



THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY:
SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021 AT 10:30 A.M.

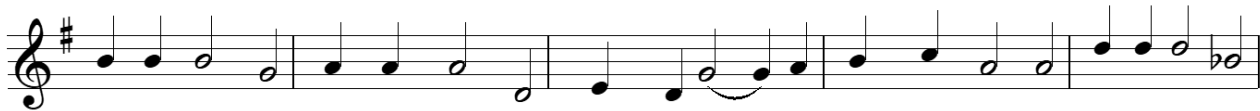
The Church of the Redeemer:
162 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON M5S 1M4
office@theredeemer.ca • Tel: (416) 922 4948 • www.theredeemer.ca

Welcome: *Susan Haig*

Prelude on “Out of Darkness”

Opening Hymn: #689 (Gather) “Out of Darkness”

Refrain



Out of dark-ness God has called us, claimed by Christ as God's own peo-ple. Ho-ly na-tion,



roy-al priest-hood, walk-ing in God's marv'-lous light. A - men.



- 1.Let us take the words you give, Strong and faith-ful words to live.
- 2.Let us take the Christ you give, Bro - ken Bod - y Christ we live.
- 3.Let us take the love you give, That the way of love we live.



Words that in our hearts are sown; Words that bind us as your own.
Christ the ris - en from the tomb; Christ who calls us as your own.
Love to bring your peo - ple home; Love to make us all your own.

Text and Tune: Christopher Walker, b.1947. © 1989, Christopher Walker, published by OCP Publications.

✠ The Gathering of the Community

The Greeting: *Susan Haig*

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

The Collect of the Day

Priest: Living God,
in Christ you make all things new.
Transform the poverty of our nature
by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

✠ The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: *Andrew Duffy*

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A moment of silence is observed

Psalm 111 (*George Black*)

Refrain:



The fear of God _____ is the be - gin - ning of wis - dom.

Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to God with my whole heart,
In the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.
Great are the deeds of God!

They are studied by all who delight in them. **Refrain**

Your work, O God, is full of majesty and splendour,
And your righteousness endures for ever.
You make your marvellous works to be remembered;
You are gracious and full of compassion. **Refrain**

You give food to those who fear you;
You are ever mindful of your covenant.
You have shown your people the power of your works
In giving them the lands of the nations. **Refrain**

The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
All your commandments are sure.
They stand fast for ever and ever,
Because they are done in truth and equity. **Refrain**

You sent redemption to your people;
You commanded your covenant for ever;
Holy and awesome is your name.
The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom;
Those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
Your praise endures for ever. **Refrain**

Second Reading: *Karen Turner*

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

All: Thanks be to God.

A moment of silence is observed

Sequence Song: “Across the Borderline” (*Dickinson/Hiatt/Cooder*)

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 Mark.

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

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

Mark 1:21-28

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

Homily: Steven Mackison

We pause for music and meditation.

Meditation: “Healer Divine” – *Raymond H. Haan*



- 1.Heal-er di - vine, Christ, hear our prayer: Let us touch the hem of your
- 2.Cov - er our sin, our guilt re - move. Make pure our hearts with your
- 3.Pain or des - pair, heart - ache or care Lord, you know the hurts of your
- 4.Heal-er di - vine, Christ, hear our prayer; Sav - iour, turn and look on your



- gar - ment, find whole-ness, find peace.
- cleans-ing. Give whole-ness, give peace.
- peo - ple. Give whole-ness, give peace.
- chil - dren. Give whole-ness, give peace.

