



IN EARTH'S LIFE WE LIVE



SEASON OF CREATION:
LISTENING TO THE VOICES OF THE LAND
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023 AT 9:00 A.M.

The Church of the Redeemer:
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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.

theredeemer.ca

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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.

Welcome

Moderator

Land Acknowledgment

Steven Mackison

Opening Hymn: #499 (Gather) "Sing Out, Earth and Skies"

Redeemer Music Team



1. Come, O God of all the earth: Come to us, O Right-eous One;
2. Come, O God of wind and flame: Fill the earth with right-eous-ness;
3. Come, O God of flash-ing light: Twin-king star and burn-ing sun;
4. Come, O God of snow and rain: Show-er down up-on the earth;
5. Come, O Jus-tice, Come, O Peace: Come and shape our hearts a-new;



Come, and bring our love to birth: In the glo-ry of your Son.
Teach us all to sing your name: May our lives your love con-fess.
God of day and God of night: In your light we all are one.
Come, O God of joy and pain: God of sor-row, God of mirth.
Come and make op-pres-sion cease: Bring us all to life in you.

Refrain



Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who loves you! Raise your joy-ful cries!



Dance to the life a-round you!

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950. Tune: Sing Out; Marty Haugen, b.1950
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✠ The Gathering of the Community

Steven Mackison

Priest: Blessed be the One who creates all things.

People: **The Holy One's love is new every morning.**

Priest: This is the day the Creator has made.

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

The Collect of the Day

Steven Mackison

Priest: Creator God,
you made the goodness of the land,
and the rhythm of the seasons.

As we thank you for the abundance it yields,
help us to cherish and respect
this planet and its peoples;
through Jesus Christ our Lord
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✠ Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: The First Story of Creation (Parts 1-3)

Karen Turner

Within beginning Eloheme molded
waters above and ground below.
And the earth was helter-skelter;
darkness over the face of Abyss.
And the Breath of Eloheme she
nestled tremulous over wavelets.

Eloheme called out, “Light—be!”
and brilliance bloomed into being.
Eloheme beheld the light created,
and knew that light as goodness.
Eloheme traced the divide across,
between the light and the darkness.
Eloheme called to light: “Be Day!”
and to darkness called: “Be Night!”

Of this evening and of this morning
there now was for the first: Day.

And Eloheme spoke; a Firmness firmed
and came between waters and waters.
Eloheme arched the Firmness
and separated the waters;
The Waters below the Firmness
from the Waters that were Above.
And it was so;
so Eloheme called it: “Heavens!”

Of this evening and of this morning there now was:
Second Day.

And Eloheme spoke: “Assemble! Gather you,
Waters under Heavens, together as one.

And Dry Land! Appear.”

and it was so.

Eloheme called Dry Land: “Earth!”

and the Under Waters: “Seas!”

So Eloheme saw Goodness.

Eloheme spoke: “Earth: Green with Grassy-growth
and bear Forest children and fruiting fruit;

Fruiting of fruit over the Earth,
each in their own image.”

And went forth Greeny-grass on the Earth,

bearing fruitfully offspring of itself;

And went forth Forest on the Earth

bearing fruitfully offspring of itself.

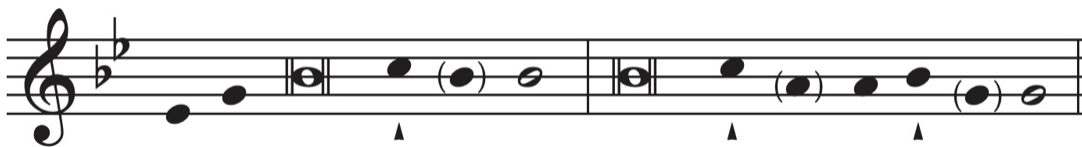
So Eloheme saw Goodness.

Of this evening and of this morning there now was:
Third Day.

A moment of silence is observed

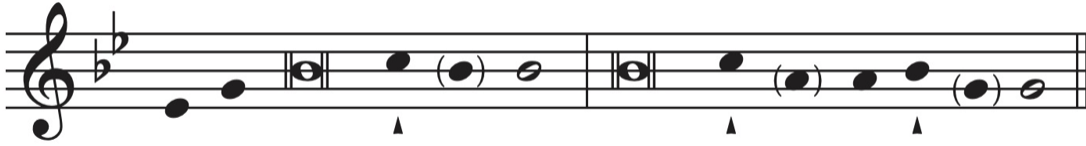
Psalm 107.1-3, 35-38 (*Plainsong*)

Redeemer Music Team



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.**

**You changed the wilderness into pools of water *
and dry land into water springs.**

**You settled the hungry there, *
and they founded a city to dwell in.**

**They sowed fields, and planted vineyards, *
and brought in a fruitful harvest.**

**You blessed them, so that they increased greatly; *
you did not let their herds decrease.**

Second Reading

Karen Turner

Son of the earth, steep yourself in the sea of matter, bathe in its fiery waters, for it is the source of your life and your youthfulness.

