



THE  
THIRD  
SUNDAY  
OF  
ADVENT

HOLY  
EUCCHARIST

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11  
2022 AT 9:00 A.M.

The Church of the  
Redeemer:  
162 Bloor St. West,  
Toronto, ON M5S 1M4

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# WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER!

We are in the heart of downtown Toronto, and we gather to celebrate on the traditional lands of the Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinaabe Nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Our beautiful building connects us to the rich heritage of our city while also drawing us deeper into the roots of our Anglican tradition. Just as the streetscape around us has evolved over the years, our members have changed to reflect the growing, vibrant and progressive Christian community found at the Redeemer today. We come from a variety of faith traditions (and sometimes no faith tradition at all), and we like it that way. We are students, workers, retired, homeless, not limited by sexual orientation, gender identity or personal history. We are at the very beginning of our life with Jesus, and we are deeply steeped in a life complicated by faith. We open our doors to worship God and to learn about Jesus, and how all of this might just transform our lives.

If you would like to stay up to date with our news and events, please feel free to subscribe to our eNewsletter by going to [theredeemer.ca/newsletters](https://theredeemer.ca/newsletters).

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**OFFERTORY** — If you would like to make a monetary donation to support the ministry of Church of the Redeemer, we invite you to visit [theredeemer.ca/donate](https://theredeemer.ca/donate) via the QR code above.

Thank you for joining us today.

**Introductory Remarks**

*Moderator*

**Welcome**

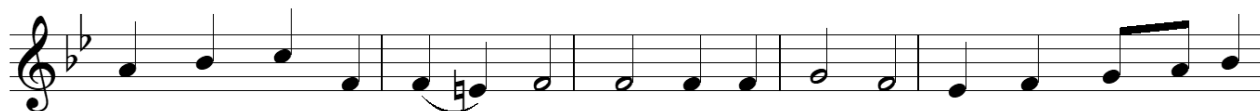
*Susan Haig*

# Opening Hymn: #18 (Common Praise) "O Laughing Light ..."

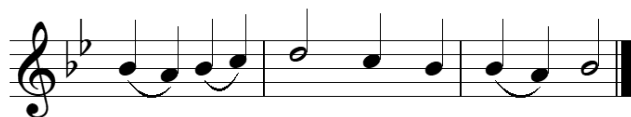
*Redeemer Music Team*



1. O laugh-ing Light, O First-born of cre - a - tion, ra-diance of glo - ry,  
2. Day's light is fra-gile; your light is e - ter - nal. We look to you, our  
3. Light of the world, O Je - sus, you are wor-thy! Giv - er of life and



light from light be - got - ten, God self re - veal-ing, ho - ly, bright, and  
light with - in the shad - ow. We sing to you, Cre - a - tor, Christ, and  
Child of God, we praise you! Hear as the un - i - verse pro-claims your



bless-ed; you shine up - on us.  
Spir - it; you shine be - fore us.  
glo - ry! You shine a - mong us.

Text: *Phos hilaron*, Greek hymn (2007); para. Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993).  
Para. © 1991, GLA Publications, Inc. Music: John R. Van Maanen (1958-) ©.

## Litany

*Karen Turner*

*Leader:* For the darkness of waiting  
of not knowing what is to come  
of staying ready and quiet and attentive,  
we praise you O God.

*All:* **Lord Jesus come soon!**

*Leader:* For the darkness of staying silent  
for the terror of having nothing to say  
and for the greater terror of needing to say nothing,  
we praise you O God:

*All:* **Lord Jesus come soon!**

*Leader:* For the darkness of loving  
in which it is safe to surrender  
to let go our self-protection  
and to stop holding back our desire,  
we praise you O God:

*All:* **Lord Jesus come soon!**

*Leader:* For the darkness of choosing  
when you give us the moment to speak, and act, and change,  
and we cannot know what we have set in motion,  
but we have to take the risk,  
we praise you O God:

*All:* **Lord Jesus come soon!**

*Leader:* For the darkness of hoping  
in a world which longs for you,  
for the wrestling and the labouring of all creation  
for wholeness and justice and freedom,  
we praise you O God:

*All:* **Lord Jesus come soon!**

### **Collect of the Day**

*Susan Haig*

*Priest:* God of glory and compassion,  
at your touch the wilderness blossoms.  
Grant perseverance and patience  
to all who long for your Son's return,  
so that we may announce in word and deed  
the good news of the kingdom.  
We ask this through Christ whose day draws near. **Amen.**

### **Psalm 146.5-10** (*George Black*)

*Redeemer Music Team*



Our God o-pens blind eyes and straigh-tens the bent.