Statement of Faith:

All: **I believe in the fire of love,
a passion for life and justice,
melting hatred, prejudice and fear,
cleansing and purifying,
unselfish and sacrificial,
a burning bush.**

**I believe in the power of faith,
rooted in Christ's sacrifice,
a paradox that lives on a cross,
shrouded in mystery,
yet clear as day.**

**I believe in the spirit of hope,
alive in the face of our sorrows,
defying humanity's flaws,
a hope that was born in an empty tomb
but is not empty at all.**

Hymn: #381 (Common Praise) "Praise My Soul"



1. Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his feet your tri - bute bring;
2. Praise him for his grace and fa - vour to our fore-bears in dis - tress;
3. Fa - ther - like he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows;
4. Frail as sum - mer's flower we flour - ish; blows the wind and it is gone;
5. An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be - hold him face to face;



ran - sored, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing.
praise him, still the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless;
in his hands he gent - ly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes:
but, while mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on:
sun and moon bow down be - fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, wide - ly as his mer - cy flows.
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, praise the high e - ter - nal one.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, praise with us the God of grace.

Text: Ps. 103; para. Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847), alt. Music: John Goss (1800-1880); desc. Gerald Manning (1943-) ©.

The Prayers of the People: *Paul Pynkoski*

Leader: As we gather in the presence of God,
all-knowing and all-loving, let us pray.
We pray for the church.
Holy God, great Spirit of all,
may your people
honour and glorify your name
in their daily lives, private prayer, public worship
and in serving their communities.

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

Leader: Holy God:

All: **May your will be done.**

Leader: We pray for the world.
May those who lead be led by you,
to make decisions that resound with your truth,
respond to your compassion,
and respect your creation.

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

Leader: Holy God:

All: **May your will be done.**

Leader: We pray for our families and friends,
those near to us, and those whom we long to see face to face.
Create the space in our homes,
where kindness and mercy may dwell.
Help us to remove the clutter of discontent,
and make us more thankful.

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

Leader: Holy God:

All: **May your will be done.**

Leader: We pray for those in need,
especially those experiencing mental illness,
or who are conflicted in spirit.
May all whose hearts ache with sorrow
or whose bodies endure pain
be comforted and cherished,
knowing your love for them.

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

Leader: Holy God:

All: **May your will be done.**

Leader: We pray for those whose who have died,
Especially those who were not able to make peace
with God or with their neighbour.
Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.
And let light perpetual shine upon them.
Bless and comfort their loved ones,
and receive us all into your everlasting light and life.

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

Leader: Holy God:

All: **May your will be done.**

Leader: We give thanks for the gift of a new day.
May we meet our calling with joy,
Serving the other and glorifying God.

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

Leader: Gracious 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*

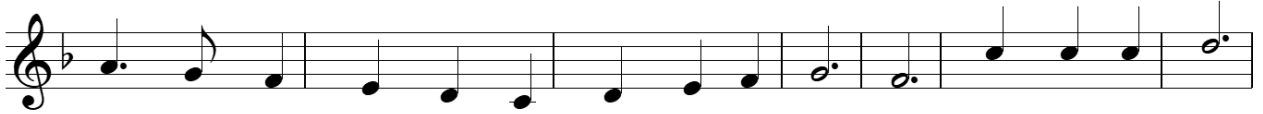
Priest: Glory to God,

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: #527 (Gather) "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"



1.Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the king of cre-a-tion! O my soul,
2.Praise to the Lord, a-bove all things so might-i-ly reign-ing; Keep-ing us
3.Praise to the Lord, who shall pros-per our work and de-fend us; Sure-ly his
4.Praise to the Lord O let all that is in us a-dore him! All that has



praise him, for he is your health and sal-va-tion! Come, all who hear:
safe at his side, and so gent-ly sus-tain-ing. Have you not seen
good-ness and mer-cy shall dai-ly at-tend us. Pon-der a-new
life and breath come now with prais-es be-fore him! Let the "A-men!"



Broth-ers and sis-ters, draw near, Praise him in glad ad-o-ra-tion!
All you have need-ed has been Met by his gra-cious or-dain-ing?
What the Al-might-y can do, Who with his love will be-friend us.
Sound from his peo-ple a-gain, Glad-ly with praise we a-dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander (1650-1680), tr. by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878). Tune Stralsund Gesangbuch, 1665; descant by C.S. Lang (1891-1971), © 1953, Novello and Co. Ltd.

