

## We Hear God's Word

Isaiah 40: 1-11  
1Thessalonians 5:16-24  
Luke 1:26-38

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

**Refrain** “Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!...” sung VU 37

### Our Response

#### Story/ Poem/ Reflection.... of Love

**Hymn** “Joy Shall Come” insert VU 23

#### 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** “Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness” insert VU 28

#### Commissioning

**All:** We go now in peace and with confidence; may God bless us with holy joy, and gift us with open hearts to give and to receive his blessing. We go from this place as joyful servants of God.

**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.”

## Steveston United Church

December 20th, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Rev. Brenda Miller (church) 604 277-0508

The Fourth Sunday of Advent – Love



### We Gather as God's People

#### We Welcome One Another in the Name of Christ

One: An ancient promise is coming true,  
**All: God's love lasts forever.**  
One: A secret mystery is being revealed,  
**All: God's love lasts forever.**  
One: A little child will soon be born,  
**All: God's love will last forever.**  
One: God of promise and of wisdom,  
God of justice and integrity,  
God of mystery and glory,  
**All: We will wait for you.**

#### Lighting the Christ Candle

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

**Hymn** “People, Look East” (selected verses) VU 9

“People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.

*(Refrain) People look east and sing today,  
Love the guest is on the way.*

Furrows be glad. Though the earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there;  
give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.

*(Refrain)*

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming. *(Refrain)*

### Opening Prayer

**All: Always-Loving God, we are here today  
unsure if our songs will reach your ear;  
unsure if our hearts will find the rhythm that matches yours;  
unsure if we have enough courage to place our trust in you.  
Remind us that even the most insecure among us  
will find strength in the good news because of you.  
You have prepared our hearts for service and praise.  
Like Mary, we wish to be your servants, too. 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)

*(the first candle is lit)*

One: On the first Sunday of Advent a candle was lit for Hope.  
*(the second blue candle is lit)*

**All: On the second Sunday a candle was lit for Peace.**

*(the pink candle is lit)*

One: The third candle, the pink candle, was lit for Joy.

**All: This week we light our candle for the last Sunday of Advent,  
the candle of Love.**

*(the fourth candle is lit)*

The love we search for;  
the love that gives without counting the cost,  
the love that weaves compassion and justice together,  
the love that endures when the going is rough,  
the love that was revealed in the life and sacrifice of Jesus.  
**Love within us, love around us, love that builds us up.  
A Love that shines out as we act for the powerless and the  
innocent, and work for a world renewed in the spirit of  
Christ. Amen.**

### Advent Song

VU 7

“Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.

*(Refrain) 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.*

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth.

*(Refrain)*

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
telling the world that the Saviour is born.

*(Refrain)*

Love is a flame that burns in our heart,  
Jesus has come and will never depart.

*(Refrain)*

### Prayer of Confession

**All: Loving God, we thank for your promise of hope, peace, joy  
and love. Yet, we act as if we don’t believe in your promise;  
we sometimes act as if things aren’t possible, especially in  
these Covid times. Help us to follow your lead and look for  
ways to show your love- even the smallest thing can bring joy  
to another. It’s easy to stay home, as we should, and forget  
our commandment to love others. It’s hard when we’re scared,  
but we know you’ll help us to act in ways that show we live  
what we believe. 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.”