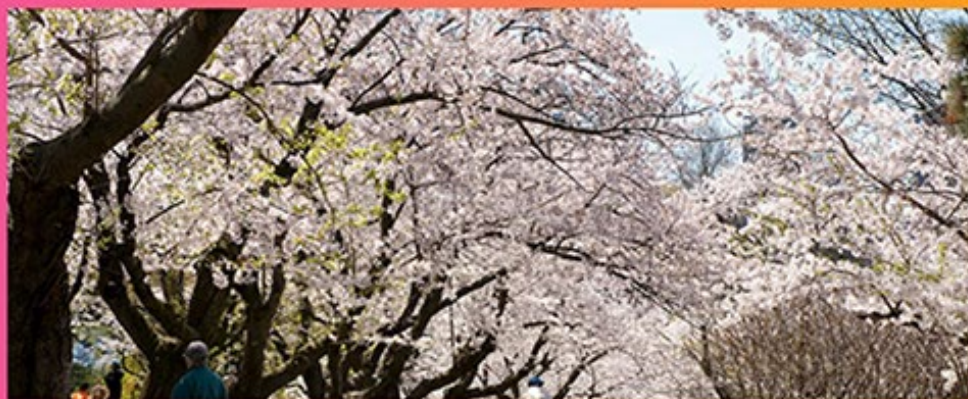


Sunday April 23 at 7:00

# EARTH DAY PRAYERS

CHURCH OF THE  
REDEEMER



An evening service that explores the scripture, music, and poetry inspired by our natural world. Featuring guest choir 'Cantabile Chamber Singers'

# 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.

*Tonight we offer prayers for all things living and non that make up the spirit of our earth.*

*Tonight we rejoice in thanksgiving for the Creator and the created.*

*Please join in the songs and prayers as much or as little as you like.*

## Opening Song:

Musical notation for the opening song, consisting of two staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are: "Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me." The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;

set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

## **Prayers of the people:**

We weep for the air. Help us to stop our reckless burning of fossil fuels. We ask for the strength to sacrifice our luxuries and live more modestly on the Earth.

*A moment of silence is observed.*

Holy God,

**Hear us, and have mercy.**

We weep for the land, the mountains, rocks and soil. Our vision is clouded by our fear of insecurity, driving us to see the earth as a resource to be mined. Remind us that we and the earth are all made of the same dust, and we all belong to you.

*A moment of silence is observed.*

Holy God,

**Hear us, and have mercy.**

We weep for the waters: the poisoned rivers, the oxygen-starved oceans. Help us to remember that clean water, the medium of our baptism, is the source of life and the right of every living being on this planet.

*A moment of silence is observed.*

Holy God,

**Hear us, and have mercy.**

We weep for the sick, the dying, and for those who mourn. ....For all those who are made homeless because of war..... For those who are poor and in need. Help us to find ways to bring healing and consolation.

*A moment of silence is observed.*

Holy God,

**Hear us, and have mercy.**

We give you thanks for the earth, the soil beneath our feet. Help us to feel grounded, to feel the roots of our souls dig deep, so we may again know that we a part of the family of life, and children of our Mother, the Earth.

*A moment of silence is observed.*

Holy God,

**Hear us, and have mercy.**

We give you thanks for the flowers of spring, the greening trees, the fruit and the grains in their due season. Help us to love all that grows—not because it is useful, but because it reflects your glory—and teach us to cherish life in every form.

*A moment of silence is observed.*

Holy God,

**Hear us, and have mercy.**

O God of all creation, may the love of life fill our hearts. May the love of earth bring joy to heaven. May the love of self deepen our souls. May the love of neighbour heal our world. As nations, as peoples, as families this day, may the love of life heal our world.

*Amen.*

*(From Praying for the Earth, by John Philip Newell)*

### **A Reading from the Book of Leviticus**

If you follow my statutes and keep my commandments and observe them faithfully, I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. Your threshing shall overtake the vintage, and the vintage shall overtake the sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and live securely in your land.

