

We confess that our faith is often weak and compromised by our desire to seek control over our lives and our futures. The season of Epiphany reminds us there is light. When we walk in darkness, forgive us. ...silent prayer..

Grant us grace. Amen."

*Assurance of forgiveness and love*

Hymn "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee" VU 560

Reflection

Closing Hymn "Great is Thy Faithfulness" VU 288

### We Are Sent Out

Commissioning

One: Jesus calls us to follow.

All: Thanks be to God!

One: Come on, let's go!

All: Hallelujah! Amen!

Congregational Response (Cliff Barrows)

All: "May God's blessings 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."

The Blessing Three-fold Amen  
Postlude

Steveston United Church  
Sunday Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 10:00 am  
Rev. Brenda Miller

Third Sunday after Epiphany



### We Gather as God's People

Church Life Reminders Celebrations and Prayer Requests

Lighting the Christ Candle and the Candle for Peace  
All: "Let the Light of Christ fill this space. Amen"

We Welcome One Another in the Name of the Risen Christ;  
(please stand if comfortable)

One: In Jesus' day people came to see him.  
They came to be inspired and uplifted.

All: We come to hear a message of hope.

One: They came to be healed and strengthened.

All: We come to find energy for every day.

One: They came to be affirmed and encouraged.

All: We come to begin the journey of the rest of our lives.

One: We are open to the Spirit that blows among us  
and remains within us, this hour and always.

All: Thanks be to God, the Giver of all goodness.

### Sharing the Peace of Christ

One: Rejoice and be glad! God has given us new life.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Opening Hymn "O Jesus, I Have Promised" VU 120  
Opening Prayer

All: "We gather in this space made beautiful by the Spirit's presence and by the spirit of love in community.  
In this place we behold the beauty of God.  
We sing of this beauty with our voices and with our hearts that answer more deeply the sacred call to be all that we are. Amen."

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer refrain VU 391  
(please remain seated)

All: "God, reveal your presence: as we now adore you and with awe appear before you.  
Here in this your temple: all within keep silence, gather now with deepest reverence.  
You alone God we own, you, our God and Saviour: praise your name for ever."

### Special Music

#### Offering Invitation

Offering Refrain (please stand if comfortable) VU 541

All: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God all creatures high and low;  
give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit; One. Amen."

#### Offering Prayer of Dedication

All: "When you call us to be disciples, you call us beyond ourselves. Receive the gifts we offer and prepare us to give even greater gifts than these, as we are able, through your grace working in us. Amen."

Anthem "Ask of Me" (Nolan)

### We Hear God's Word

Psalm 27 (first 2 paragraphs) p. 754 VU  
Hebrew Scripture Isaiah 9:1-4 p. 555 pew Bible  
Christian Scripture Matthew 4:12-23 p. 785 pew Bible

One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Refrain VU 37

"Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia.  
Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!  
Glory to God, glory to God, hallelujah, hallelujah!"

#### Invitation to Confession

##### Our prayer:

All: O God, we hear again the words of Isaiah and confess that our Christmas celebrations have been short-lived.

In our return to the challenges of everyday life, we have lost sight of the Light that inspires us.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."

We confess that, focused on our own cares and troubles, we have become self-centered and neglect others who live in fear and without joy.

"God has increased the joy of all nations." *cont'd*