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! Whose hope is in the Most High;

Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; whose promise abides for ever.

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

It is God who sets the prisoners free; **Refrain**

Who opens the eyes of the blind;  
and lifts up those who are bowed down;  
God loves the righteous and cares for the stranger,  
sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.   **Refrain**

The Most High shall reign for ever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.  
Hallelujah!   **Refrain**

**Reading 1:** Isaiah 35.1-10

*Karen Turner*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.  
Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.’  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel  
on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow  
and sighing shall flee away.

**Response 1:** #332 (Gather) “Wait for the Lord”

*Redeemer Music Team*



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.   Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6-7; Taizé Community, 1984. Tune: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994) . © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.

*A moment of silence is observed*

**Reading 2:** “John the Baptist” (*Adapted from York Mystery Plays [no.21:Barbours]*)

*Sylvia Keesmaat*

When I have, in the name of the Baptist,  
The folk in water clear, then have I said that  
After me shall he come that has more power  
Than I to judge; he shall give baptism  
More entire in fire and spirit.  
Thus am I come in message right,  
To be the forerunner in true witness bearing of that light.  
The which shall light in every man that is come into this world.  
My Lord Jesus shall come this day  
From Galilee unto this flood ye Jourdane call.  
I thank him ever, but am a-feared I am not able to fulfil this deed.  
The heavens shall be opened and the Holy Ghost shall down be sent.  
The Father’s voice with great joy be heard full right.  
What needest he, who hath no sin, without within,  
To be baptised like mortal men?  
What rich man goes from door to door  
To beg from him that has nought?  
Lord, thou art rich and I am full poor.  
Thou may bless all, since all thou wrought.  
Now help me, Lord, through godhead, to do this work,  
And save mankind, body and soul, from endless pain.

## Response 2: #370 (Common Praise) “Songs of Praise the Angels Sang”

*Redeemer Music Team*



1. Songs of praise the an - gels sang, heaven with al - le - lu - ias rang
2. Songs of praise a - woke the morn when the Prince of Peace was born;
3. Heaven and earth must pass a - way; songs of praise shall crown that day.
4. And shall Chris-tians fail to sing till on earth Christ come as King?
5. Saints be - low, with heart and voice, still in songs of praise re - joice,
6. Hymns of glo - ry, songs of praise, Fa - ther, un - to you we raise,



when cre - a - tion was be - gun, when God spoke and it was done.  
songs of praise a - rose when he cap - tive led cap - ti - vi - ty.  
God will make new heavens and earth; songs of praise shall hail their birth.  
No, the church de - lights to raise psalms and hymns and songs of praise.  
learn-ing here, by faith and love, songs of praise to sing a - bove.  
Je - sus, Sav-iour, liv - ing Word, with the Spir - it be a - dored.

*A moment of silence is observed*

## Reading 3: “Patience” (Margaret Avison)

*Sylvia Keesmaat*

Still, still, the trees in morning thaw,  
sealed still against steel cold  
and ragged on the windward sides (the conifers)  
let wilted-petal light  
tip-touch every needle, the least twig,  
motionless.

They are prepared  
for onslaught when the obliterating  
blasts sweep in again.

Meanwhile they dwell  
thus, now.

And they are ready  
even for spring, to swell  
sing break spiral shimmer

transform,  
when that becomes the  
inconceivable now.

