



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.
The Church of the Redeemer:

162 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON M5S 1M4
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Welcome: *Susan Haig*

Opening Rite: *Prerecorded*

“I Wonder as I Wander”

The Collect of the Day: *Susan Haig*

Priest: Heavenly Father,
who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace,
to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour,
now fill us with your grace,
that we in all things may embrace your will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

✠ The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: *Grant Jahnke*

Reader: A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel.

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.”

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no

more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

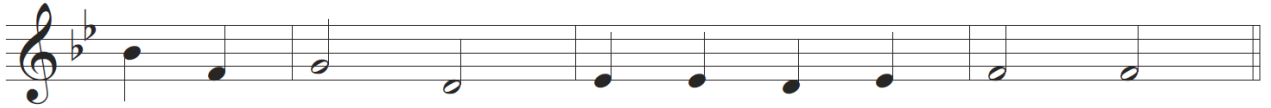
2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence is observed

Psalm 89 (1-4, 19-26) (*George Black*)

Refrain:



I will keep my love for you for ev - er.

Your love, O God, for ever will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens. **Refrain**

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
'I will establish your line for ever,
and preserve your throne for all generations.'" **Refrain**

You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:
"I have set the crown upon a warrior
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
I have found David my servant;
with my holy oil have I anointed him. **Refrain**

"My hand will hold him fast
and my arm will make him strong.
No enemy shall deceive him,
nor shall the wicked bring him down. **Refrain**

I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.
My faithfulness and love shall be with him,
and he shall be victorious through my name. **Refrain**

I shall make his dominion extend
 from the Great Sea to the River.
 He will say to me, 'You gave me life,
 my God, you are the rock of my salvation.'" **Refrain**

Second Reading: *Kim Mouldsdale*

A Reading from Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Romans 16.25-27

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence is observed

Hymn: #122 (Common Praise) “In the Bleak Midwinter”



1. In the bleak mid-win - ter, frost - y wind made moan, earth stood hard as
 2. Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain; heaven and earth shall
 3. An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there; cher - u - bim and
 4. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a



i - ron, wa - ter like a stone; snow had fal - len, snow on snow,
 flee a - way when he comes to reign. In the bleak mid - win - ter a
 ser - a - phim thronged the air; but his moth - er on - ly
 shep - herd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man,



snow on snow, in the bleak mid-win - ter, long a - go.
 sta - ble place suf - ficed the Lord God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 in her maid - en bliss, wor - shipped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 I would do my part; yet what I can, I give him - give my heart.

The Gospel: *Steven Mackison*

Reader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

Luke 1.26-38

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily: Steven Mackison

We pause for music and meditation.

Meditation: "Heliseb valjadel" (*Urmas Sisask*): *Virtual Choir*

Ave Maria, Heliseb valjadel, metsas ja magedel.

Ave Maria, tervitus hell.

Helise Emale, kes ule tahtede, helise, kell!

Helise Emale! Helise ornake, kanna sa korgele palvet mu poolt.

Maria, mind aita, Maria, mind mu elus ja surmas. Kanna hoolt, Maria. Heliseb kell.

Hail Mary, there is a bell ringing in the fields, forests, and on the mountains.

Ave Maria - a gentle greeting.

Ring bell, ring to the Mother. Ring over the stars. Ring, gentle bell, lift up my prayer.

In my life, and in my death, help me and look after me, Maria.

There is a bell ringing - Ringing in the fields, meadows, forests, and on the mountains.

The bell is ringing to Mother Maria. The bell is ringing - gently ringing.

Hymn: #350 (Gather) "God's Surprise"



1. Who would think that what was need-ed To trans-form and save the earth
2. Shep-herds watch and wise men won-der, Mon-archs scorn and an-gels sing;
3. Cen-tu-ries of skill and sci-ence Span the past from which we move,



Might not be a plan or ar-my, Proud in pur-pose, proved in worth?
Such a place as none would reck-on Hosts a ho-ly help-less thing;
Yet ex-pe-rience ques-tions wheth-er, With such pro-gress, we im-prove.



Who would think, de-spite de-ri-sion, That a child should lead the way?
Sta-ble beasts and by-passed stran-gers Watch a ba-by laid in hay:
While the hu-man lot we pon-der, Lest our hopes and hu-mour fray,



God sur-pris-es earth with heav-en, Com-ing here on Christ-mas Day.
God sur-pris-es earth with heav-en, Com-ing here on Christ-mas Day.
God sur-pris-es earth with heav-en, Com-ing here on Christ-mas Day.

The Prayers of the People: *John Castillo*

Leader: Gathered as the Church of God,
let us pray together for the coming of the kingdom.
Lord of heaven, may the Church
be quiet enough to hear your voice,
humble enough to move your way,
and inspired enough to spread the good news.

A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over in the chat box.

Leader: Living God:

All: May your Kingdom come.

Leader: Lord of heaven, bless all who lead
with integrity and respect for others;
bless all in positions of authority
with humility and a sense of right,
that unjust practices may be changed for good
and conflicts of great tension be peacefully resolved.
Bless the world you have created and all that is in it,
Help us to cherish it as you do.

A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over in the chat box.

Leader: Living God:

All: May your Kingdom come.

Leader: Lord of heaven, make our homes
places of loving acceptance and developing faith;
teach us in all our friendships
to grow in generosity of spirit.

A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over in the chat box.

Leader: Living God:

All: May your Kingdom come.

Leader: Lord of heaven, give patience and courage
to all who have to wait,
especially when the waiting is long and painful;
bring healing to all who are wounded,
in mind, body, or spirit
and give them an assurance of your presence.

A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over in the chat box.

