

Church of the Redeemer Road Map to the 9:30 AM Worship Service

We welcome you to our 9:30 AM worship service. It is our hope that this guide will give you a sense of the service and answer any questions you might have, particularly if this is your first time attending an Anglican Church service. If we've forgotten something, please ask.

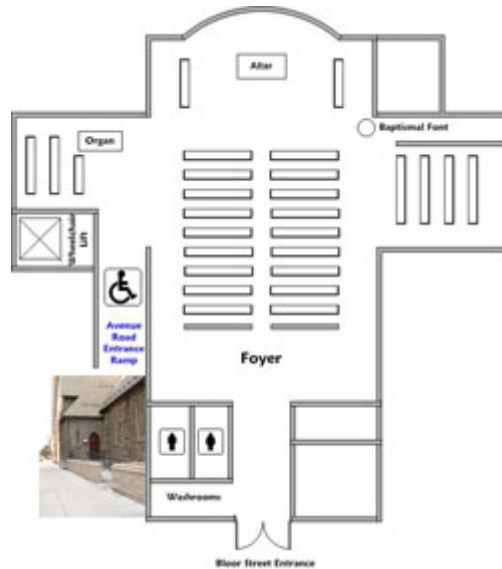
Every week at this time the community gathers to hear the words of scripture read, to offer prayers, and to celebrate the Eucharist (also known as communion or the Lord's Supper). All are encouraged to take part in the worship service. There is a dynamic children's program offered during this service. The liturgical season greatly influences how we gather as a community as we strive to make worship real and relevant.

As you arrive

There are two entrances to our worship space - the front doors on Bloor Street and the ramp entrance on Avenue Road. Pushing the round paddle on the wall to the left of the door at the top of the ramp will open it for you.

Wheelchair accessible washrooms are located to the left as you come in the Bloor Street doors. In the area at the back of the worship space you will find a number of print resources about the parish. It is also in this area that a time of coffee and conversation will take place at the end of the service.

A member of the worship team will be at the door to greet you and answer any questions you might have. Children are welcome to stay in the worship service and are equally invited to join the other children in the nursery or church school program. If your child would like to attend church school, one of the greeters will introduce you to the leadership of the children's program who will help you get settled in. If your child wishes to stay in church, there are books and other quiet activities available to be taken to the pews for use during the service. When you are ready to find a seat, the greeter will give you a hymn book and a leaflet which contains everything you need for the service.



Preparing for Worship

The service takes place in the main worship space. There is the buzz of conversation, the choir rehearsing and quiet, prayerful calm all mingled together in the space. If you arrive early, wandering around looking at the stained glass windows is a good way to orient yourself to the space. There is a prayer request list on the lectern in the centre aisle. If you would like to add names of family and friends to this list, please do.

Please sit where you feel most comfortable. We use the Book of Alternative Services at all of our services. The leaflet contains all of the prayers and the hymn numbers as well as notices of upcoming events. You are welcome to take the leaflet home with you.

We Gather

The crucifer and the clergy enter the worship space in procession up the centre aisle during the hymn. The Presiding Celebrant greets the community and gathers us in prayer with the *collect* (collecting our prayers for the day).

To Hear Our Story

We are seated to hear the stories contained in the readings assigned from the *Hebrew text* (Old Testament), the psalm and the *Christian text* (the Epistles of the New Testament). We stand to sing an introduction to the *Gospel* and remain standing while it is read, to show our willingness to carry the good news into the world. The Gospel is read by the deacon from the centre aisle. It is our custom to turn and face the Gospel reader.



We then sit to listen to the sermon where the words of scripture are opened up for us through reflection on what the biblical story has to say to us in this time and place. The preaching at Redeemer is inspiring, challenging, and thought-provoking.

To Offer Prayers

After the sermon, we stand and turn toward the lectern in the centre aisle. A member of the worship team will lead us in the Prayers of the People where we offer prayers for our world, our church, and our community. In the silences we offer names and concerns aloud or quietly. On the first Sunday of the month this time of prayer is concluded with laying on of hands and prayers for specific concerns. All who wish may come forward to the altar rails when the celebrant indicates. The priests will quietly ask you 'what would you like to pray for?' and then will lay his/her hands on your head or shoulder and pray for the specific petition.

At the conclusion of the prayers we exchange the peace - a public expression of forgiveness and mutual service within the community. People may hug or kiss each other, or more commonly shake hands. We usually say "peace be with you", or simply "peace". Please do whatever you find most comfortable.

To Gather Around the Table

After the peace, we sing a hymn, during which we move forward to form a circle around the altar. The children will return from church school during the hymn and join their family members in the circle. At this service we do not pass a collection plate; rather one of the worship team members stands at the foot of the steps holding the plate. If you are a visitor, we are happy for you to be our guest, but if

you'd like to make an offering to support our ministry, please place it in the plate as you join the circle.



Volunteers take the bread and wine and the financial offerings to the table. This is a sign that we are offering our whole lives in thanksgiving. The servers prepare the table for communion.

The Presider leads the congregation in a Eucharistic prayer. The Bread and wine are blessed. Following this prayer of thanksgiving, we say a version of the Lord's Prayer.

The presiding priest proceeds to break the bread and then it is shared. Everyone is welcome to take communion, regardless of age. Please remain standing where you are, and someone will bring bread and wine to you. You simply put your hand out to receive a piece of bread and eat it. When the cup is offered, you may guide it to your mouth with your hand and take a sip. It is customary to say Amen after receiving.

Babies receive the bread and wine, as you and they see fit. Your baby may take a piece of bread or you may wish to break off a piece of your own. If you prefer, you may ask the priest to bless your child. If you do not wish to receive communion, but would like to be blessed, please cross your arms over your chest. The Priest will offer a prayer of blessing.



To be Sent Out into the World

The prayer after communion reminds us of our responsibility to ministry in the world. While gathered in the circle, we sing a hymn before announcements about community events are made and then we are sent out with the dismissal.

Following the Service

The community stays in the worship space for a time of coffee and conversation. Coffee, tea and juice are available in the space at the back and we invite you to join us. Members of the community and the clergy will be happy to answer any questions you might have.