

When we become discouraged, we often give up  
trying to live the dream in a new way.

In those times when friendship is possible,  
we withdraw.

In those times when compassion is possible,  
we hold back.

When effort is needed, we turn away.

O God, call us back to you.

*..silent prayer.*

God grant us grace. Amen."

*(God's Assurance of forgiveness and grace.)*

Hymn                      He Leadeth Me                      VU 657

Reflection

Closing Hymn      For the Healing of the Nations      VU 678

### We Are Sent Out

Commissioning

All: "As we go out into a world that needs new visions,  
we bring with us God's message of love, justice  
and peace to all we meet.

We will celebrate endings and new beginnings,  
new challenges and promises.

We will live the new creation."

Congregational Response                      *(Cliff Barrows)*

All: "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."

The Blessing                      Three-fold Amen                      Postlude

Steveston United Church  
Sunday November 12, 2023 10:00 am

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



### 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: When we love one another;

All: God is with us.

One: When we sing and pray;

All: God rejoices through us.

One: When our spirits are renewed;

All: God is at work in us.

One: God is present in love, in song and in making our lives new

All: Let us worship God!                      again.

## Sharing the Peace of Christ

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

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Opening Hymn      Make a Joyful Noise      VU 820

Opening Prayer      *(please be seated)*

All: "God of promise, hope and freedom,  
creator of heaven and earth,  
we give you thanks for visions of  
joy and rejoicing, health and a long life,  
of meaningful work and answered prayers.  
In our times of fear and anxiety,  
may these promised visions be always before us.  
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      Paull Verheyen

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: "Loving God, we long to make a difference in our world.  
We offer to you what we have; our dreams,  
our visions, our money and our talents.  
We want to help bring the new earth  
and the new heaven into our midst.  
We offer you our very selves,  
that we might be co-creators with you. Amen."

Anthem      I the Lord of Sea and Sky      VU 509

### We Hear God's Word

Christian Scripture *Matthew 25:1-13*      *p806-807 pew bible*

One: This is a story of our faith.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Response      VU 37

All: "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: Holy God,  
in a world where there is always suffering,  
it can be hard to believe in some grand vision of shalom.  
We catch glimpses of community, fairness, of justice  
and kindness. But these are like lightening flashes in  
a storm that quickly fade away in the shadows of  
real, everyday life.    ..cont'd