And I will grant peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and no one shall make you afraid; I will remove dangerous animals from the land, and no sword shall go through your land.

Leviticus 26.3-6

### **Motet: Petit rocher** *(Matthew Emery)*

Petit rocher de la haute montagne,  
Je veins ici finir cette campagne,  
Ah! Doux échos, Entendez mes soupirs,  
En languissant je vais bientôt mourir.

Petit oiseaux, vos douces harmonies,  
Quand vous chantez, me rattach' à la vie:  
Ah! Si j'avais des ailes comme vous,  
Je s'rais heureux avant qu'il fut deux jours!

C'est donc ici que le mond' m'abandonne!  
Mais j'ai secours en vous, Saveur des hommes!  
Très-Sainte Vierge, Ah! M'abandonnez pas,  
Permettez-moi d'mourir entre vos bras!

*O little rock of the mountain  
I stand on, I venture here my campaign to abandon.  
Ah! Echoes sweet, Give ear unto my sigh,  
Languid with wounds I come here but to die.*

*O Little birds, with your sweet sounds of harmony,  
Bring on your song all my life once again to me.  
Ah! Would that I had only wings like you!  
Happy I'd fly ere another day were due.*

*Here then it is that the world we abandon,  
But I seek aid in the Saviour of mankind,  
Most Holy Virgin! Ah, do not forsake me,  
Let me but die. In your arms I refuge take.*

### **A Reading from the Book of Job and the Book of Psalms**

‘But ask the animals, and they will teach you;  
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;  
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you;  
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

Who among all these does not know  
that the hand of the Lord has done this?  
In his hand is the life of every living thing  
And the breath of every human being.

There move the ships,  
and there is that Leviathan,  
which you have made for the sport of it.

All of them look to you  
to give them their food in due season.

You give it to them; they gather it;  
you open your hand, and they are filled  
with good things.

You hid your face, and they are terrified;  
you take away their breath,  
and they die and return to their dust.

You look at the earth and it trembles;  
you touch the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to you as long as I live;  
I will praise my God while I have my being.  
I will rejoice in you, O God.

Job 12.7-10, Psalm 104.27-30, 33-35b

## Song: We're Bound on a Journey



1. We're bound on a jour-ney a - cross the wide wa-ters; we sail in the  
2. Our sail - ing com - pan - ions are all liv - ing spe - cies, we'd have to make  
3. God gave us a gar - den so care - ful - ly plant - ed its fruits should sus -



dark to a har - bour un - known. The birds and the beasts and all God's sons and  
room if the di - no - saurs came, and nei - ther for them nor for us is it  
tain us for ev - er and aye; Oh! nev - er a - gain will we take it for



daugh - ters, our ship is a plan - et and we are a - lone. Take heart and good  
ea - sy to - ge - ther so cramped in this shake - a - ble frame. Take heart and good  
grant - ed or need - less - ly gam - ble our birth - right a - way! Take heart and good



cheer though the floods are a - ris - ing; we hear the rain fall and we  
cheer you poor pan - ther and bi - son, poor wood - louse, and shrew mouse, tho'  
cheer while the floods are a - ris - ing; we'll join heart and hand on Mount



hear the storm roar, but be - yond are the hands that the whole world re - lies on: our  
tri - als be sore. Our Cap - tain we have to the fur - thest ho - ri - zon, our  
Ar - a - rat's shore. This world is for cher - ish - ing, lov - ing and prais - ing our



Mak - er, Re - deem - er and friend ev - er - more.  
Mak - er, Re - deem - er and friend ev - er - more.  
Mak - er, Re - deem - er and friend ev - er - more.