**Response 3:** "Here Comes the Sun" (*George Harrison*)

*Redeemer Music Team*

Here comes the sun, doo-doo-doo-doo  
Here comes the sun, and I say  
It's alright

Little darlin', it's been a long, cold, lonely winter  
Little darlin', it feels like years since it's been here

Here comes the sun, doo-doo-doo-doo  
Here comes the sun, and I say  
It's alright

Little darlin', the smile's returning to their faces  
Little darlin', it seems like years since it's been here  
Here comes the sun  
Here comes the sun, and I say  
It's alright

Sun, sun, sun, here it comes  
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes  
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes  
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes  
Sun, sun, sun, here it comes

Little darlin', I feel that ice is slowly melting  
Little darlin', it seems like years since it's been clear

Here comes the sun, doo-doo-doo-doo  
Here comes the sun, and I say  
It's alright

Here comes the sun, doo-doo-doo-doo  
Here comes the sun  
It's alright

It's alright

*A moment of silence is observed*



When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.”

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**Homily**

*Ann Jervis*

*A moment of silence is observed*

**The Peace**

*Susan Haig*

*Priest:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

# Offertory Hymn: #100 (Common Praise) "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

Redeemer Music Team



1. Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple; speak ye peace: thus says your God.  
2. Hark! The her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; make the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness bowed be - neath op - pres - sion's load;  
call - ing us to new re - pen - tance since the reign of God is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble as be - fits Mes - si - ah's reign.



speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them:  
Oh, the warn - ing call o - bey! Now pre - pare for Christ a way;  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad,



tell her that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
let the val - leys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's Word is ne - ver bro - ken.

Text: Isaiah 40.1-5; para. Johannes G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: PSALM 42. Melody, 1551; harm. based on Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); rev. Alain Mabit (1953- ). Rev. © 1995 Réveil Publications.

## 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 Giving and Receiving of Communion

*Susan Haig*

*Priest:* Dear friends, I invite you in this moment, wherever you may be,  
to receive Christ, in communion with the saints,  
and the gathering of God's people, unseen and yet present with us now.

*For those of us participating at home, it is a strange experience to be invited to Communion  
– not through the physical bread and wine we can touch and taste –  
but a Spiritual Communion with the God who comes to meet us wherever we are.*

*There are no special words or prayers for this, all the Church has ever thought necessary is genuine true  
desire, lively faith, and genuine love. Come honestly before God the way you know how.  
You may wish to pray quietly this prayer to help you:*

*One:* Lord, you stand at the door of my heart and knock.  
You wait for me and only I can let you in.  
I believe and trust in you and ask you now to fill me with your presence.  
Feed me with your body and unite me in your blood,  
that I may be your blessing to a world in need. 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.**

## Announcements

*Susan Haig*

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

Redeemer Music Team



1. When the King shall come a - gain, all his power re - veal - ing,  
2. In the des - ert, trees take root, fresh from God's cre - a - tion;  
3. Strength - en fee - ble hands and knees; faint - ing hearts, be cheer - ful!  
4. There God's high - way shall be seen where no roar - ing li - on,



splen - dour shall an - nounce his reign, life and joy and heal - ing;  
plants and flowers and sweet - est fruit join the cel - e - bra - tion;  
God, who comes for such as these, seeks and saves the fear - ful.  
noth - ing e - vil or un - clean, walks the road to Zi - on:



earth no long - er in de - cay, hope no more frus - tra - ted,  
riv - ers spring up from the earth, bar - ren lands a - dorn - ing.  
Deaf ears, hear the sil - ent tongues sing a - way their weep - ing;  
ran - somed peo - ple home - ward bound all your prais - es voic - ing,



this is God's re - demp - tion day long - ing - ly a - wait - ed.  
Val - leys, this is your new birth; moun - tains, greet the morn - ing!  
blind eyes, see the life - less ones walk - ing, run - ning, leap - ing!  
see your Lord with glo - ry crowned, share in his re - joic - ing!

Text: Christopher Idle (1938 - ). © 1982 Hope Publishing Co. Music: Melody Piae Cantiones, 1582.

## The Dismissal

Andrew Kuhl

*Priest:* Go forth in hope to serve 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

### Flower Dedication

The chancel flowers are placed to the glory of God and in loving memory of Garth's mother, Kathleen Caldwell, by Susan and Garth Goddard.

