



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SPIRITUAL COMMUNION
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023, AT 9:00 A.M.

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.

theredeemer.ca

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Presider: Paige Souter

*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.*

Land Acknowledgement

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,

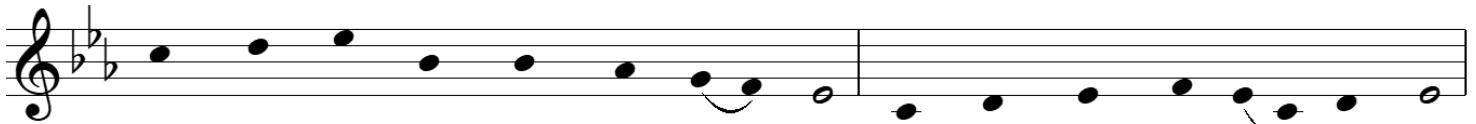
All: **Christ is coming to make all things new.**

Opening Hymn: #132 (Common Praise) "Of Eternal Love Begotten"

Redeemer Music Team



1. Of e - ter - nal Love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan to be,
2. At his Word the worlds were fram - ed. He com - mand - ed, it was done:
3. O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin, full of grace,
4. This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with one ac - cord,
5. O ye heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his prais - es sing;
6. Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,



he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the source, the end - ing he,
heaven and earth and depths of o - cean in their three - fold or - der one;
by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bare the Sav - iour of our race;
whom the voic - es of the proph - ets prom - ised in their faith - ful word;
all do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, and ex - tol our God and king;
hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing, and un - wear - ied prais - es be:



of the things that are and have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
all that grows be - neath the shin - ing of the moon and burn - ing sun,
and the babe, the world's re - deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord,
Let no tongue on earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in con - cert ring,
hon - our, glo - ry, and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-413?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866),
alt. Music: Melody plainsong, Mode 8 (12th cent.?) adapt. Piae Cantiones, 1582;
harm. Healey Willan (1880-1968). Harm. © Estate of Healey Willan.

The Collect of the Day

Paige Souter

Priest: O God of Elizabeth and Mary,
you visited your servants with news
of the world's redemption
in the coming of the Saviour.
Make our hearts leap with joy
and fill our mouths with songs of praise,
so that we may announce glad tidings of peace
and welcome your Christ into our midst. **Amen.**

✠ Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16

Heather Bennett

Reader: A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel.

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

Canticle: "Daughter of God"

Redeemer Music Team

1. O God, whose all - re - deem - ing love Crowns
2. In joy - ful praise our songs as - cend, For
3. A - mong the blest, in rad - iant peace, Yet
4. Once, she had known temp - ta - tion sharp, The
6. As - sist us in our stumb - ling walk And

ev - ery saint in light, On this your ser - vant's
this most lov - ing grace: Your daugh - ter stands a -
still a ser - vant true, Her strength and beau - ty
doubts that shake the mind, Yet la - boured still in
aid each hum - ble vow, For you are speak - ing

fes - tal day, We sing with heart's de - light.
mong the blest, With - in the heaven - ly place.
per - fec - ted, Her vi - sion ev - er new.
love and prayer E - ter - nal life to find.
through your saints In ag - es past, and now.

Sr. Thelma-Anne, Sr. Rosemary Ann, SSJD. Used by permission.

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 Luke.

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour

with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Priest: The Gospel of Christ.

Luke 1.26-38

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

Homily: Sylvia Keesmaat

One minute of silence is observed

Meditation and Silent Prayer

Paige Souter

Litany:

Henry Krol

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

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:

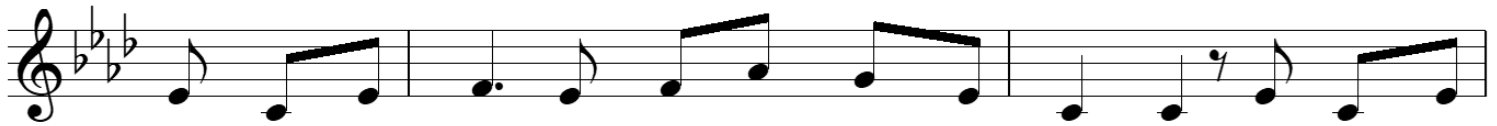
One: O Christ, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come 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. O an - cient love, pro - cess - ing through the a - ges; O hid - den
 2. O home-less love, that dwells a - mong the stran - ger; O low - ly
 3. O gen - tle love, ca - ress - ing those in sor - row; O ten - der
 4. O suf - fer - ing love, that bears our hu - man weak - ness; O bound - less



love, re - vealed in hu - man form; O prom - ised love, the dream of seers and
 love, that knows the might - y's scorn; O hun - gry love, that lay with - in the
 love, that com - forts those for - lorn; O hope - ful love, that prom - is - es to
 love, that ris - es with the morn; O might - y love, con - cealed in in - fant



sa - ges; O liv - ing Love, with - in our hearts be born; O liv - ing
 man - ger; O liv - ing Love, with - in our hearts be born; O liv - ing
 mor - row; O liv - ing Love, with - in our hearts be born; O liv - ing
 meek - ness; O liv - ing Love, with - in our hearts be born; O liv - ing



Love, with - in our hearts be borne.
 Love, with - in our hearts be borne.
 Love, with - in our hearts be borne.
 Love, with - in our hearts be borne.

Text and music: Michael Joncas, 1994. © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Dismissal

Steven Mackison

Priest: Go forth in love 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 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

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

Sunday, December 31 (Feast of the Epiphany)

9:00 AM – Spiritual Communion (on Zoom only)

10:30 AM – Holy Eucharist (in the Church and through YouTube)

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)