

Music to Invite the Light: Jennifer Turner, Robert Holliston,
Patricia Hollister

GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT

Gathering Song

♪♪ **Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.**

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth,
we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light
for the world to see. (R)** ~ Bernadette Farrell ~

Welcome: Rev. Greg Powell

Lighting the Christ Candle

Territorial Acknowledgement

**We gather on land that sustained bodies, hopes, and
dreams long before contact with Europeans and then
others. We acknowledge the Kosapsum and Songees,
Ləkʷəŋən peoples—all relations yearning for right
relationship. And so we recommit to a journey toward
reconciliation, one that is not easy.**

Opening Prayer

Instrumental – Patricia Hollister

**God who waits with us, in our anticipation you are there.
In our hoping, you are there. Now, here, in our praying and
singing, and connecting, you are here.
May it be your light that breaks through the darkness.
May it be your warmth we feel in this place. And in this time
of silence, make us aware of your presence... (silence)**

Hymn: VU 7 Hope is a Star

Advent Unwrapping

Advent Candle Lighting: Hope – Richard Wey

♪ **We light this candle for hope.
Await the new life within.
May our hearts now live each day,
so hope can find a way,
so hope can find a way**

~ TLUS 55 ~

Sharing the Peace of Christ

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Choir: *Light an Advent Candle* ~ Becki Slagle Mayo ~

Scripture Reading Matthew 24:36-44

Reader: Karen Halliday

Elizabeth Speaks (by Sarah Hovey)

Reflection: Rev. Greg Powell

RESPONDING WITH OUR WHOLE HEARTS

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (See back page)

Communion (See insert)

Hymn: VU 460 All Who Hunger

Offering

Announcements: Work of the People

GOING OUT TO SERVE

Hymn: Waiting for the Light ~ Bruce Harding ~

**We are waiting, God, for the coming of your day,
We are waiting for the light to come. x2**

**We are praying God, that the world will find a way,
We are waiting for the light to come. x2**

**We are working, God, so that truth will have a say,
We are waiting for the light to come. x2**

**There'll be justice, God, in a world that's gone astray,
We are waiting for the light to come x2**

Commissioning and Blessing

Response: Choir & Congregation ~ Becki Slagle Mayo ~

♪ **Be a candle of Hope. Be a candle of light
A beacon of truth in a dark, hopeless night.
Share the light with a friend and watch the flame grow.
The more light we give, the more love we'll know.**
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**O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL** ~ Words, trans. Mark Belletini ~

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and with your captive children dwell.  
Give comfort to all exiles here, and to the aching heart bid cheer.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Love to dwell.**

**O come, you Splendor very bright, as joy that never yields to might.  
O come, and turn all hearts to peace, that greed and war at last will cease.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Truth to dwell.**

**O come, you Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your presence here.  
And dawn in every broken soul, as vision that can see the whole.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Light to dwell.**

**O come, you Wisdom from on high, from depths that hide within a sigh,  
to temper knowledge with our care, to render every act a prayer.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come within as Hope to dwell.**

## James Bay United Church

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

**November 30, 2025**

**1st Sunday of Advent: HOPE**