### Mask-wearing

The diocese is strongly recommending as much as possible that we all wear a mask when in indoor settings, including our church building.

## Worship and Spirituality

### During the Week

#### Mid-day Prayer

Members of our community gather for 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 are sent out each week through eNews. The order of service is on our website ([theredeemer.ca](http://theredeemer.ca)).

#### Tuesday Meditation

Tuesday Meditation with Lilian Junkin gathers for 30 minutes in the chancel at **12:15 PM** for a peaceful mid-week reflection. Please note this group will not meet on Tuesday, December 27. If you have any other questions, please contact Lilian ([lilian.n.junkin@gmail.com](mailto:lilian.n.junkin@gmail.com)).

#### Prayer on Wednesday

Each Wednesday morning, a simple 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 during the day to read scripture, to reflect and to offer prayers. The order of service for this coming Wednesday will be posted on the website ([theredeemer.ca](http://theredeemer.ca)).

#### Garden Eucharists this Autumn

Our Garden Eucharists at the home of Karen and Michael Visser have continued throughout the autumn. Please join us on this last Saturday afternoon of the year, weather permitting: **Saturday December 31, at 1:00 PM**.

If you have any questions, please be in touch with Susan Haig ([shaig@theredeemer.ca](mailto:shaig@theredeemer.ca)) or Andrew Kuhl ([akuhl@theredeemer.ca](mailto:akuhl@theredeemer.ca)).

#### Blue Christmas Service

Come and join us for a service that offers a safe harbour for the worries, sorrows and broken dreams that can make this season difficult to celebrate. We will gather both in the church and on Zoom on **Tuesday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m.** to pray, lament and praise together.

#### On Sunday

##### Bach Vespers

Bach Vespers will be in-person and live streamed on YouTube at 7 PM on **Sunday, December 18**. It will feature Part III of Bach's Christmas Oratorio with the Redeemer choir and orchestra.

## **Christmas Flowers**

If you would like to contribute towards the flowers and decorations for Christmas, please mark your donation “Christmas Flowers” and include any memorial information you would like mentioned in the Christmas bulletins. The deadline for these dedications is **Friday, December 16**. Any late submissions unfortunately will not be able to be published until after Epiphany as the church is closed over the holidays and all bulletins including Epiphany will be prepared before Christmas.

## **Intercessions**

In the prayers of the people each Sunday, space is left for members of the community to add a name or concern. If you have people or situations that you would like included but are not comfortable giving voice to them, there is a [prayer request form](#) on the website (theredeemer.ca). These will be offered silently by one of the priests during the appropriate petition of the intercessions.

## **In the Community**

### **Zoom Coffee and Conversation**

After the services, the connection on Zoom will be kept open for a post-service coffee time. We will pause for about five minutes to allow time to grab a cup of coffee, tea or a cool beverage and return for a time of conversation.

### **Coffee Time at the Church**

All who attend worship services in the church building are invited to linger for a time of conversation and coffee in the narthex – the space at the back of the church – immediately following the service.

### **Marginalia**

Marginalia – church school for grown-ups and the place where we at Redeemer meet to learn, ponder, and debate the puzzles of the Bible and the Mysteries of Faith – has returned!

**Today** at 9:30 AM in the church: Kingdom Come: Praying the Future with Jesus

Predictive models and pundits try to get us ahead of the future. If the recent past has taught us anything, though, it's that the future will always be uncertain and unknown. What is a follower of Jesus in the winter of 2022—war ongoing, viruses ganging up, inflation rising—supposed to *hope for*? In this year's final Marginalia series we pose that question to the one prayer Jesus taught his disciples, the “Lord's Prayer.” How can Jesus' prayer help us face the future?

Registration is open at [www.theredeemer.ca](http://www.theredeemer.ca). Contact Nate Wall ([nwall@theredeemer.ca](mailto:nwall@theredeemer.ca)) for more information.

### **Scholar-in-Residence**

Last Sunday it was announced that our Scholar-in-Residence, Nate Wall, will be concluding his time with us at the end of December. He will be with us one more time on Sunday, January 29, as the preacher at both the 9 AM and 10:30 AM services when we will have the opportunity to bless Nate and Julia as they continue their journey.

