

GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT

We arrive, still in the shadows of Holy Week

Gathering Song Tree of Life VU 121 vs. 1, G

♪♪ Tree of Life and awesome mystery
in your death we are reborn,
though you die in all of history,
still you rise with every morn,
still you rise with every morn.

Light of life beyond conceiving,
mighty Spirit of our Lord;
give new strength to our believing,
give us faith to live your word.
give us faith to live your word.

From Holy Week to Easter

Hymn: Joy Comes With the Dawn VU 166

Easter Greeting

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!
Hallelujah! Christ is risen indeed!

This is the day, this is the time!
God's wonder and mystery is celebrated.
This is the day, this is the time!
God's people rejoice!

In Jesus the Christ, death has lost its sting.
God's love embraces us and meets us right where we are.

**Shall we run with the women to the empty tomb,
and stand in wonder?**

**Shall we run with the men to empty tomb,
and stand in awe?**

This is the day, this is the time!
We gather together, as disciples of the risen One.
**We meet God face to face,
with questions and wonder and awe.**

Christ is Risen – **Christ is Risen Indeed!**

Welcome

Opening Hymn: The Spring Has Come VU 187

Lighting the Christ Candle: Andre Fontaine

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!

Light is like God's laughter, and comes with the dawn.
Jesus is the light of the world!

Christ is risen indeed!

Inviting back the Hallelujahs!

♪♪ Halle, Halle, Halle VU 958

Opening Prayer

Territorial Acknowledgement

**We acknowledge that we are occupying unceded land
of the Strait Salish, lək'wəŋən 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.**

Sharing the Peace of Christ

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Opening to the Word Spirit of Life VU 381

♪♪ Spirit of life come unto me.
Sing in my heart, all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; with set me free;
Spirit of Life; come to me, come to me.

Scripture readings: Psalm 118: 19-29

Read by: Marg Lunam: John 20:1-18

Reflection: 'Wilderness...to be embraced not tamed!'

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving (see insert)

The Risen Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Bread Broken and Cup Poured

We share the Feast

Prayer After Communion

RESPONDING WITH OUR WHOLE HEARTS

Offering our Gifts and Ourselves

Response: 🎵 Gifts we bring to God today. Hallelujah!
And we try to walk Christ's way. Hallelujah!
Christ, the greatest gift is given. Hallelujah!
Christ our Lord, for us, is risen. Hallelujah!

Prayer

Holy God you are the gift that we gather around,
and you are the gift that gathers us.

**Help us to share the Hallelujahs of your love,
bringing justice and love to this hurting world.**

Work of the People

GOING OUT TO SERVE

Hymn: Give Thanks for Life VU 706

Commissioning and Blessing

Response: I Danced in the Morning VU 352 vs. 5

🎵 They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.
Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

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James Bay United Church

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

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024



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Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Risen Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Blessed are you Gracious God,
Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of Love.
In the resurrection of your Child, Jesus,
you promise us new life;
In this Easter feast, you meet us and welcome us.
Hallelujah! Life is stronger than death!

On this day O God, you raised Jesus from death
to be a sign of life and hope for us.
Even in the rising, we know that pain, sadness,
suffering and loneliness are not the end.
Still in the Christ there is a new creation.

**We praise you for Jesus the Christ,
risen to live with us, eternal as your love.
With all of creation,
we raise our glad voices:
Hallelujah! Life is stronger than death!**

The day of resurrection has come,
scattering fear and gloom.

Therefore, with all the saints and the angels, we sing: VU 179
♪♪ **Hallelujah, Hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.**

Loving Mystery, as a praying people we open our hearts to you.
**We pray for those close to us, who are hurting and fearful.
We pray for those who are healing and renewing.**

We are also far from some we love
and we ask that you surround them in your light.
**We pray for our world leaders.
May gentle wisdom overcome fear and greed.
May we be the change we look for, right where we are.**

Hear the deep prayers of our hearts... silently and aloud.

Holy Mystery, God the Spirit of truth,
we call on you to transform these familiar things,
as you continually transform the world around us.

Unite our hearts as we unite our voices honouring Jesus,
who taught us the importance of prayer

Amen.

At supper on the night before Jesus died,
He took bread and thanked you O God,
He broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, saying:

“Take this and eat it, everyone.
This is my body, given for you.”

**After supper, Jesus took a cup of wine,
he thanked the Creator
and passed it to his friends, saying:
“Take this and drink it, everyone.
This cup is God's promise to you.
Remember me every time you do this.”**

And so we remember Jesus' death,
and we celebrate his resurrection.
**In the joy of Easter morn,
we gather to live into the new life Jesus offers,
bringing peace and wholeness to the world.**

We give you thanks, Wondrous God,
that the Holy Spirit is present in the breaking
and in the pouring.
May we who are many, be one in Christ Jesus.

**Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, God most holy.
♪♪ Hallelujah, Hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.**

This Week at James Bay United Church

April 1, - April 7, 2024

Monday, April 1 - 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, April 2 Tuesday Night Jazz. 7pm Sanctuary **Everyone Welcome! Admission by donation (\$20 suggested)**

Wednesday, April 3 9-10:30 in the lower hall
Tai Chi and Chi Kung with Curtis Nadj - \$45/month
Weekly drop-in Meditation

Wednesday's Mindfulness Meditation with Kam McKim
Noon – 12:30 JBUC's sanctuary. All are most welcome
Looking for greater peace, ease and joy in your life? For more information: karenmckim2@gmail.com Suggested donation \$5 (5 weeks \$20 - no one turned away for lack of funds)
Kam McKim offers heart and soul focused classes that weave together music, movement, meditation, inspiring words and reiki. A long time yoga and music student, Kam began meditating in 1985 and graduated from the Mindfulness Meditation Teacher Training Program from UC Berkeley's Greater Good Science Center, Sounds True, and the Awareness Training Institute in 2023. In the last few years Kam studies qi gong and is a certified reiki practitioner.

Wednesday, April 3 James Bay United Church

AGM
Annual General Meeting

7pm in the Sanctuary

Please plan to take part in our AGM on April 3 in the Sanctuary. This is an important opportunity to gather, share our

accomplishments, and look at what needs attention. The meeting duration is approximately one hour.

The 2023 Annual Report is available online for viewing and any questions arising before the meeting. If you have questions, please email JBUCchurch@gmail.com
See you there! Board Chair: Deborah Davis

Wednesday's, 7pm - 8:30pm Community Choir is cancelled this week due to the sanctuary being used for James Bay United Church Annual General Meeting. See you next week
New members always welcome.

Thursday, April 4 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**

Thursday, April 4 Centering Prayer 1-2pm
All are welcome, especially those with a centering prayer practice. **Online & zoom** www.jamesbayunitedchurch

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

Friday, April 5 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, April 5 & Saturday April 6: JBUC Thrift Shop
Open 10am – 1pm
Donations Received: Wed., Thurs., and Sat. 10am - 12noon.

Reflections are part of worship at JBUC. What is in your heart and on your mind that you would like to share? The Worship Team will be giving leadership in worship regularly for the next while and this is an opportunity for you to learn some skills so that you could share through offering the reflection. The workshops will take place after church on **Sundays, April 7 and April 21** with the first week focusing on the craft of sermon preparation and the second on putting those skills into practice. Charlotte Caron who taught preaching for many years will offer the workshops. Let her know if you are planning to come or if you have questions at charlottedaystar@gmail.com