You thought you could do without it because the power of thought has been kindled in you? You hoped that the more thoroughly you rejected the tangible, the closer you would be to spirit: that you would be more divine if you lived in the world of pure thought, or at least more angelic if you fled the corporeal? Well, you were like to have perished of hunger.

You must have oil for your limbs, blood for your veins, water for your soul, the world of reality for your intellect: do you not see that the very law of your own nature makes these a necessity for you?

Never, if you work to live and to grow, never will you be able to say to matter, “I have seen enough of you; I have surveyed your mysteries and have taken from them enough food for my thought to last me for ever.” I tell you: even though, like the Sage of sages,

you carried in your memory the image of all beings that people the earth or swim in the seas, still all that knowledge would be as nothing for your soul, for all abstract knowledge is only a faded reality: this is because to understand the world knowledge is not enough, you must see it, touch it, live in its presence and drink the vital heat of existence in the very heart of reality.”

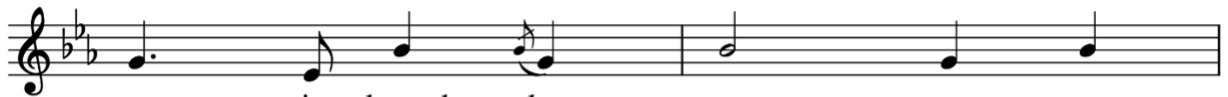
Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Hymn of the Universe (pp.60-61).
A moment of silence is observed

Hymn: #93 (Sing a New Creation) “Lord, Your Hands Have Formed This World”

Redeemer Music Team



1. Lord, your hands have formed this world, ev - ery
 2. Yours the soil that holds the seed, you give
 3. Like a mat you roll out land— space to
 1. *I - meg - moy pi - tak ay yay I - meg*



part is shaped by you— wa - ter
 warmth and mois - ture too— sprout - ing
 build, for us and you, earth - ly
moh a - da - tak - lay, I - meg -



rum - bling o - ver rocks, air and sun - light: each day's
 bloss - oms, crops and buds, trees and plants: the sea - son's
 homes and bet - ter still, homes for Christ: the tru - est
moh a - da - da - nom, Eg - gew tan wa - day e -



signs that you make all things new.
 signs that you make all things new.
 sign that you make all things new.
dom, Ga - yom ni hi - ga - mi.

The Gospel

Paige Souter

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.’ Then they said to him, ‘What must we do to perform the works of God?’ Jesus answered them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.’ So they said to him, ‘What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, “He gave them bread from heaven to eat.”’ Then Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’ Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’

Deacon: The Gospel of Christ.

John 6.26-35

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily: Sylvia Keesmaat

We pause for music and meditation.

Meditation

Redeemer Music Team

Profession of Faith

Steven Mackison

All: **We believe in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.
We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptizes this planet with living water.
We believe in Jesus Christ, the suffering one, the poor one,
the malnourished one, the climate refugee,
who loves and cares for this world
and who suffers with it.**

**And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world
and everything in it.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God
and who moves among and with us today.
We believe in everlasting life in God.
And we believe in the hope that one day
God will put an end to death and all destructive forces. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Anne Gircys

Leader: God our Creator, you called forth the Earth and all living beings and they are good. Open our heart's ear to hear the voices of your creation. To hear their longings and groanings, their joys and pain. May the sacredness of the Earth echo in our souls.

In stillness and silence, we offer our prayers.

Leader: God our Creator,

All: Help us to listen.

Leader: In this Autumn season, the land, the soil, the plants and its creatures begin to prepare for a time of rest. May we hear their cry for healing and may we be bearers of comfort and restoration.

In stillness and silence, we offer our prayers.

Leader: God our Creator,

All: Help us to listen.

Leader: The rippling water and its creatures who call it home sing to us of their beauty, refreshment, and purity. May the soundings of the seas, the gurgling of creeks, the flow of ground water, and the drops of rain help us to remember their sacred nature and may we be bearers of comfort and restoration.

In stillness and silence, we offer our prayers.

Leader: God our Creator,

All: Help us to listen.

Leader: The sky, home of feathered creatures, is painted with brilliant hues of blue and white drawing us into the cosmic life of the universe. May we breathe deeply restoring respect for the air that sustains us and may we be bearers of comfort and restoration.

In stillness and silence, we offer our prayers.

Leader: God our Creator,

All: **Help us to listen.**

Leader: For too long we have been deaf to the cries of the Earth and have not learned to walk gently upon it. For the times we have failed to listen to the voices of creation and the times we have not responded in love, forgive us.

In stillness and silence, we offer our prayers.