### **Creation Matters**

Creation Matters, Redeemer's ecospirituality group, gathers each month for prayer, discussion and support. Our next meeting is **Wednesday, December 14**, from 2-4pm, via Zoom. If you would like to join us, please contact Grant Jahnke at [creationmatters@theredeemer.ca](mailto:creationmatters@theredeemer.ca).

### **Cookie Bakers Needed**

The welcome that a home-baked cookie conveys just can't be beaten and between Sunday coffee-time and a couple of events with receptions, we would welcome donations of home-made treats. For more information about what is needed and when, please [contact Susan Graham Walker \(sgwalker@theredeemer.ca\)](mailto:sgwalker@theredeemer.ca).

## **I Wonder as I Wander: Walking Together Monday Evenings in Advent**

Redeemer Explorers invites you to join fellow travellers each **Monday in Advent** for a guided evening candlelit walk of 30 to 40 minutes. The walks will begin at 5:30 PM, setting out from and returning to Redeemer. There's the option of heading off together for dinner at a nearby pub afterwards.

Further details and registration links for any or all of the walks are on the website under the “[What’s Happening/Redeemer Explorers](#)” tab.

## **Christmas in the City**

The annual benefit concert in support of The Common Table will be on **Saturday, December 17 at 2 PM.**

The Common Table, Church of the Redeemer's drop-in community provides a safe space for some of our neighbourhood's vulnerable members to enjoy a hot meal, good company and have some of their basic needs met. Join Kevin Breit, Wendell Ferguson, Michelle Rumball, Danny Marks, Fraser/Daley, Greg Wyard, Karen Weigold, Clela Errington, Michael-Robert Broder, The Redeemers and more in this afternoon of music-making to help provide support and care for our community. Tickets are available on [Eventbrite](#).

## **Sunday Brunch for the 20s/30s Group**

Sundays are good days for low-key brunch after church. If you're in your 20s or 30s and you'd like to join a group of us from Redeemer who meet up around the corner at Hemingway's, then put these dates on your calendar: **December 18.** On those days we'll meet at the stone baptismal font near the church entrance after the service before heading out. Reach out to [Nate Wall](mailto:nwall@theredeemer.ca) ([nwall@theredeemer.ca](mailto:nwall@theredeemer.ca)) if you have any questions.

## **Carolling on the Steps**

The tradition of carolling on the front steps continues! Our choir gathers early for their final rehearsal before Christmas to bring the beautiful gift of Christmas carols to our busy street corner. Join them at 6 PM on **Thursday, December 22.**

## **Bishop's Levee**

Please join Bishop Andrew Asbil and the Suffragan Bishops to offer prayers for the New Year on **Sunday, January 1** at St James' Cathedral. Join in person, or tune in online on the [diocesan YouTube channel](#) (<https://www.youtube.com/tordio135>).

Festive music at 3:30 PM and Choral Evensong at 4 PM with presentations of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto and the Installation of the Chancellor, our very own Marg Creal! Please come and celebrate this important moment for Marg!

## **Save the Date – Camino Party**

You're invited to a party hosted by the Spanish pilgrims who would like to share some of their experience with you. It will be on **Sunday January 8 at 12 noon** in the church following the Eucharist. There will be a light lunch, videos with photographs and music of the Way, the telling of stories, and answers to all the Camino questions you may wish to ask. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information coming next week.

## **Book Study Series**

The Indigenous Solidarity Working Group is hosting a book study series, to be capped with a meet-the-authors special event. Perhaps this book would be a great Christmas gift suggestion!

The new book, **Valley of the Birdtail: An Indian Reserve, a White Town and the Road to Reconciliation**, by Douglas Sanderson (Amo Binashii) and Andrew Stobo Sniderman is a heart-rending true story about racism and the journey to reconciliation. ISWG invites you to buy the book — a great read — and then attend a three-part book study. There are two options to participate in the book groups.

