, March 14 JBUC Thursday Morning Prayer
It's about beginning the day, along with others, in a way that centers and grounds us in Love's presence. We'll begin at 8 am, concluding around 8:20. **Online & zoom**

Thursdays Centering Prayer 1-2pm
We will be taking a five week hiatus for afternoon prayer leadership. See you back on online and zoom soon.

Thursday, March 14 Community Lunch lower hall
1 – 2:30pm . Come in and enjoy a free hosted lunch with the warmth of the James Bay community.

Friday, March 15 Tai Chi Class with Curtis Nadj - \$30/ month on Friday mornings in the Lower Hall.
Chen Style from 9-10 am and Yang from 10-11

Friday, March 15 and Saturday March 16
JBUC Thrift Shop Open 10am – 1pm *Masks optional*
Donations Received: Wed. thru Sat. 10am - 12noon.

Saturday March 16 Awakening the Spirit Through Music
With Anne Schaefer 10:00am – 12:00pm *Sanctuary*

Saturday March 16 Dementia Workshop with Rev. Hilde Seal
Information Workshop about Dementia in the JBUC lower hall.
Time: 10am – 12pm. Everyone Welcome.

Saturday March 16 Pastoral Care Information Session
with Rev. Hilde Seal in the Sanctuary. 1pm – 3pm
Everyone Welcome.

Saturday March 16 Artist Gathering with Sarah Hovey
This is a time for us to make art together.
All are welcome, whatever your medium of expression.
Please bring all your own art supplies.

Carol Yanisch is part of a settlement team that is sponsoring three members of a Syrian family to bring them to Victoria to join their daughter, Samah, and other family members. The team has been raising funds and just have \$10,000 left to raise. If you would like to help support the efforts, you can send a donation to Harbour of Hope Refugee Assistance Society.

To donate to Harbour of Hope, please (1) etransfer the funds to harbourofhopevictoria@gmail.com and indicate on the note that it's for Samah's family (2) please send a separate email to Harbour of Hope with your name, address and the password they used for the etransfer. You may also donate at [Canada Helps](https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/harbour-of-hope-refugee-assistance-society/) at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/harbour-of-hope-refugee-assistance-society/>. Again, please indicate the donation is for Samah's family.



Healing Pathways **Upcoming Dates:**

Wednesday, March 20 – Monthly Practice Group 3:30 – 5:30pm
Sunday, March 24 – Soaking Prayer offered after service.



Holy Week Announcements 2024

Palm Sunday, March 24: Join Mahima at 9:45 making Palm Crosses for the following service. Everyone Welcome

Palm Sunday, March 24 – 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
Two parades – Palms and Swords... Guest Musicians

Maundy Thursday, March 28 – 7:00 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary with Rituals of Hand and Foot Washing

Good Friday, March 29 – 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
Moving towards the Mystery of the Cross. Guest Musicians

Holy Saturday, March 30 – 2 until 3 p.m.
Quiet Mediation in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, March 31, Sunrise Service – 7:30 am in Beacon Hill Park ... Meet at the end of Michigan Street and we will walk to the park for an early morning outdoor service.

Easter Celebrations, March 31 – 10:15 in the Sanctuary
stopping at the Butterfly Tree outside the building



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Could this be YOU?

James Bay United Church 2024

Connecting with our gifts ... increasing our vitality

Welcoming Newcomers – After an initial warm welcome, then what? It's about making a further connection, creating opportunities to get to know people, their hopes, questions, needs, what they care about; and assisting in orienting folks to JBUC. A great fit for you if you enjoy meeting people; you are a good listener; you care that people discover a sense of belonging and see the need to help people navigate in new settings.

Investing in Blessing – We have many stories about the ways JBUC is making a positive difference in people's lives. What we need are people who will share those stories in ways that invite people to contribute financially to sustain and grow this vital work. It's about connecting in ways that give people the opportunity to have a part in something truly meaningful. A great fit for you if you are inspired by stories that tell of blessing; you are at ease and eager to make connections and to invite others to consider contributing financially.

Reconciliation with the land and Indigenous people – Our territorial acknowledgment speaks of our commitment to take up the challenging and healing work toward reconciliation. We have been pursuing this through a wide range of educational opportunities. It would be great to have a few more people for whom this work is especially important, to imagine further opportunities for engagement for JBUC and beyond.

Caring for our Human Resources – A necessary dimension of every healthy workplace is a team of people attending to the well-being of staff, their working conditions and working relationships. In our case this team is called the Ministry and Personnel Committee. We need 1 or 2 more people. This work calls for good listening skills, ability to strategize, adept at working with inter-personal dynamics, a high regard for confidentiality, attentiveness to healthy workplace environment and fair employment practices.

Caring for our Property – We are so fortunate to have an attractive, well built, well equipped, well cared for facility and grounds. The garden team meets almost weekly 3 seasons of the year, tending the grounds and gardens. Caring for the church and thrift shop buildings needs a few more people to stay on top of small repairs and general sprucing up. A great fit for anyone with skills to tend to household maintenance; appreciate the need of keeping a place in good repair; you care about us providing a beautiful and functional place for people to gather.

Pastoral Care - Our caring for one another is what makes for that experience of a loving community. We all have a hand in the caring, AND there are some among us for whom this is our special gift, "the reason we are here". We are looking to grow our team of pastoral care visitors, who will share in responding to the needs for support as they arise. Depending on the situation, it could be about visiting in homes, in hospital, on the phone according to each visitor's readiness. It calls for good listening skills, compassionate presence, grounded in the face of crisis.

Celebrating our Ministries — We are envisioning a once-a-month after service gathering where the congregation gets to hear about and engage with the various ministries of JBUC ... a kind of show & tell event that helps us know what's happening, what we're part of, and allows the ministry teams to experience the congregation's encouragement, gratitude, responsiveness. What we need is 1 or 2 people to coordinate these monthly gatherings — create the roster, solicit from teams a brief description to promote the event. A great fit for you if organization and administration is your thing; you value the idea of us learning about and celebrating our ministries.

Seasonal Party Planners – Our sense of community deepens through fun and fellowship and the sharing of food. In pre-pandemic days we had a cycle of community gatherings throughout the year. As we get ready to reconnect in these ways, it would be wonderful to have a small team of people whose joy it is to reimagine and initiate fellowship gatherings ...not to do it all, but to coordinate the events, recruit others to share in various aspects. You know who you are!

Other – For you, it's none of the above, but **something else** that calls to you, that would serve life ... yours and others'.