Leader: God our Creator,

All: **Have mercy.**

Leader: We have ignored the cries of the human family who bear the greatest burden of environmental destruction and climate change. For the times we have failed to listen to the voices of the poor, the marginalized, and refugees, forgive us.

In stillness and silence, we offer our prayers.

Leader: God our Creator,

All: **Have mercy.**

Leader: God of All Life, through the voices of creation we hear your voice drawing us into your unfolding love. Open us to wonder and awaken us to the dream of the Earth. Teach us to befriend the Earth and our co-creatures. And inspire us to respond in love as we become bearers of comfort and restoration.

All: **Amen.**

The Peace

Steven Mackison

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

People: **And also with you.**

Hymn: #451 (Common Praise) "King of Love, O Christ, We Crown You"

Redeemer Music Team



1. King of love, O Christ, we crown you Lord of thought and Lord of will,
2. King of life, you have cre - a - ted wheat in gold - en har - vest spread.
3. King of mer - cy, you have saved us from the haunt - ing sense of loss,
4. King tri - um - phant, King vic - to - rious, take your throne our hearts with - in,



each de - mand of your high chal - lenge ded - i - cat - ed to ful - fil;
make your ser - vants strong to serve you by the gift of dai - ly bread.
nail - ing in your vast com - pas - sion sin's in - dict - ment to the cross.
lest the might of fierce temp - ta - tion snare us in - to dead - ly sin.



we with you by grace co - work - ers, till, where hu - man foot has trod,
Feed us with your bod - y bro - ken with your blood out - poured sus - tain,
Those who love, by your sore ang - uish, from the past you cleanse and free,
By the Spir - it's rich a - noint - ing, grant us strength life's race to run,



peo - ples, kings, do - min - ions, rac - es, own the em - pire of our God.
that our souls di - vine - ly strenth - ened may the life e - ter - nal gain.
breath - ing words of ab - so - lu - tion throned and reign - ing from the tree.
till the power of sin be van - quished, till the prize of God be won.

Text and music: Charles Venn Pilcher (1879-1961), alt. © F.E.V. Pilcher.

The Lord's Prayer

Steven Mackison

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

Steven Mackison

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: Come Lord Jesus and make in my heart your dwelling place and home.
I seek to love you with all my heart, mind, soul and strength,
and so, through your presence in bread and wine
I receive you afresh and praise you for you are my God.
As you fill me, so may my love for you and for all your people,
rise and overflow, that with joy and thanksgiving,
I may serve you in the world you love. Amen.

The Doxology

Steven Mackison

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

Steven Mackison

Departing Hymn: #477 (Common Praise) “Lamp of Our Feet”

Redeemer Music Team



1. Lamp of our feet, where - by we trace our path when wont to stray;
2. bread of our souls, where - on we feed, true man - na from a - bove;
3. pil - lar of fire, through watch - es dark, or ra - dant cloud by day;
4. word of the ev - er liv - ing God, will of the glo - rious Son;
5. Lord, grant us all a right to learn the wis - dom it im - parts,



stream from the fount of heaven - ly grace, brook by the trav - eller's way;
our guide and chart, where - in we read of God's un - end - ing love;
when waves would whelm our toss - ing bark, our an - chor and our stay;
with - out thee how could earth be trod, or heaven it - self be won?
and to its heaven - ly teach - ing turn with sim - ple, child - like hearts.

Text: Bernard Barton (1784-1849). Music: Gräfenburg (Nun Danket All). Melody Johann Crüger (1598-1662).

The Dismissal

Paige Souter

Deacon: Tend the earth, care for God's good Creation;
as you have received freely, so give freely.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.. Alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

The cover image “*Season of Creation*” is by our own Dawn Lee.

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The Greeting, First Story of Creation, and Dismissal are courtesy of “*Season of Creation: A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes.*” The Profession of Faith is from Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute (a seminary in South India), adapted by Keld B. Hansen, 2009, as provided in “*Listen to the Voice of Creation,*” *Season of Creation Celebration Guide 2022*, 33.)

The Collect is from the Church of England, Collects for Special Occasions.

The Prayers of the People were written by Paige Souter.

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WORSHIP WITH US

SEASON OF CREATION – LISTEN TO THE VOICES OF CREATION

Sunday, October 8 - Voices of the Land

9 AM - on Zoom

10:30 AM - in the Church and through YouTube

Sunday, October 15 - Voices of the Air

9 AM - on Zoom

10:30 AM - in the Church and through YouTube

Sunday, October 22 - Voices of the Sea

9 AM - on Zoom

10:30 AM - in the Church and through YouTube

7 PM – Season of Creation Taizé

Sunday, October 29 - Harvesting the Season of Creation

9 AM - on Zoom

10:30 AM - in the Church and through YouTube

7 PM – Season of Creation Rock Eucharist
Featuring the music of Johnny Cash