

## Our Response

Story/ Poem/ Reflection....sharing something of Hope

Hymn “May the God of Hope Go with Us” insert VU 424

### Our Offering Prayer

**All: Holy-giver, in these gifts is our faith;  
in this time is our answer to your call;  
in this prayer is our offer of love. Amen.**

Offering Refrain (verse 4 VU 55)

“What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I, can I give him – give my heart.”

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

### We Are Sent Out

Hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” insert VU 1

### Commissioning

**All: We are looking for God in our world.  
May we see what God wants us to see.  
We are looking for God in our lives.  
May we be who God wants to be.  
May God our Shepherd, Protector, Awakener,  
and Holy Spirit, bless us as we walk in Advent.**

Blessing “May God’s blessing surround you each day,  
as you trust God and walk in his way.  
May God’s presence within guard and keep you from sin;  
go in peace, go in joy, go in love;  
go in peace, go in joy, go in love.”

Three-fold Amen

## Steveston United Church

November 29th, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Rev. Brenda Miller (church) 604 277-0508

The First Sunday of Advent – HOPE

*\*\* Before you begin this worship service, be sure you have an Advent Wreath...a circle/base of any kind decorated with branches/greenery. It’s important to have three blue candles, one pink candle, and one white candle...you will need this every Sunday.*



### We Gather as God's People

We Welcome One Another in the Name of Christ

One: In every season of life,  
**All: God is with us, even when we’re not sure.**  
One: In this season of waiting,  
**All: Jesus reminds us that Bethlehem is the beginning  
of our discipleship, not the end of the journey.**  
One: In this season of Advent anticipation and hope,  
**All: the Spirit opens our ears the songs of the angels.  
We worship while we wait.**

Lighting the Christ Candle

“Let the light of Christ fill this space! Amen”

**Hymn**      “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”      VU 2

“Come, though long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free:  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver; born a child and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever; now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

### Opening Prayer

**All: Many people look at the world  
and find no trace of your presence, Holy God.  
To be honest, there are times when we are  
convinced they are right. We don’t know where  
you have gone, or if you were ever here.  
But in this season when we await the Christ Child,  
you do not seem so far away.  
We want to believe in the promise and possibility of this child.  
As we worship together, grant us vision and hope. Amen.**

### Sharing the Peace of Christ

One: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord.  
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
The peace of Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE      (Advent Wreath)

Today we light a candle of Hope. This is the hope we search for;  
Hope found in times of a new beginning,  
**Hope for the coming of Jesus is clearly ahead of us,**  
Hope found in the time of getting ready,  
**Hope reflected in the smiles on our faces as we prepare and  
anticipate celebration,**  
Hope is found in a time of thinking things over,

**Hope is woven as we plan our Christmas carefully,  
especially this year,**

**Hope found in the coming of Jesus,  
Hope calling us to give generously and share freely.**  
*(the first blue candle is lit)*

This is the candle of hope, hope for which we search, in its glow,  
the powerless, the downhearted, and the poor will take courage.

**And we will take courage, too. Amen**

Advent Song      VU 7

“When hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us til the morning is bright.  
When God is a child there’s joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.”

### Prayer of Confession

**All: Powerful, caring God; we confess our impatience with waiting.  
We live in a society that measures goodness by immediate  
gratification, a society that measures quality of life by instant  
results. Yet Jesus taught us that to wait, to persevere,  
and to be alert are the marks of a growing faith.  
Rather than rob this season of its power by rushing through  
to celebration, grant us grace to use this time to  
prepare our hearts to receive your Holy Gift.  
Hear us. Forgive us. Amen.**

### Words of Assurance

One: Jesus said to Mary, “...all things are possible with God.”  
We find our voices. The world is changed.  
And we are changed. Thanks be to God.”

### We Hear God’s Word

Isaiah 64: 1-9  
Mark 13: 24-37

“The word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God”**

“Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!      VU 37  
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia.  
Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!  
Glory to God, glory to God, hallelujah, hallelujah!”