



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: ADVENT CAROL SERVICE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021 AT 7:00 p.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 Service of Light

- *Priest:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- *All:* It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- *Priest:* Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe, creator of light and darkness. In this holy season, when the sun's light is swallowed up by the growing darkness of the night, you renew your promise to reveal among us the splendor of your glory, enfleshed and visible to us in Jesus Christ your Son. Through the prophets you teach us to hope for his reign of peace. Through the outpouring of his Spirit, you open our blindness to the glory of his presence. Strengthen us in our weakness. Support us in our stumbling efforts to do your will and free our tongues to sing your praise. For to you all honour and blessing are due, now and forever. **Amen.**

We remain standing as the Choir sings. During the singing of the motet, hand-held tapers are lighted.

Canticle: "O Gladsome Light" (Walter MacNutt)

O gladsome Light, O Grace of God the Father's face, The eternal splendour wearing; Celestial, holy, blest, Our Saviour Jesus Christ Joyful in thine appearing.

To thee of right belongs All praise of holy songs, O Son of God, Life giver; Thee, therefore, O Most High, The world doth glorify, And shall exalt forever. Hymn: #350 (Gather) "God's Surprise"



TEXT: John L. Bell, b.1949. TUNE: Scarlet Ribbons, English traditional; arr. by John L. Bell, b.1949. © 1987, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.

The Bidding Prayer

- *Deacon*: Beloved in Christ, in this Advent Season let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and in mind, to go even to Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God; from the first days of our disobedience to the prophesy of the glorious redemption brought to us by the Holy Child. Gracious God, send your Son to us:
- *All:* That he may dwell in us forevermore.

The Advent Litany



Litanist: In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer, singing, *All:* "Lord Jesus, come soon!

Litanist: O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live.

All: "Lord Jesus, come soon!

Litanist: O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us.

All: "Lord Jesus, come soon!

Litanist: O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more.

All: "Lord Jesus, come soon!

Litanist: O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison.

All: "Lord Jesus, come soon!

Litanist: O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

All: "Lord Jesus, come soon!

Litanist: O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay.

All: "Lord Jesus, come soon!

- *Litanist:* O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God.
- All: "Lord Jesus, come soon!

Common Prayer

Deacon: Let us pray.

All: God who cares for us, the wonder of whose presence fills us with awe, let justice, kindness and love shine in our world. Let your secrets be known here as they are in heaven. Give us the food and the hope we need for today. Forgive us our wrongdoing as we forgive the wrongs done to us. Protect us from pride and from despair and from the fear and hate which can swallow us up. In you is truth, meaning, glory and power, while worlds come and go. Amen.

All extinguish candles.

✤ The Lessons

First Reading: Zechariah 4

Please be seated

The angel who talked with me came again, and wakened me, as one is wakened from sleep. He said to me, 'What do you see?' And I said, 'I see a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it; there are seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it. And by it there are two olive trees, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left.' I said to the angel who talked with me, 'What are these, my lord?' Then the angel who talked with me answered me, 'Do you not know what these are?' I said, 'No, my lord.' He said to me, 'This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the LORD of hosts. What are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain; and he shall bring out the top stone amid shouts of "Grace, grace to it!""

Moreover, the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also complete it. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel.

'These seven are the eyes of the LORD, which range through the whole earth.' Then I said to him, 'What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?' And a second time I said to him, 'What are these two branches of the olive trees, which pour out the oil through the two golden pipes?' He said to me, 'Do you not know what these are?' I said, 'No, my lord.' Then he said, 'These are the two anointed ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth.'

Carol: "Prayer for the Hanukkah Lights" (Laura Sgroi)

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah

Praised are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

Second Reading: One Foot in Eden (Edwin Muir)

One foot in Eden still, I stand And look across the other land. The world's great day is growing late, Yet strange these fields that we have planted So long with crops of love and hate. Time's handiworks by time are haunted, And nothing now can separate The corn and tares compactly grown. The armorial weed in stillness bound About the stalk; these are our own. Evil and good stand thick around In the fields of charity and sin Where we shall lead our harvest in.