The **in-person group** will gather in the church after the 10:30 AM service on **Sundays, January 15, 22 and 29.** [Please register](#)

**A group will meet on Zoom, on Mondays, January 16, 23, and 30, from 7 to 8 PM. Please register**

We are delighted that on **Saturday, February 4, from 1 to 4 PM** Douglas Sanderson (Amo Binashii) and Andrew Stobo Sniderman will join us at Redeemer to talk about the book, answer questions and meet members of Redeemer. Registration for the meet the authors event is available now.

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the impact of the Indian Act and residential schools on Indigenous people and how two communities began the journey of reconciliation together.

### **Christmas Trees that Give Back**

Thirty years ago, First Interfaith Out of the Cold, a program that provides food, shelter, and care to the most marginalized in this city, opened its doors in the Annex. It now operates at St. Matthew's United Church on St. Clair Avenue West and continues to be a vital resource.

Indoor programs were perforce closed in March 2020, but the program pivoted to focus on the exploding crisis of food insecurity. Last season, from November to May FIOOTC provided ~10,000 nutritious lunches and hot dinners, clothing, and PPE kits to mobile street outreach programs (in partnership with Ve'ahavta, The Common Table program at Church of the Redeemer and Seeds of Hope) and to the local community at St. Matthew's. This year that same work continues. FIOOTC is entirely volunteer-run and relies solely on grants and donations. That's where you come in. If you're looking for a beautiful Christmas tree this season, and you'd like your traditional holiday decoration to deliver a positive social impact, consider buying a tree from Sonny's Christmas Trees at the lot at Brunswick and Bloor. Sonny and his family are happy to be back for another season.

As in previous years, they are generously donating a significant portion of their proceeds to the Out of the Cold program. Talk about a win/win tradition!

From **November 26 to December 18**, the lot is located on the patio beside Future's Bistro, 483 Bloor Street and is open daily from 10 AM – 8 PM.

### **Open Doors**

Would you like to join the Open Doors Docent team? Each Wednesday from 12-2 and each Friday from 11-2 we open our doors and in pairs we welcome any who wish to enter to rest or look around. If you would like to be introduced to this ministry or be added to the rota let us know ([office@theredeemer.ca](mailto:office@theredeemer.ca)).

### **The Spirit Garden**

The parishes of the Diocese of Toronto are responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action #82. It calls for the installation of Residential School Monuments in each provincial capital. The **Spirit Garden** at Toronto City Hall will be a place for teaching, learning, sharing and healing, especially for school groups. Please watch Bishop Asbil's call at <https://fb.watch/cCKff5EAbP/> and a 'fly-through' of the project at <https://www.councilfire.ca/spirit-garden.html>.

You can donate here: [toronto.anglican.ca](http://toronto.anglican.ca) & clicking "Spirit Garden". Thank you from your ISWG.

### **An Update from the Refugee Settlement Committee**

As we approach Advent, the season of hopeful expectation, we too are filled with hopeful expectation that Abdikadir and Asho's arrival with their six sons will soon be announced.

Back in 2016, in the midst of the surge of Syrian refugees, Mary Jo Leddy gave this advice: "Pay attention; don't wait until you are ready; do what you can". An MPP in the audience spoke up and said, "I've been waiting to do something, because I didn't think I was ready, and I didn't know what to do. Now I do, so if you're interested in joining me, call my office tomorrow".

Clearly, Redeemerites and their friends are ready and doing what they can to help prepare for the family's arrival. Thanks to your generosity, we have all the clothing, furniture, and supplies that are needed for now, and are putting a pause on requests for more items until the family arrives. A big thank you to all who have contributed.



We are still seeking housing for this large family, so if you hear of any housing possibilities, please contact [Alison Colvin \(acolvin@sympatico.ca\)](mailto:acolvin@sympatico.ca) or [Henry Krol \(henrykrol@yahoo.com\)](mailto:henrykrol@yahoo.com), committee co-chairs.

Settling such a large family in a new country requires funding. You can donate through [Canadahelps.org](http://Canadahelps.org) and the **[Welcome Abdikadir and Family to Canada campaign](https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/118863729RR0001-church-of-the-redeemer/p2p/welcomingAbdikadir/)** page. [Canadahelps.org](http://Canadahelps.org) will provide an immediate tax receipt. (<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/118863729RR0001-church-of-the-redeemer/p2p/welcomingAbdikadir/>)

May your Advent season be filled with hopeful expectation.

