

We pray that God might change us....

Holy One, you have opened our eyes to new possibilities and through our sacred imaginings we catch a glimpse of how life can be for us as a community of friends, family, and individuals. Help us to continue to feel like the faith community of Steveston United Church even while we're apart. May we be a people who are open to your presence - even when your presence comes in unexpected and surprising ways.

You are the Maker of all things new, and with your vision we'll pay attention to our priorities and work as followers of the Risen Christ. Today we pray for those who can't imagine anything new; for those who live in a world of oppression, poverty, violence, for those who continue to live a world of war, hunger and illness... all of this in the midst of the Covid pandemic.

We pray for those whose world is dark and without imagination for the future- a place where there is no music and no sunshine. Share with them, Holy One, your dream of a new heaven and a new earth. It's only in the deepest dark that we can see the tiny light that's always present, that sliver that comes from an unknown place, that sliver of light that gives us hope, that sliver of light that looks a bit like grace. It's only in the stillest silence that we can hear the whisper of mercy.

Jesus, you are the true vine. Good fruit will be known through you;

Peace and reconciliation in countries where there is corruption.
Hope in the midst of the Covid virus...where people are still afraid, people are unsure which vaccines are safe, and whether to get vaccinated at all.

We pray that you will help them as they make their decisions.

Rest and relief for the healthcare workers who have just about given all they have to give.

Support those who look for help from other resources. We pray there will soon be enough medical supplies for the hospitals in India. We pray for families of those who are dying on the hospital steps, and in the streets.

Jesus, you are the true vine. Good fruit will be known through you;

Encouragement for those struggling to support their families financially.
Friendship with those who are lonely after all these months.
Comfort and healing for the ill, the empty, the mourning.
We pray for those among us who are in need of your tender mercy.
We pray for those whose names are on our prayer list.
We pray for Jean Nykyforuk as she rests at home with her family.

Jesus, you are the true vine. Good fruit will be known through you;

New forms of praise, prayer, worship...some we have already discovered
in the past thirteen months. We are thankful for inspiration.
Giving beyond our usual giving. Sharing our gifts with those who are beyond
our neighbourhoods.

Today we lift with gratitude all that you have blessed us with.
We give you thanks for the many gifts you have given us,
especially those unasked for.
We give you thanks for the water we drink,
the air we breathe, the air we are so aware of these days,
the land we walk upon.
We give you thanks for our homes, our families and friends,
our schools, and places of work...sometimes at home.
Sometimes we forget how much we have to be thankful for.

We smile and laugh with those who are celebrating a birthday, an anniversary
or other special occasions -we know celebrations haven't been the same as other
years. We celebrate with joy the good results of a medical test, an illness that is
healing, a recovery that is beginning. And we keep in our hearts the anniversary
of a loved one's passing, a wedding date, a loved one's birthday.

Jesus, you are the true vine. Good fruit will be known through you.

We pray all of these things in the holy goodness of your names,
the one true Gardener;

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy names.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us, this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.