Yet still from Eden springs the root As clean as on the starting day. Time takes the foliage and the fruit And burns the archetypal leaf To shapes of terror and of grief Scattered along the winter way. But famished field and blackened tree Bear flowers in Eden never known. Blossoms of grief and charity Bloom in these darkened fields along.

What had Eden ever to say Of hope and faith and pity and love Until was buried all its day And memory found its treasure trove?

Strange blessings never in Paradise Fall from these beclouded skies.



Hymn: "Lost in the Night"

Carol: "Carry On" (Stephen Stills)

One morning I woke up and I knew you were really gone A new day, a new way, and new eyes to see the dawn Go your way, I'll go mine and carry on

The sky is clearing and the night has cried enough The sun, he comes, the world to soften up Rejoice, rejoice, we have no choice but to carry on

The fortunes of fables are able to sing the song Now witness the quickness with which we get along To sing the blues you've got to live the dues and carry on

Carry on, love is coming, love is coming to us all

Third Reading: Exodus 17.1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The LORD said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

Carol: "Double Shot (Honey in the Rock)" (Stephen Hatfield)

Sung by the Choir

Tell me what you want. (Sweet honey in the rock.) Tell me what you gonna need? (Sweet honey in the rock.) Tell me what you gonna plead now. (Sweet honey in the rock.) How will you know? (Because it tastes like honey.)

Please be seated

Now when Moses struck the burning desert, what you think he got? (Sweet honey in the rock.) It was a Holy healing and when the midnight devils come stealing you need a double shot. How will you know? (Because it tastes like honey.)

When the soldier struck the dying Jesus, what you think he got? (Sweet honey in the rock.) Come the Master striking at your hard heart, show him what you got. (Sweet honey in the rock.)

Double Shot links two images from the Bible that call and answer each other across the divide between Old and New Testament: the water that gushed from bare rock when Moses struck it with his staff, and the blood and water that gushed from Christ's side; the "rock of ages."

Fourth Reading: Isaiah 9.2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.



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Carol: "O Magnum Mysterium" (Tomas Luis de Victoria)

O magnum Mysterium et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum jacentem in praesepio. O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Jesum Christum. Alleluia!

O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord lying in a manger! O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

Fifth Reading: The Annunciation (Denise Levertov)

We know the scene: the room, variously furnished, almost always a lectern, a book; always the tall lily.

Arrived on solemn grandeur of great wings, the angelic ambassador, standing or hovering, whom she acknowledges, a guest. But we are told of meek obedience. No one mentions courage.

The engendering Spirit did not enter her without consent. God waited. She was free

to accept or to refuse, choice integral to humanness.

Aren't there annunciations of one sort or another in most lives? Some unwillingly undertake great destinies, enact them in sullen pride, uncomprehending. More often those moments when roads of light and storm open from darkness in a man or woman, are turned away from in dread, in a wave of weakness, in despair and with relief. Ordinary lives continue. God does not smite them. But the gates close, the pathway vanishes.

She had been a child who played, ate, slept like any other child-but unlike others, wept only for pity, laughed in joy not triumph. Compassion and intelligence fused in her, indivisible. Called to a destiny more momentous than any in all of Time, she did not quail, only asked a simple, 'How can this be?' and gravely, courteously, took to heart the angel's reply, the astounding ministry she was offered: to bear in her womb Infinite weight and lightness; to carry in hidden, finite inwardness, nine months of Eternity; to contain in slender vase of being, the sum of powerin narrow flesh. the sum of light. Then bring to birth, push out into air, a Man-child needing, like any other, milk and lovebut who was God. This was the moment no one speaks of, when she could still refuse.

> A breath unbreathed, Spirit, suspended,

waiting.

She did not cry, 'I cannot. I am not worthy,' Nor, 'I have not the strength.' She did not submit with gritted teeth,

raging, coerced.

Bravest of all humans,

consent illumined her.

The room filled with its light,

the lily glowed in it,

and the iridescent wings.

Consent,

courage unparalleled, opened her utterly.

