

Hymn O God Our Help in Ages Past

VU p. 806
(verses 1,2,5,6)

Commissioning (standing)

Leader: The time is coming when God will call us to account.
Be alert and watchful, serving faithfully day by day.

Response: **We will look around us for signs of God's presence.**
We will open our eyes to ways to be helpful.

Leader: Use the gifts you have been given to the glory of God.
Let the testimony of Christ strengthen you in every way.

Response: **We will share our spiritual gifts in word and deed.**
We will seek to be shaped by the potter's hands.

Leader: Grace to you and peace, from God and Jesus Christ.
Know that God is faithful and Christ walks with you.

Response: **With hearts full of gladness, we will do what is right.**
With great joy, our lives will show forth our faith.

The Benediction (standing)

Congregational Response (standing)

May God's blessing surround you each day
As you trust him and walk in his way
May his 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.

Cliff Barrows



Three-fold Amen and Postlude (standing)

For all those who participated in this morning's service,
we offer our humble and heartfelt thanks.

Steveston United Church
Sunday December 03, 2023 10:00 am

The First Sunday of Advent



The Candle of Hope

We Gather as God's People

Prelude

Church Life Reminders Celebrations Prayer Requests

Lighting the Christ Candle and the Candle of Peace

All: "And even the darkness could not put it out.
Let the light of Christ fill this space. Amen."

Call to Worship (standing - responsively)

Leader: Awake, people of God, and stay alert for Christ's coming.

Grace to you and peace from God who sent Jesus to us.

Response: **Make your ways known to us, O God.**

Show us once more your awesome presence.

Leader: We are all God's people; no one is excluded.

Come together as God's family for worship and prayer.

Response: **Let the mountains quake before you, mighty God.**

Let the nations tremble in awe and reverence.

Leader: Praise the One who grants us the gift of life.

Give thanks for God's continuing faithfulness.

Response: **Heaven and earth will pass away.**

But the Word of God is true for all times and places.

Prayer of Approach (standing)

Opening Hymn Hark the Glad Sound VU 29

ADVENT I

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Leader: In the beginning, God says, "Let there light...."

Response: AND THERE IS LIGHT.

Leader: After times of loss and grief,
We give thanks for the light that comforts us.

Sung Response VU 64 (verse 1) seated

Leader: In the lives of our forebears,
God showed the way from a place of pain to a
land of promise. When our journey is hardest,
the way ahead unclear, and we wonder if the tears
will ever stop, God says, "Let there be light"

Reponse: AND THERE IS LIGHT.

The lighting of the first candle - THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Hymn A Candle is Burning VU 06 (verse 1)

Offertory Invitation

Offering Refrain VU 543 (verse 1)

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

Offertory Prayer

Anthem / Solo

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Prayer For Illumination

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:1-13, Page 806-807

Leader: These is a story of our faith.

Response: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Congregational Response 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!

Reflection

Hymn Make Me A Channel of Your Peace VU 684

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Passing the Peace

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving. (see insert)

Our Lord's Prayer (said together)

The Fraction of the Elements

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Post Communion Prayer