

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT Sunday, March 14, 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

# **★** The Penitential Rite

In the name of the Holy One: Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier. Priest: **People:** 

Amen.

Blessed be God who forgives all our sins; Priest:

People: whose mercy endures forever.

Dear friends in Christ, Priest: Let us lift up our sins against God and our neighbour, Confident in the belief that we will be forgiven.

# **Confession and Absolution**

- Priest: We have wounded your love.
- O God, heal us. People:

Priest: We stumble in the darkness.

- Light of the world, transfigure us. People:
- Priest: We forget that we are your home.

**People:** Spirit of God, dwell in us.

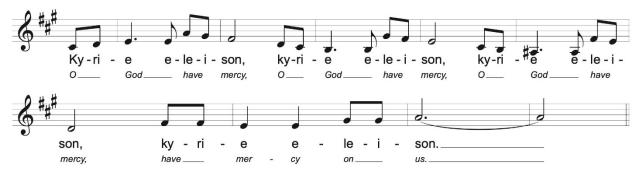
Eternal Spirit, Priest:

**People:** living God,

in whom we live and move and have our being, all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you. In the very secret of our hearts you know all that rises to trouble us. Living flame, burn into us. Cleansing wind, blow through us. Fountain of water, well up within us; that we may love and praise in deed and in truth. Amen.

Priest: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People:** Amen.



# The Collect of the Day

Priest: Merciful Lord, you know our struggle to serve you: when sin spoils our lives and overshadows our hearts, come to our aid and turn us back to you again; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

# **★** The Proclamation of the Word

### First Reading: Karen Visser

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Numbers.

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord. *All:* Thanks be to God.

Numbers 21.4-9 A moment of silence is observed Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (George Black)

#### **Refrain:**



We give you thanks, O God, for you are good, and your mercy endures for ever. Let all those whom you redeemed proclaim that you rescued them from the hand of the foe. You gathered them out of the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. **Refrain** 

Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; they were afflicted because of their sins. They abhorred all manner of food and drew near to death's door. **Refrain** 

Then they cried to you in their trouble, and you delivered them from their distress. You sent forth your word and healed them and saved them from the grave. **Refrain** 

Let them give thanks to you for your mercy and the wonders you do for your children. Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving and tell of your acts with shouts of joy. **Refrain** 

#### Second Reading: Peter Dale

Reader: A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him

in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Reader:The word of the Lord.All:Thanks be to God.

Ephesians 2.1-10 A moment of silence is observed

Sequence Song: "In The Light" (Page/Plant/Jones, arr. Daley)

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

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Reader: The Gospel of Christ. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. John 3.14-21

Homily: Steven Mackison

We pause for music and meditation.

Meditation: "Adonai, Adonai" (Srul Irving Glick)

Adonai, Adonai Eil rachum v'chanun, erech apayim, v'rav chesed veemet, notzeir chesed laalafim, v'nakei.

The Lord, the Eternal Is gracious and compassionate, Patient, abounding in lovingkindness and faithfulness, Assuring love for a thousand generations Forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin, And granting pardon.

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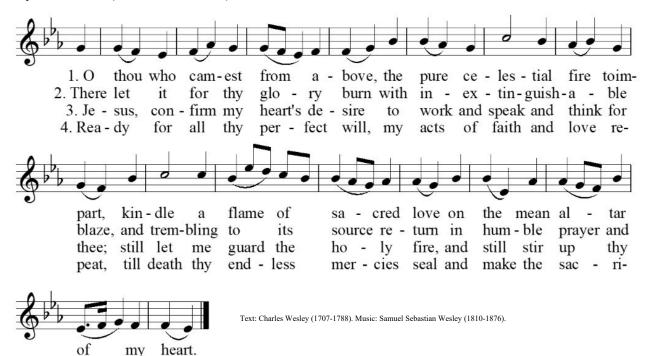
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Excerpt from "Triumph of the Spirit", text: Exodus 34

Hymn: #624 (Common Praise) "O Thou, Who Camest from Above"



# The Prayers of the People: John Sutton

Leader: Dear friends,

we have been reminded this morning to give thanks for the Lord's goodness, and for God's enduring love.

As God's beloved and redeemed,

let us pray together as the people of God.

Lord of life, we have so much to be thankful for. For the incredible beauty and generosity of the earth that sustains our life, for faith, for work, challenge and learning that gives meaning to our lives, for friends and family.

Let us give thanks to God for the things that we are grateful for today.

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

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

#### All: Hear our prayer

*Leader:* Lord, we pray for the church in the world today.

