

Minister: Rev. Greg Powell
Music Minister: Jennifer Turner

GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT

Gathering Song *~ Bernadette Farrell ~*

♪ ♪ **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)**

Welcome: Rev. Greg Powell

Lighting the Christ Candle

Territorial Acknowledgement

**We gather on land that sustained bodies, hopes, and
dreams long before contact with folks from distant lands.
We acknowledge the Kosapsum and Songees, Lək^wəŋən
peoples—all relations yearning for right relationship. And
so we recommit to a journey toward reconciliation, one
that is not easy.**

Opening Prayer

**God of eternal Love, source of life and all that is good,
you reveal yourself in so many ways: we hear you in our
singing, we sense you in our praying, we see you in the
beauty of the people we meet.**

We see you in a baby, like Jesus.

Help us to know the full depth of your love.

**Grant us patience, forgiveness, and empathy, that we
might be known as a people of love. In this time of
worship, make your presence known to us. (Silence)**

Advent Unwrapping

Advent Candle Lighting:
Love – Melanie and Scott Jantzen

Hymn: VU 6 A Candle is Burning

Sharing the Peace of Christ

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Opening to the Word

♪ **Prepare ye the way of the Lord.** *~ Jim Strathdee ~*
**Prepare ye the way of the Lord.
Make room, make room in your hearts O children.
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.**

Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-25
Reader: Janice Langley

♪ **Prepare ye the way of the Lord.
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.
Make room, make room in your hearts O children.
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.**

Mary Speaks (Colleen Nichol)

Reflection: Rev. Greg Powell

RESPONDING WITH OUR WHOLE HEARTS

Hymn: MV 134 There Was a Child in Galilee

Communion (See insert)

Communion Songs

♪♪ **We are walking a path of love (x 3),
 Lead us home, lead us home** ~ MV 221 ~

♪ **Bread for the journey, food for the way.
 Cup of God's blessing, tomorrow, today** ~ MV 202 ~

Offering

Offertory Response ~ Burt Bacharach ~

♪ **What the world needs now is love, sweet love
 It's the only thing that there's just too little of.
 What the world needs now is love, sweet love.
 No, not just for some but for everyone.**

Announcements: Work of the People

GOING OUT TO SERVE

Hymn: MV 120 My Soul Cries Out

Commissioning and Blessing

Response: Choir & Congregation ~ Becki Slagle Mayo ~

♪ **Be a candle of love. 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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James Bay United Church

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

December 21, 2025

4th Sunday of Advent: LOVE