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](#)

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Ministry Updates

Staying Connected Meeting Today

The Staying Connected parish meeting with our Incumbent, The Rev'd Canon Steven Mackison, is at 12 PM today.

There will be updates from staff members, stewardship and finance committees and about plans to celebrate the parish's sesquicentennial.

The Zoom link was included in the Friday, January 29 eNews.

“Lent-in-a-Bag” – A Message from our Incumbent

Dear Friends,

One of the significant moments in the rhythm of our lives in faith is our observance of a Holy Lent. It is the time in our liturgical life when we are intentional about our faith journey from the sobering prayers of Ash Wednesday to the first spark of the Easter Vigil, as the light of Christ's resurrection bursts forth in the darkness.

It is a pilgrimage we have always walked together as a community. And even though the pandemic caught us mid-step last year - forcing us to take other roads and change some of our familiar practices - we still made our journey through Lent together, and were faithful in being more fervent in prayer and more generous in the works of love.

This year brings further challenges as we will not be able to gather as a community and observe Ash Wednesday, with the poignant and humbling ashen crosses that would typically adorn our foreheads. So this year we are offering “Lent-in-a-Bag” - so that we remain one in our pilgrimage through Lent, despite being separated from one another. While we want the specific contents to be a surprise, it is important to note that each bag will contain resources for each Sunday in Lent, including the symbols that guide us in that journey. It will begin with Ash Wednesday. Inside each bag there will be a small, sealed, pyx containing ashes from our own spent palm crosses. You are invited to apply these during our Ash Wednesday liturgy and use the other resources contained in the bag to deepen your experience during the forty days of Lent.

Details on how to acquire your Lent-in-a-bag are below. If you have any further questions, please contact [me](#).

Steven

“Lent-in-a-Bag” – How can I receive one?

Bags will be available for pick-up in the Yonge/St. Clair neighbourhood (a five-minute walk from the St. Clair subway station). Bags can also be delivered to those registrants who are unable to make a pick-up. Additional contact details including the address for pick-ups will be emailed to registrants.

“Lent-in-a-Bag” – How can I sign up?

Please contact the [church office](#) or click [here](#) to fill out the online form. The deadline is **February 7**.

“Lent-in-a-Bag” – Volunteer Drivers Needed

We are asking for volunteers to deliver bags to those parishioners who are unable to pick up their bags. You can volunteer to help on the [sign-up form](#) as well!

All Creatures Great and Small

Introducing *ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL* – A joint project from the Pastoral Care Team and Creation Matters to keep us connected through the continuing lockdown. We hope it deepens our knowledge of one another through our relationships with our beloved creature friends inside and outside our homes. For example, why does Mister sit on the piano while Jill Daley plays? Is a guide dog a pet? Who are some of the other important creatures we glimpse in our fellow parishioners’ Sunday Zoom boxes? This video series of interviews hopes to answer your questions and introduce you to many of our non-human companions over the coming weeks. If you would like to receive links to the videos of these interviews, please [sign up](#).

Catechesis 2021

A time of prayer ... a time of reflection ... a time of exploring ... and a time of debate. A time for you!

Join us for a 6-8 week discussion and exploration of core elements of the faith such as:

- Scripture and the Stories we tell!
- Who is Jesus?
- How to be the Body of Christ?
- Sacraments and Worship;
- Ministry; Faith/Culture.

The designed sessions will involve a short presentation, followed by group discussion and debate. We will strive to create a safe, respectful place where questions and doubts are welcome!

How can you get involved? We are looking for inquiring Catechumens and Discerning Sponsors! Please [register](#) – we need you!

For more information, please contact catechesis@theredeemer.ca.