We pray that all of us who are members of Christ's body may learn to live together in love, demonstrating to the world the values of your Kingdom;

simplicity and humility, seeking justice and peace, ensuring a place for all. You have taught us that the way the world

will know we are your followers is in the way we love one another.

Let's pray for our own parish as well as the church in Canada and the world. In particular we remember the Common Table,

as well as this year's catechumens,

as they discover more deeply the call to be followers of Jesus.

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

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

### *All:* Hear our prayer

Leader: God of peace,

as we pray that your Kingdom will come on earth as it is in heaven, we pray for peace in the world.

We bring before you the places of conflict and violence

that we hold in our hearts, in our own streets, and across the world.

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

We pray for our own political leaders in Canada, in all levels of government, and the leaders of all nations,

that they will seek peace and the well being of all people.

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

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

# All: Hear our prayer

Leader: Creator God, you have entrusted us as stewards to care for the earth, our Mother, so that her richness and bounty will sustain, not only us, but also the generations to come after us. We have not done well with this stewardship; in our greed we have wasted resources and polluted the earth. Some of us have heedlessly taken far too much, leaving our sisters and brothers in other places, in poverty and need.

We pray earnestly for our collective conversion to understanding that we only live because everything else does.

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

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

# All: Hear our prayer

Leader: God of Justice, as Canadians, we are treaty people, and we pray for the healing of the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in this country. Show us the hard way of justice and right relations, so that our First Nations can flourish in ways that are true to their history and cultures and we can live together in peace.

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

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer

Leader: Compassionate God,

there are those among us who are facing trials and difficulties,

illness and bereavement.

So many are weary and frightened by the pandemic,

by the threat of illness and prolonged separation from those we love. We ask for courage and perseverance,

and that you continue to use us, and our community to bring comfort,

help and encouragement to those who are in distress.

Let's pray for those who are on our hearts, who need healing and strength.

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

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

# All: Hear our prayer

Leader: We think of those who have died, those we know personally and those we do not. Rest eternal grant unto them and may light perpetual shine upon them. Loving God, comfort those who are left mourning, wondering how they will go on.

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

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

# *All:* Hear our prayer

- *Leader:* God of all comfort, we trust your promise to hear us when we lift our hearts to you in prayer, and in loving faith we boldly pray these things in the name, and for the sake, of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord.
- 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.

Departing Hymn: #397 (Gather) "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"



#### Ministry Updates: Susan Haig

#### The Blessing: Susan Haig

- *Priest:* May God, whose mercy endures forever, deliver us from distress.
- People: Amen.

Priest: May Christ, who came into the world to save us, keep us steadfast in believing in him.

People: Amen.

*Priest:* May the Holy Spirit, who is now at work among us, lead us to obedience.

People: Amen.

*Priest:* And may the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier be amongst you and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

The Dismissal: Steven Mackison

- *Priest:* By grace you have been saved through faith.
- *People:* And this is not our own doing it is a gift of God.
- Priest: Go in peace. You have been created in Christ Jesus for good works.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

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**

## **Rock Eucharist at 7PM**

Join in **tonight** at 7:00 p.m. on <u>Zoom</u> for the next Rock Eucharist contemporary popular songs that are chosen to illuminate the Bible readings are woven into this service. The service will feature the music of Fleetwood Mac. After the service, grab your favourite beverage and stay for the Mike Daley curated playlist of our featured artist.

# 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 <u>resource</u> be part of your Lenten observance.

If you are interested in a reflection group to support your participation in the fast, please <u>register</u> and we will contact you with further details.

# 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 <u>website</u>, and <u>registration</u> is open.

# Too Deep For Words: Mid-day Prayer

Join our Incumbent, Steven Mackison, for mid-day prayer beginning on Ash Wednesday and each day through Lent (except Sunday). We gather through Zoom at 12:15 PM to hear scripture read and to pray for what's on our hearts and for the cares and concerns of the world. To learn more about this service, read Steven's letter <u>here.</u>

# All Creatures Great & Small

Last week was the fifth and final week of All Creatures Great & Small. The Pastoral Care Team and Creation Matters wishes to send a big thank you to all the participants and viewers of the pilot project. We hope you have enjoyed learning about Redeemer clergy, staff and parishioners through the creatures they love. If you have not seen the interviews but would like to receive them, email <u>twilliams@theredeemer.ca</u>.

#### 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 <u>here</u>.

### **Parish Cycle of Prayer**

Each month a cycle of prayer is available <u>online</u>. 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.