

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, hallelujah, hallelujah!"

Prayer for Illumination

All: Almighty God,
Giver of life and light,
As your Word is proclaimed.
Illumine our hearts and minds,
That by the power of the Holy Spirit
Our lives may reflect God's glory. Amen

Hymn Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness VU 28

Reflection Clearing the Way for the Light to Come

Closing Hymn Joy Shall Come VU 23

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 December 17, 2023 10:00 am

Third Sunday of Advent



The Candle of Joy

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: The Promised One of God brings good news to the
oppressed and binds up the broken-hearted!

All: **We are witnesses to the light of Christ!**

One: The Promised One of God proclaims freedom to the
captives and releases the prisoners!

All: **We are witnesses to the light of Christ! Amen**

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 There Was a Child MV 134

Call to Confession

(please be seated)

All: Merciful Creator, you love honest and compassionate self-reflection;

Why, then do we persist in hiding and repressing our selfishness?

You have given us the gift of your Spirit;

Why, then, do we refuse to confront and integrate our shadows?

You have sent the light into the world;

Why then do we despise and ignore what we have heard from you?

Forgive us. Restore us. For the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen

Declaration of Forgiveness

One: In Jesus Christ, God has done great things for us!

Even if we have gone out in tears,

God brings us home shouting for joy.

Thanks be to God: we are forgiven! 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."

Lighting of the Advent Candle

One: We light this candle for all God bearers who say "yes" to God's challenge.

All: We light this candle, accepting the uncertainty and the joy of an unknown future.

One: We dream of a world where every child, a gift from God, is welcome and secure, loved and cared for.

All: As we wait for God's promise, as we sing Mary's song, give us courage to spread joy to the world.
(The third candle is lit)

Advent Carol A Candle is Burning VU6 (verse 1,2,3)

Offering Invitation

Offertory Music TBA

Offering Refrain *(please stand if comfortable)*

All: We give thee but thine own,
What e'er the gift may be,
All that we have is thine alone,
A trust, O God from thee.

Offering Prayer of Dedication

All: For all that you are and all that you do.

We give you thanks,

Our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

We wait in hope for the coming of your realm

And offer these gifts to further your kingdom on earth;

In Jesus' name. Amen.

We Hear God's Word

Christian Scripture John 1:6-8, 19-28, Matthew 3:1-2

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.