Leader: Living God:

All: **May your Kingdom come.**

Leader: Lord of heaven, welcome into your eternity
those who have died in this life
and whose hope is in you.
Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory.
Comfort those who mourn them
and reach into their pain with your love.

A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over in the chat box.

Leader: Living God:

All: **May your Kingdom come.**

Leader: Lord of all the ages, we thank you
for your faithful promise to us,
fulfilled in the coming of Jesus.
We look with eager longing for his reign in our lives.

A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over in the chat box.

Leader: Holy One, accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end.

All: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer: *Susan Haig*

Priest: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray.

All: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Doxology: *Susan Haig*

Priest: Glory to God,

All: **whose power working in us
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Concluding Hymn: #111 (Common Praise) "Herald! Sound the Note of Judgement"



1. Her-ald! Sound the note of judge-ment, warn-ing note of right and wrong,
2. Her-ald! Sound the note of glad-ness! Tell the news that Christ is here;
3. Her-ald! Sound the note of par-don! Those re-pent-ing are for-given;
4. Her-ald! Sound the note of tri-umph! Christ has come to share our life,



turn-ing us from sin and sad-ness, till once more we sing the song.
make a path-way through the des-ert for the one who brings God near.
God re-stores the way-ward chil-dren, and to all new life is given.
bring-ing God's own love and pow-er, grant-ing vic-tory in our strife.



Sound the trum-pet! Tell the mes-sage! Christ the Sav-iour King has come!
Sound the trum-pet! Tell the mes-sage! Christ the Sav-iour King has come!
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Sound the trum-pet! Tell the mes-sage! Christ the Sav-iour King has come!

Text: Moir A. J. Waters (1906-1980), alt. © Estate of Moir A. J. Waters, c/o Margaret Waters. Music: Melody Joachim Neander (1650-1680), alt.

Ministry Updates: *Susan Haig*

The Dismissal: *Steven Mackison*

Priest: Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Our thanks go out to all who contribute financially to the Redeemer community. Our ability to continue to offer outreach support through the Common Table and maintain our rich and varied worship and program life is possible thanks to the generous donations of parishioners and friends of the community. For health and safety reasons, we would appreciate your donations via the "Online Donation" link below, where you will be redirected to the gifts section of our Website. Thank you for your generosity.

[Online Donation](#)

As the church year ends, please consider reviewing your financial support of our vital ministry

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Ministry Updates

With Gratitude

As the calendar year ends, please consider reviewing your financial support of our vital ministry. Your generosity makes a difference as it has throughout this year that has been like no other.

As a community we came together to encourage one another, to gather for worship and faith formation for all ages, to support the Common Table as the leadership team there adapted to ever-changing circumstances. And, we have been able to sustain all this ministry through the generous donations from parishioners and friends of the community.

If you have given all you can - thank you. Your gifts have made a difference.
If you have the capacity to make an additional gift or to give for the first time please consider one of these options:

- [online](#) through CanadaHelps.
- **e-transfer** – please contact the [Treasurer](#) on how to do this.
- **a cheque, dated in December 2020, mailed to the church and postmarked in 2020.** The church address is 162 Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON M5S 1M4.
- **hand-delivered envelopes** dropped through the mail slot in the door to the right of the main doors before midnight December 31, 2020 (if you can do this safely while following pandemic protocols).

Donating Securities or Mutual Funds?

A donation of securities or mutual funds can be a tax-efficient way to give to Redeemer! You can donate through Canada Helps using their website [here](#). Questions? – please email us at Stewardship@theredeemer.ca. Thank you!

Compline at 8 PM

Compline is a Christian tradition of bedtime prayers. These traditional prayers unveil God's grace in all of our endings - the day's end, the week's end, and our last nightfall.

Join in through Zoom at 8 PM each Sunday night for about 20 minutes. The link can be found in each Friday's eNews.

I Wonder as I Wander: Pilgrimage Walks for Advent

Learning@Redeemer invites all to share the journey of Advent in a series of weekly meditative walks. The themes of the walks will follow the themes of the four candles of the Advent wreath: hope, peace, joy, and love, respectively, and finally, the Christ candle.

A focus for meditation from a member of our community, based on the text of an Advent hymn, forms the basis of the pilgrimage. You are invited to follow the suggested route, on your own time, either in person if you can do that safely, or as reflection from your home.

This week's walk, Advent Love, has been prepared by Richard Van Delft and AJ Finlay can be found [here](#).

If you missed previous walks, you can still view them on our website.

Week 1 – [Advent Icons](#) – prepared by Paul Pynkoski.

Week 2 – [Advent Peace](#) – prepared by David Burt.

Week 3 – [Advent Joy](#) – prepared by Karen Visser and Craig Spielmacher.

Daily Prayer – Wednesdays

Each Wednesday morning, an order of service for daily prayer are added to the parish website with a link shared on the Facebook page early in the morning.

This simple, printed worship service is an invitation to set aside time at some point in the day to read scripture and a reflection, and to offer prayers.

The link for this coming Wednesday, December 23 is [here](#).

Christmas Eve Virtual Pageant

This year, our Christmas Eve Services will be different than other years. While we cannot gather together in the church, the children and youth of our community carry on the tradition of telling the age-old story of Jesus' birth. We will gather on Zoom at 5 PM on **Thursday, December 24**.

Christmas Eve at 10:30 PM on Zoom

While we cannot gather together in the church, we will celebrate the joyous news of Emmanuel – God-with-us – through scripture, carols and hymns, reflection and prayer in an online service through Zoom. Join in on **Thursday, December 24** at 10:30 PM.

Christmas Day at 10:30 AM on Zoom

While we cannot gather together in the church, we celebrate the Incarnation through scripture, carols and hymns, reflection and prayer in an online service through Zoom. Join in on **Friday, December 25** at 10:30 AM.