A Fast for the Earth: Lent 2021

Are you looking to undertake a fast during Lent that focuses on creation and issues related to the climate crisis? The Bishop's Committee on Creation Care has produced A Fast for the Earth: Lent 2021 to provide a fast for each week of Lent: a meat fast, a consumption fast, a food waste fast, a water fast, an injustice fast, an electricity fast and an ignorance fast. May this [resource](#) be part of your Lenten observance.

Lententide Reading Group

Learning@Redeemer invites all to look forward throughout the season of Lent to the events of Holy Week with the Lententide Reading Group. We'll focus on Jesus' final days by reading the book *The Last Week* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan.

More details are [online](#) and [registration](#) is open now.

Living our Questions: A Small-Group Experience with Fellow Seekers

Is there a "sticking point" in your experience of Christian community? It's easy to feel isolated with our sticking points, but we're not. Learning@Redeemer invites you to share the questions you live with in a safe, confidential circle of fellow seekers. A group of 10 to 12 participants will begin meeting shortly after Easter, with the special invitation to share your "sticking points." We'll start by sharing from the heart about our journeys. In our later meetings, we'll take up the topics that members most want to explore and take turns leading discussion on. More details are on our [website](#), and [registration](#) is open.

Strategic Plan Update

While the trio working on Resourcing for Mission reported in November and received encouragement from the Board of Management we have not progressed with our plan.

We believe that the plan is sound - to be listening first and planning later. In the time since the last Board of Management meeting, the pandemic realities have forced a number of Church and other organizations to push off significant projects or events into late 2021 or even into 2022. (Canterbury Cathedral scaled back it's commemoration of the 850th anniversary of the martyrdom of Thomas Becket until 2021 or 2022. What's two years after 850? Just a round number.)

So with all that is happening we, again, are uncertain when to begin: Before Vestry, after Vestry, as part of the 150th, after the 150th.

At a recent Executive Committee meeting we agreed to provide an interim report or note to the Board of Management, Staying Connected (if appropriate), *The Gathering*, the 2020 Vestry Book.

MJ Wilson, Joan Robinson & I welcome advice and suggestions from the parish leadership.

Susan Graham Walker

An Update from the Refugee Settlement Committee

COVID has affected us all, from here in downtown Toronto to the entire world. While it has been two years since Church of the Redeemer last sponsored a group of refugees (4 young men from Eritrea), the committee has continued meeting occasionally, both to share our own circumstances and to exchange news and maintain hope that we will be able to welcome another group once travel restrictions are lifted.

The committee is working with AURA (Anglican United Refugee Alliance) to sponsor a Somali family of 7, currently living in a Kenyan refugee camp. We hope that they will be able to arrive by 2022.

Make every day a Season of Creation Day!

Following up on the 2020 Season of Creation, Learning@Redeemer in collaboration with Creation Matters presented a 30-Day Challenge. Each day, a member of The Redeemer community offered a reflection on our place in Creation with a related call to action. The responses were thoughtful, creative, and hopeful! The 30-Day Challenge is now available on the Creation Matters@Redeemer [webpage](#). Please take up the challenge, but don't stop on day 30, just repeat!

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.

Intercessions

In the prayers of the people each Sunday, space is left for members of the community to add a name or concern in chat. If you have people or situations that you would like included in the service but are not comfortable giving voice to them, there is a prayer request form on the website. These will be added to the intercessions in the appropriate petition. You can find the form [here](#).

Daily Prayer

An order of service for daily prayer is added to the parish website early each Wednesday morning as an invitation to take time in the middle of the week to pause and pray. Everything you need is provided including a reflection. The link to the order of service to be posted this Wednesday is [here](#).

Parish Cycle of Prayer

Each month a cycle of prayer is available [online](#). This resource provides the names of ministries from the Anglican Communion, the Indigenous cycle of prayer, the diocese and our community to hold in our prayers each day. In peace we pray. Lord, Hear our prayer.