

Gathering Music: Christine Chepyha

### GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT

Gathering song ~ VU 415 ~

♪♪ **God, we praise you for the morning; hope springs forth with each new day, new beginning, prayer, and promise, joy in work and in play.**

♪ **God, we praise you for creation, mountains, seas, and prairie land. Waking souls find joy and healing in your bountiful hand.**

♪ **Hallelujah!**

Welcome: Deborah Davis

Territorial Acknowledgement

**Standing on the traditional territories of the ləkʷəŋən-speaking peoples – the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations – we acknowledge their enduring relationship with this land and their teachings that call us to live in harmony with the earth. We commit ourselves to learning from their example, to walking gently upon the earth, and to nurturing a relationship with creation that reflects justice, harmony and respect.**

Lighting the Christ Candle: Peggy Hodding

Opening Prayer

**For the might of your wind on the waters  
for the swelling of the open sea  
and the rushing of crested waves  
thanks be to you, O God.  
For the strength of desire in my body  
for the sap of life that flows  
and the yearnings for birth and abundance  
thanks be to you.**

... >

**Restore us in the image of your love this day  
that the longings of our hearts may be true.  
Restore us in the image of your love this day  
that our passions for life may be full**

~ from J. Philip Newell ~

Hymn: VU #388 Spirit Dancing

Sharing the Peace of Christ

### SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

♪♪ **Alleluia! Your words, O God, are spirit and life.  
Alleluia! Open our hearts to your word.**

~ Bernadette Farrell ~

Scripture reading: Acts 4: 32-35

Reader: Sarah Hovey

Reflection: Sarah Hovey

### RESPONDING WITH OUR WHOLE HEARTS

Hymn MV#136 When Hands Reach Out & Fingers Trace

Prayers of the People - D'Arcy McPherson

Prayer of Jesus: **Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echo through the  
universe  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples  
of the world  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

... >

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **OFFERING OURSELVES WITH OUR GIFTS**

♪♪ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow! ~ VU 217 ~  
Praise God all creatures high and low. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Give thanks to God in love made known  
Creator, Christ and Spirit, one  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The Work of the People

### **GOING OUT TO SERVE**

Hymn VU #595 We Are Pilgrims

Commissioning and Blessing

Response

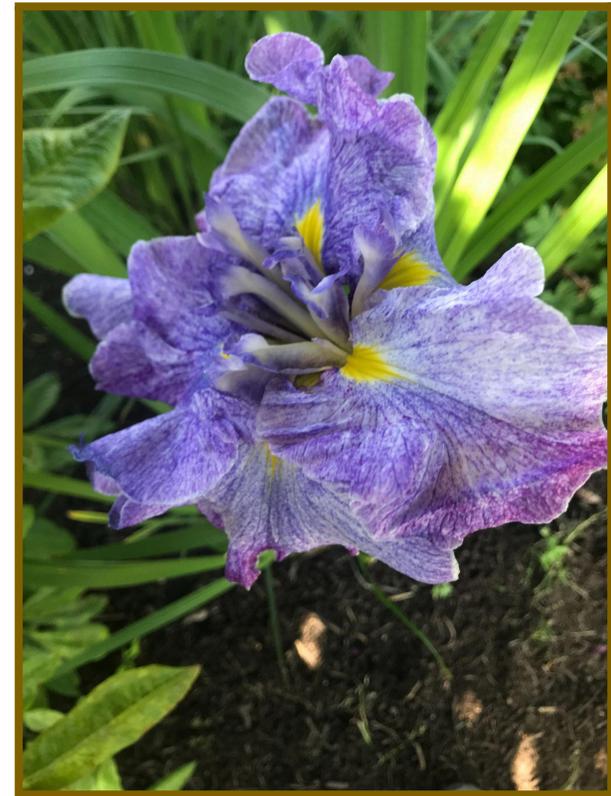
Hymn MV #145 Draw the Circle Wide

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Books; "The Lord's Prayer (Alternative Version)," in A New Zealand Prayer Book: *He Karakia  
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## **James Bay United Church**

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

**5th Sunday of Easter  
May 18, 2025**



~ Photo by Carol Garceau