Carol: "Mary" (Buffy Sainte-Marie)

Yonder I see a star Oh see how bright it's burning Joseph my time is come The Son of God is yearning To come, to come

Ask the man for some room to spare And a candle dimly burning Joseph my time is come The Son of God is yearning To come, to come

Pain of birth is surely great And yet my fate's been told me Do I see an Angel bright Descending to behold me He comes, he comes Sung by the Choir

Hymn: #117 (Common Praise) "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Please rise, as you are able 1. Lo, how Rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der hath а stem sprung, sai ah 'twas fore - told it. the Rose have in mind; 2. I -Ι 3. O Flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air. 0 of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing seers of old have as sung. Ma - ry with be hold the vir gin kind. we it. moth - er dis - pel glo - rious splen - dour ev - ery - where; in the dark - ness blos-som bright It a - mid the cold of win - ter, came. а a - right, To show God's love she bore to Sav - iour, 115 а God, true man, vet ve - ry from sin and death now save us, TEXT: St. 1-2, German (15th cent.); tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). St. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925). MUSIC: Melody Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchen gesäng, Köln, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621). when half spent was the night. when half spent was the night. and share our ev-ery load.

Sixth Reading: Luke 21.25-36

Please remain standing

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

Carol: "Calmes de nuits" (Camille Sainte-Saens)

Sung by the Choir

Calme des nuits, fraîcheur des soirs, Vaste scintillement des mondes, Grand silence des antres noirs Vous charmez les âmes profondes. L'éclat du soleil, la gaité, Le bruit plaisent aux plus futiles; Le poète seul est hanté Par l'amour des choses tranquilles.

Stillness of the night, cool of the evening, Vast shimmering of the spheres, Great silence of black vaults Deep thinkers delight in you. The bright sun, merriment, And noise amuse the more frivolous; Only the poet is possessed By the love of quiet things.

Homily: Andrew Kuhl

Concluding Prayers

Deacon:We wait for your loving kindness O God,All:in the midst of your temple.

Deacon: The glory of the Lord shall be received

All: and all flesh shall see it together.

Deacon: Show us your mercy, O Lord,

All: and grant us your salvation

Pause for silence

Please be seated

Deacon: Almighty God, as we rejoice in your Son's first coming, so we await with eager expectation the fulfillment of his promise, that he will come again among us. Strengthen us in our faith, that we may know his presence with us in our daily lives and fashion our souls to be places where his coming righteousness will be at home, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen**.

The Advent Blessing

- *Priest:* Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour everyone; love and serve the Lord. And may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always.
- All: Amen.

Hymn of the Advent: #109 (Common Praise) "When the King Shall Come Again"



see your Lord with glo - ry crowned, share in his re - joic - ing!

CELEBRATE ADVENT

Sunday, November 28, 7:00 PM – Advent Carol Service

Candlelight, carols, motets and readings explore the themes of Advent

Sunday, December 5, 7:00 PM – Advent Vespers

A magnificent experience of music and liturgy, focusing on the theme of preparation and culminating in the joyful celebration of the Incarnation.

Wednesday, December 8, 7:00 PM – Christmas in the City

Church of the Redeemer's annual "Christmas in the City" event to support The Common Table

Sunday, December 12, 7:00 PM – Advent Vespers

A magnificent experience of music and liturgy, focusing on the theme of preparation and culminating in the joyful celebration of the Incarnation.

Tuesday, December 14, 7:00 PM – Blue Christmas

A service for those who live with sadness at this time of year

Sunday, December 19, 7:00 PM – Advent Vespers

A magnificent experience of music and liturgy, focusing on the theme of preparation and culminating in the joyful celebration of the Incarnation.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 24, 5:00 PM – Family Service Available exclusively on Zoom, a Christmas Eve service with families in mind.

> *Friday, December 24, 7:30 PM – Rockin' Christmas Eve* Traditional Carols and the Rock Eucharist Band

> > *Friday, December 24, 10:30 PM* Carols, Procession & Solemn Sung Eucharist

Saturday, December 25, 10:30 AM

Christmas Day morning procession and eucharist

Sunday, December 26 – First Sunday After Christmas Eucharist at 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM, in the church and on Zoom

Sunday, January 2 – The Epiphany of the Lord Eucharist at 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM, in the church and on Zoom

Ministry Updates

Compline at 8 PM

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

Daily Prayer

Each **Wednesday morning**, a simple printed order for daily prayer is added to the parish website with a link shared on the Facebook page. This is an invitation to set aside time at some point in the day to read scripture, spend time with a reflection, and offer prayers. The link to the order of service is in eNews. The order of service for November 17 will be posted on Wednesday morning on the <u>website</u>.

