



THE  
FIRST  
SUNDAY  
OF  
ADVENT

HOLY  
EUCCHARIST

SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 3, 2023  
AT 9:00 A.M.

The Church  
of the  
Redeemer:  
162 Bloor St. West,  
Toronto, ON  
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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](http://theredeemer.ca/newsletters).

[theredeemer.ca](http://theredeemer.ca)

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**Presider:** Steven Mackison

### Welcome

### Land Acknowledgement

During the season of Advent, we will begin the liturgy in silence. Therefore, all are encouraged to offer this prayer, acknowledging the lands on which we dwell, before the service begins.

We acknowledge with respect that we gather today to celebrate on many traditional lands. We give thanks for those peoples whose lands are home to Redeemer: the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinaabe Nation, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We pray that as we celebrate this Advent, we may help to create those things for which we wait: hope for a truthful tomorrow, a justice-filled peace, the joy of hearts and lives reconciled, and the love which binds us all as one. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

*The community gathers in silence. The Priest rings a bell, then begins with the following Opening Sentences.*

### Opening Sentences

*Steven Mackison*

*Priest:* Among the poor, among the proud,  
among the persecuted,  
among the privileged,

**All: Christ is coming to make all things new.**

*Priest:* In the private house, in the public place,  
in the wedding feast,  
in the judgment hall,

**All: Christ is coming to make all things new.**

*Priest:* With a gentle touch, with an angry word,  
with a clear conscience,  
with burning love,

**All: Christ is coming to make all things new.**

*Priest:* That the Kingdom might come, that the world might believe,  
that the powerful might stumble,  
that the hidden might be revealed,

*All:* **Christ is coming to make all things new.**

*Priest:* Within us, without us, behind us, before us,  
in this place, in every place,  
for this time, for all time,

*All:* **Christ is coming to make all things new.**

**Opening Hymn: #91 (Common Praise) "People, Look East"**

*Redeemer Music Team*



1. Peo - ple, look east! The time is near of the crown - ing of the  
2. Fur - rows, be glad! Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed  
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be  
4. Stars, keep the watch: when night is dim one more light the bowl shall  
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the  
there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in  
filled; e - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for  
brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as  
earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley humm - ing with the



hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look east and sing to - day: Love, the  
course the flower may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look east and sing to - day: Love, the  
fledg - ing time has cho - sen. Peo - ple, look east and sing to - day: Love, the  
sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look east and sing to - day: Love, the  
word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look east and sing to - day: Love, the



guest, is on the way.  
rose, is on the way.  
bird, is on the way.  
star, is on the way.  
Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965). © David Higham Associates, Ltd. Music: Melody French trad.; harm.  
Martin Shaw (1875-1958), alt. Harm. © Oxford University Press.

## The Collect of the Day

Steven Mackison

*Priest:* Almighty God,  
as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin  
to the light of holiness,  
so that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## ✠ Proclamation of the Word

**First Reading:** Isaiah 64.1-9

Murray Bryant

*Reader:* A Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence - as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil -to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

*Reader:* For the Word of God in scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

*One minute of silence is observed*

**Psalm 80:1-7,17-19** (George Black)

Redeemer Music Team

Refrain

Show the light of your coun-ten-ance, and we shall be saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.  
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.  
Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **Refrain**

O God of hosts,  
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?  
You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.   **Refrain**

You have made us the derision of our neighbours,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.  
Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.   **Refrain**

Let your hand be upon your chosen people,  
those you have made so strong for yourself.  
And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.  
Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.   **Refrain**

## **The Gospel**

*Paige Souter*

*Priest:*    The Lord be with you.

*All:*       **And also with you.**

*Priest:*    The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

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

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

*Priest:*    The Gospel of Christ.

Mark 13.24-37

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

**Homily:** Paige Souter

*One minute of silence is observed*

**Meditation and Silent Prayer**

*Steven Mackison*

## Litany:

Anne Gircys

*Leader:* In the silences of life, O God, when feeling is beyond saying,  
your faithful people everywhere wait upon your Spirit. In the silence of joy –  
when a baby is born, when a sunset blazes, when a loved one is restored to health, when peace  
replaces strife –

In our joy, we wait upon you, O God.

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

*Leader:* In the silence of sorrow – when love is lost, when pain is too constant a companion, when time  
brings change that is hard to bear, when death seems victorious –

In our sorrow, we wait upon you, O God.

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

*Leader:* In the silence of anger – when justice is postponed until tomorrow, when violence shatters body and  
soul, when prejudice sets neighbor against neighbor, when no one will listen –

In our anger, we wait upon you, O God.

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

*Leader:* Let us put our trust where it belongs, not in our positions of power or wealth, for such things are  
lighter than breath.

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

*A long silence is observed, please add your own prayers, silently or aloud*

*Leader:* In our joy, our sorrow, our anger, we trust in God's unfailing love and guidance.

**All: We rely upon the blessing of being a community of faith, a church universal. Siblings of many  
colors, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, and abilities, we are one in Christ.  
Together, let us wait upon the God of our salvation. Amen.**

## The Peace

Steven Mackison

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

**People: And also with you.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*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:** O Christ, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.  
I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection.  
I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the  
Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart.  
Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated  
from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. 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.**

## Departing Hymn: #599 (Common Prayer) "Awake! Awake!"

*Redeemer Music Team*



1. A - wake! A - wake! Fling off the night, for God has sent a  
2. A - wake and sing, with prais - es strong, in psalm and hymn and  
3. Let in the light; all sin ex - pose to Christ, whose life no  
4. Then rise as chil - dren of the light. Be nei - ther proud, nor  
5. Through Christ give thanks to God, and say to oth - er sleep - ers



glo - rious light, and we who live in Christ's new day must  
spir - it - song. Let love our words and works re - new with  
dark - ness knows. Be - fore the cross ex - pec - tant kneel, that  
hide from sight. Be care - ful how you live, and wise to  
on the way: "A - wake, and rise up from the dead that



works of dark-ness put a - way.  
all that's good and right and true.  
Christ may judge, and judg-ing, heal.  
sift the truth from cun-ning lies.  
Christ may shine on you in-stead!"

Text: J.R. Peacey (1896-1971). © 1991 Hope Publishing Co.  
Music: James William Elliott (1833-1915).

## The Dismissal

*Paige Souter*

**Priest:** Go forth in hope and serve the Lord. Alleluia!  
**People:** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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## FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

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## WORSHIP WITH US

### CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US

#### Sunday, December 10 (Advent 2)

9 AM - on Zoom

10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist - in the Church and through YouTube

7 PM - Taizé

#### Tuesday, December 12

6 PM - Blue Christmas, a service for those who live with sadness at this time of year  
- in the Church and on Zoom

#### Saturday, December 16

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

#### Sunday, December 17 (Advent 3)

9 AM - on Zoom

10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist - in the Church and through YouTube

7 PM - Bach Vespers Cantata 61 "Nun komm der Heiden Heiland"  
- in the Church and through YouTube

#### Sunday, December 24 (Advent 4)

9 AM - on Zoom

10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist - in the Church and through YouTube

### CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US

#### Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

5 PM - Family Nativity Story & Sung Eucharist

- in the Church and through YouTube

7:30 PM - Rockin' Christmas Eve - Traditional Carols and the Rock Eucharist Band

- in the Church and through YouTube

#### Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

10:30 PM - Carols, Procession & Solemn Sung Eucharist

- in the Church, and through YouTube

#### Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

10:30 AM - Christmas Day Holy Eucharist

- in the Church and through YouTube