### **Children, Youth and Families**

We have resources available in church for children, and all families are invited to participate in worship together. Please find these resources in the back pew on the west side of the church!

Our regular Church School and Youth Group gatherings have returned. Youth group gathers at 9:30 AM and Church School happens during 10:30 service. Children are invited to go downstairs after the collect with our Church School Volunteers for a 30 minute lesson, returning at the Eucharist. If you have children or youth who are school aged, feel free to contact Andrew Kuhl to get on our contact list!

If you are a family with young children interested in programming for young families, please contact Andrew Kuhl ([akuhl@theredeemer.ca](mailto:akuhl@theredeemer.ca)).

### **How Are You Doing?**

Our clergy are available to meet with you to talk and for prayer as is helpful to you. You can contact them through the church office (416-922-4948) or by email (Steven Mackison – [smackison@theredeemer.ca](mailto:smackison@theredeemer.ca), Susan Haig – [shaig@theredeemer.ca](mailto:shaig@theredeemer.ca), Andrew Kuhl [akuhl@theredeemer.ca](mailto:akuhl@theredeemer.ca)).

### **Pastoral Care Calls**

Volunteers from the pastoral care team continue to call members of the Redeemer community to check in with them. Please contact Tony Crosbie ([tony.crosbie@sympatico.ca](mailto:tony.crosbie@sympatico.ca)) if you know someone who would benefit from a call from one of the pastoral care team.

### **Interim Administrator On-Site**

Susan Graham Walker, the Part-time Interim Administrator, is on-site most Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 AM to 12 PM. Please don't hesitate to connect by email ([sgwalker@theredeemer.ca](mailto:sgwalker@theredeemer.ca)) or text (647-215-8814).

## **Advent Resources**

### **Light One Candle**

Bishop Andrew Asbil is offering a series of four Advent reflections for use by parishes and people in the Diocese. "Light One Candle" explores the four themes of the season: hope, peace, joy and love. The videos are available on the diocese's [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/tordio135). (<https://www.youtube.com/tordio135>).

### **Advent Word**

AdventWord is an online Advent calendar that invites a global community to come and pray together. As they note on the [AdventWord website](https://adventword.org/en/home/) (<https://adventword.org/en/home/>):

There are many ways to participate in AdventWord! And all of them are correct!

- Read and pray over the daily emailed meditation during Advent
- Connect and discuss the day's word with other disciples on our social media pages
- Share your own personal meditation to inspire others—whether visual or written. Haikus and poems, paintings, photographs, personal reflections, and more are all encouraged.

## **Deadline for Donation of Securities**

As the calendar year draws to a close, there is still time to remember the Church of the Redeemer in your year-end donations.

If you have the ability to make a gift of Securities, there are some deadlines upcoming. One of the easiest ways to make your donation is through **CanadaHelps** (<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/donate/donate-securities/>). CanadaHelps notes that while they will continue to process donations of securities up until December 30, to best ensure your gift qualifies for a 2022 tax receipt, complete securities donations **before December 16**.

Your generous support of the ministry we share is gratefully received.

### **WORSHIP WITH US**

#### **Tuesday, December 13**

**6 PM** – Blue Christmas – in the Church and on Zoom

#### **Sunday, December 18 (Advent 4)**

**9 AM** - on Zoom

**10:30 AM** - in the Church and through YouTube

**7 PM** – Bach Vespers, featuring Part III of Bach's Christmas Oratorio – in the Church and through YouTube

#### **Saturday, December 24 (Eve of the Nativity)**

**5 PM** – All-Ages Messy Pageant in the Church and through YouTube

**7:30 PM** – Rockin' Christmas Eve – in the Church and through YouTube

**10:30 PM** – in the Church, on Zoom and through YouTube

#### **Sunday, December 25 (The Nativity of the Lord)**

**9 AM** - on Zoom

**10:30 AM** - in the Church and through YouTube