



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SPIRITUAL COMMUNION
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023 AT 9:00 A.M.

The Church of the Redeemer:
162 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON M5S 1M4
office@theredeemer.ca • Tel: (416) 922 4948 • www.theredeemer.ca

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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Presider: Paige Souter

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

Paige Souter

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: #770 (Common Praise) "Soon and Very Soon"

Redeemer Music Team



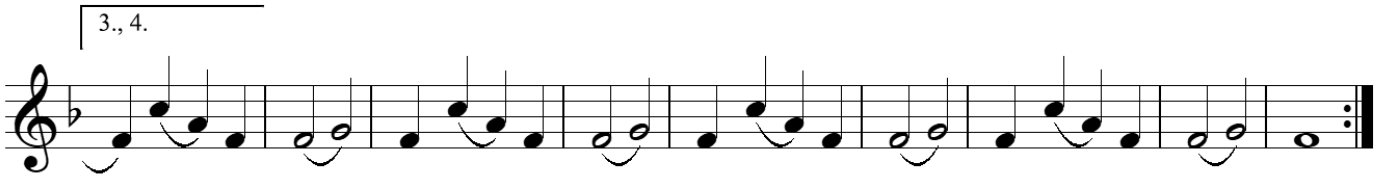
1. Soon and ver-y soon we are goin' to see the King, Soon and ver-y soon we are
2. No more cry-in' there we are goin' to see the King, No more cry-in' there we are
3. No more dy-in' there we are goin' to see the King, No more dy-in' there we are
4. Soon and ver-y soon we are goin' to see the King, Soon and ver-y soon we are



goin' to see the King, Soon and ver-y soon we are goin' to see the King, Hal-le-
goin' to see the King, No more cry-in' there we are goin' to see the King, Hal-le-
goin' to see the King, No more dy-in' there we are goin' to see the King, Hal-le-
goin' to see the King, Soon and ver-y soon we are goin' to see the King, Hal-le-



lu - jah, Hal-le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!



Hal-le - lu - jah, Hal-le - lu - jah, Hal-le - lu - jah, Hal-le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch. Tune: Andraé Crouch © 1976, Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music/ASCAP

The Collect of the Day

Paige Souter

Priest: God of timeless grace,
you fill us with joyful expectation.
Make us ready for the message that prepares the way,
so that with uprightness of heart and holy joy
we may eagerly await the coming of Christ,
who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

✠ Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 40.1-11

Henry Krol

Reader: A Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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 85:1-2, 8-13

Redeemer Music Team



YOU HÄVE been gracious to your land, O God, *
you have restored the good for- / tune of Jäcöb.

You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted / out all thëir sïns.

You speak, O God and I will listen, *
for your words are peace to your faithful people
and to those who / turn their hëarts to yöu.

Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, *
that your glory may / dwell in öur länd.

Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have / kissed each öthër.

Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look / down from hëavën.

God shall indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will / yield its incrëase.

Righteousness shall go before you, *
and peace shall be a / pathway för your fëet.

The Gospel

Steven Mackison

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.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Priest: The Gospel of Christ.

Mark 1.1-8

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

Homily: Bill Ryan

One minute of silence is observed

Meditation and Silent Prayer

Paige Souter

Litany:

Christina Chang

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

Paige Souter

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

Paige Souter

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

Paige Souter

Priest: Glory to God,

All: **whose power working in us
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.**

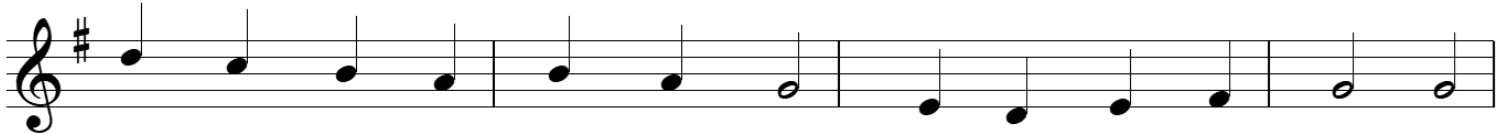
**Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus
for ever and ever. Amen.**



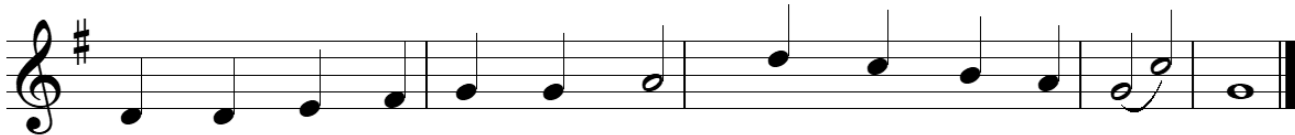
1. When the King shall come a - gain, all his power re - veal - ing,
 2. In the des - ert, trees take root, fresh from God's cre - a - tion;
 3. Strength - en fee - ble hands and knees; faint - ing hearts, be cheer - ful!
 4. There God's high - way shall be seen where no roar - ing li - on,



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

Steven Mackison

Priest: Go forth in peace and serve the Lord. Alleluia!

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

FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

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WORSHIP WITH US

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US

Sunday, December 10 (Advent 2)

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

Monday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

10:30 AM - Christmas Day Holy Eucharist

- in the Church and through YouTube