



BLUE CHRISTMAS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022 AT 6 PM

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.

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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 via the QR code above.

Thank you for joining us today.

Psalm of Rescue (*Psalm 17, Jim Cotter paraphrase*)

Reader 1: I love you, O God my strength
My crag, my fortress, and my deliverer,
The rock to which I cling for refuge.
My shield, my saviour, and my stronghold.
I called to you with loud lamentation,
And you sprang the trap which held me fast.

Reader 2: The waves of death swept over my head,
The floods of chaos surged around me.
The cord of the grave tightened around my neck,
The snares of death sprang shut in my path.
In my anguish I called to you, O God:
I cried in desperation for your help.

Reader 1: Your ear was closer to me than I thought:
You heard me from the depths of my heart.
Then did it seem that the earth was quaking:
The foundations of the hills were shaken:
They trembled because of the power of your anger.

Reader 2: Like an eagle you swooped down and took me,
Lifting me from the jaws of the sea.
You delivered me from all that imprisoned me,
From those I thought stronger than I.
They fell upon me in the day of calamity,
Yet you rescued me and led me to safety.
You brought me into a broad place,
You gave me freedom because you delight in me.

Reader 1: Such are the faces of your Love,
Each reflected in the pool of my being.
For you will save a humble people,
And bring down the high looks of the proud.
You light a lamp for my path,
You make my darkness to be bright.
With your help I can meet all that comes,
With the help of my God I can face evil's defences.

Reader 2: O Saviour God, lead us through the taut places of our despair,
That we may emerge into a land broad and free,
Through Jesus Christ crucified and risen.

Hymn: “Warm the Time of Winter”

All Sing

Verses



1. When the wind of win-ter blows, bring - ing times of sol - i - tude,
2. When we shiv - er in des - pair, when the chill of death comes near,
3. When in days of fall - en snow, change con - founds or love burns low,

Refrain



fill the si-lent, ic - y night; be our hearts' com - pas - sion. Ho-ly Light,
hold us, Spir-it, calm our fear, while the eve - ning deep - ens.
from the ash - es may there rise phoe-nix of our grow - ing.



warm our night; warm the time of win-ter. Ho-ly Light, warm our night;



warm the time of win-ter.

Text: Ruth Duck, b.1947, © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.
Tune: Lori True, b.1961, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

Second Reading

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel of Luke.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Luke 1:39-49

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence is observed

Reflection: Dennis Duffy

Musical Interlude – Rhapsody on a theme by Paganini: Variation 18

– *Andante Cantabile* (Sergei Rachmaninoff)

Litany of Remembrance

We invite those joining us by Zoom, to light a candle or two in your home in remembrance of a loved one or to symbolize a loss that you will be grieving this Christmas season.

Priest: We light this candle to remember those persons who have been loved and lost.
We pause to remember their names, their faces, their voices.

A moment of silence is observed

We embrace and give thanks for the memories that bind them to us in this season of expectation, when all Creation waits for the Light.

All: **We remember them with love. May God's eternal love surround them.**

Deacon: We light this second candle to remember the pain of loss: loss of relationships, loss of trust, loss of jobs, loss of health, loss of faith, the loss of joy.

A moment of silence is observed

Deacon: We acknowledge and embrace the pain of the past, O God, and we offer it to You, asking that into our wounded hearts and open hands You will place the gift of peace, shalom.

All: **We remember that through You all things are possible. Refresh, restore, and renew us, O God.**

Priest: We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember the past weeks, months, and for some of us years, that have been heavy with our burdens.

A moment of silence is observed

Priest: We accept and lay before you, God, the sharpness of memory, the sadness and grief, the hurt and fear, the anger and pain. We accept and lay before you the ways we feel we have fallen short, and the times we have spent blaming ourselves, and you, for all that we have suffered.

All: We remember that dawn defeats the darkness.

Deacon: We light this fourth candle to remember faith, the gift of light and hope that God offers to us in the story of Christmas.

A moment of silence is observed

Deacon: We remember that the loving God who came to share this life with us promises us comfort and peace.

All: We remember that the loving God who came to share this life with us promises us comfort and peace. We remember the One who shares our burdens, who shows us the way to the Light, and who journeys the way with us.

You are invited to come forward to light one or more candles to honour what or whom has brought you here this evening.

Song: "Maranatha"

Ma-ra - na - tha, ma-ra - na - tha, come, Lord Je - sus, come. Ma-ra -
Ma-ra - na - tha, ma-ra - na - tha, viens, Jé - sus Christ. Ma-ra -
na - tha, ma-ra - na - tha, come, Lord Je - sus, come.
na - tha, ma-ra - na - tha, viens, Jé - sus Christ.

"Maranatha" is an Aramaic word meaning "Come, Lord." Words: traditional liturgical text; French trans. *More Voices*, 2007. Music: Louise Skibsted. Music © Louise Skibsted. Used by permission

Closing Prayer

Priest: Lord, it is night.
The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.
What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done; let it be.

The night is dark.
Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives
rest in you.

The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.
Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,
new possibilities.

In your name we pray.

All: **Amen.**

The Blessing

Hymn: #119 (Common Praise) “Silent Night”



1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight:
3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light



round you vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,
glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - enly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia,
rad - iant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,



sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ the Sav - iour is born, Christ the Sav - iour is born.
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: Melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863), alt.; harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

You are welcome to linger here in this candlelit space at the conclusion of the service. You are also invited to stay for refreshments and conversation at the back of the church.

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

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.

Garden Eucharists this Autumn

Our Garden Eucharists at the home of Karen and Michael Visser have continued throughout the autumn. Please join us on **Saturday December 31, at 1:00 PM**, weather permitting. If you have any questions, please be in touch with Susan Haig (shaig@theredeemer.ca) or Andrew Kuhl (akuhl@theredeemer.ca).

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.

Sunday Brunch for the 20s/30s Group

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 join us **today and December 18**. We'll meet at the stone baptismal font near the church entrance after the service before heading out. Reach out to Nate Wall (nwall@theredeemer.ca) if you have any questions.

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.

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, Susan Haig – shaig@theredeemer.ca, Andrew Kuhl 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) if you know someone who would benefit from a call from one of the pastoral care team.

WORSHIP WITH US

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

Sunday, January 1 (Epiphany)

9 AM - on Zoom

10:30 AM - in the Church and through YouTube