**Poem: The Sun** (*Mary Oliver*)

Have you ever seen  
anything  
in your life  
more wonderful  
than the way the sun,  
every evening,  
relaxed and easy,  
floats toward the horizon  
and into the clouds or the hills,  
or the ruffled sea,  
and is gone--  
and how it slides again  
out of the blackness,  
every morning,  
on the other side of the world,  
like a red flower  
streaming upward on its heavenly oils,  
say, on a morning in early summer,  
at its perfect imperial distance--  
and have you ever felt for anything  
such wild love--  
do you think there is anywhere, in any language,  
a word billowing enough  
for the pleasure  
that fills you,  
as the sun  
reaches out,  
as it warms you  
as you stand there,  
empty-handed--  
or have you too  
turned from this world--  
or have you too  
gone crazy  
for power,  
for things?



**Motet: Terre Neuve** (*Annick Perrot-Bishop / Marie-Claire Saindon*)

Terre  
éclaboussée du cri d'un soleil  
aux couleurs d'océan  
de roc  
fauve la falaise se brise craquements de glace  
goût frais de neige qui fait trembler la mémoire ensevelie  
se mêle de vent  
s'enroule au sel d'une joie  
Neuve

*Land  
splattered with shrieks of sun  
with colours of ocean and  
rock  
rust-red the cliff splits  
crackling ice  
a fresh taste of shivering snow stirs a shrouded memory  
mingles with the wind  
spirals vibrant with the salt of a joy New found*

**A Reading from the Gospel of Luke**

He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. 'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for

yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Luke 12.22-34

*At this time, you are invited to leave your seats and come forward to the table. Take a seed bomb, dig a shallow hole in the earth, plant the seed bomb, cover it with earth, give thanks.*

*You are also invited to light a candle on the table provided. The large candle represents our collective prayer for peace.*

### **Motet: Les fleurs et les arbres (Camille Saint-Saëns)**

Les fleurs et les arbres,  
Les bronzes, les marbres,  
Les ors, les émaux,  
La mer, les fontaines,  
Les monts et les plaines  
Consolent nos maux.

*The flowers and the trees,  
The bronzes, the marbles,  
The golds, the enamels,  
The sea, the fountains (waterfalls),  
The mountains and the plains  
Console our pain.*

Nature éternelle  
Tu sembles plus belle  
Au sein des douleurs,  
Et l'art nous domine,  
Sa flamme illumine  
Le rire et les pleurs.

*Eternal nature,  
You seem more beautiful  
To a heart in sorrow,  
And art reigns over us,  
Its flame illuminates  
the laughter and tears.*

### **Closing Prayer:**

On Earth Day  
we give thanks for signs of spring  
melting snow or blooming flowers,  
singing robins or flowing streams.

**O Creator, we give You thanks and praise.**

On Earth Day,  
We grieve the state of life and loss on the Earth, deteriorating faster than ever before.  
We confess our selfish actions, taking – using – what we want, not only what we need.  
Not all of our actions have brought You the honour we wish to bring

**O Creator, we confess our sins with humble hearts.**

The Earth cradles us in her sorrow  
You, our Source, grieve with her, Your love for us abiding always.  
In the midst of all our faults and blunders,  
You forgive and love us still.

**O Creator, we rest in the assurance of that love.**

In these years of pandemic we have seen how swiftly humans can adapt  
Give us the eyes to see wisdom in this moment.  
Give us the courage to change our ways forever  
to live responsibly, to advocate boldly,  
to honour and protect what You have created.

**O Creator, with your help, we will change our ways,**

Through the power of the Spirit, with Jesus as our guide.

**Amen.**

**Song:**



We will take what you of-fer, we will live by your word; we will love one a-  
noth-er and be fed by you, Lord. We will take what you of-fer, we will live by your  
word; we will love one a - noth-er and be fed by you Lord.

***Special thanks to the Creation Matters team here at Redeemer, as well as our guest choir; the Cantabile Chamber Singers directed by Cheryll Chung.***

Creation Matters: <https://theredeemer.ca/get-involved/creation-matters-redeemer/>  
Cantabile Chamber Singers: <https://cantabilechambersingers.com/>

***Please stick around for conversation or prayer.***