Mid-day Prayer

Join members of our community mid-day prayer **Monday through Saturday** on Zoom at **12:15 PM**. For about 20 minutes we pause to hear scripture read and to pray for what's on our hearts and for the cares and concerns of the world. The Zoom link and list of readings is sent out each week through eNews. The order of service is <u>here</u>.

Marginalia: The Four Last Things

Many modern Christians know Advent's four weeks of ascent toward Christmas: hope, love, joy, and peace...and then Jesus! But one older tradition takes a lower, darker path to Christmas over Advent's four weeks: death, judgment, heaven and hell. This December, as the pandemic tarries, Redeemer's Marginalia will explore Advent's "four last things" using Scripture, literature, art and music, led by our Scholar-in-Residence, Nate Wall, and a few special guests. We'll make our way to the beginning by facing into the end. Join us over <u>Zoom</u> on Monday nights (Dec 6, 13, 20) at 7:30 PM. All are welcome.

Christmas in the City

All are invited to this online musical event to benefit the Common Table at Church of the Redeemer on **Wednesday, December 8 at 7:00 PM on Zoom.** We have a great lineup for this lovely online event, featuring incredibly gifted <u>Church of the Redeemer</u> community members and a few special guests. Tickets are available depending on how much you wish to contribute – all tickets provide equal access to the event. Tickets can be purchased <u>on Eventbrite.</u> Or on the website.

Tuesday Meditation Group

Tuesday Meditation with Lilian Junkin is meeting in the chancel again on Tuesdays for a half an hour, starting at **12:15 PM**. All are welcome to join for a peaceful mid-week reflection. Registration/contract tracing will be completed at the door. If you have any other questions, please contact <u>Lilian</u>.

Reading the Bible from the Margins: Stories from Below

The biblical story is unexpectedly shaped by those at the margins: women, foreigners, the powerless. What if these stories are actually the centre of the story? What do they reveal about how we live out of this story today? This Advent course is being offered by Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat with the Rt. Rev'd Andrew Asbil, Bishop of Toronto. It will take place on Zoom from 7:00 - 9:00 PM EST on Sundays, November 21, 28, December 5 and 12. There is no cost. For further information or to register, go to https://www.bibleremixed.ca/.

Reconciliation Mural Project

Redeemer has committed to supporting a beautiful and eloquent mural on our lower west wall by Joseph Sagaj (Ojibway from Neskantaga). The cost will be close to \$63,000 and thanks to your generosity, we have **surpassed our donation goal!** We have received \$32,910, and an anonymous parishioner has offered to match gifts up to \$31,500. We eagerly anticipate having a preliminary design shortly. In the meantime, please go to our <u>website</u> for more detailed information on the process. Thank you all for your generous donations that helped us achieve this goal!

The Common Table

The pandemic has caused many services to close, meaning low-income folks or people experiencing homelessness have limited access to resources. Clothing and hygiene supplies are particularly hard to come by and, with the changing of the seasons, we are in urgent need of winter wear.

If you would like to bring in a donation, please contact <u>Paul Wasswa</u>, The Common Table's Outreach Supply Room Coordinator, to arrange a drop-off time. Please be mindful of the items we are requesting, as we do not have storage space for items our community does not need. A list of the items we need right now is updated regularly and can be found on <u>The</u> <u>Common Table's page</u> of the website. Please note that we are unable to provide receipts for in-kind donations.

Pastoral Care Team Checking In

The Pastoral Care Team and its volunteers have been calling and continue to call, members of the Redeemer Community to check in with them regarding how they are doing during this pandemic. Due to the ongoing isolation and disconnectedness, if you know of anyone who would benefit from a call from our Pastoral Care Team, that has not been receiving a call, please contact Tony Crosbie at tony.crosbie@sympatico.ca.

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.

Future Ministry Updates

For all future announcement or ministry updates, please email <u>twilliams@theredeemer.ca</u> by Wednesday each week for your contribution to be included in the following Sunday bulletin.