



**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD:
SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 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.

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President: Paige Souter

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

Opening Hymn: #128 (Common Praise) “The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy”

Redeemer Music Team



1. The Vir - gin Ma - ry had a ba-by boy, the
2. The an - gels sang when the ba-by was born, the
3. The wise men went where the ba-by was born, the



Vir - gin Ma - ry had a ba - by boy, the
an - gels sang when the ba - by was born, the
wise men went where the ba - by was born, the



Vir - gin Ma ry had a ba - by boy, and they
an - gels sang when the ba - by was born, and pro -
wise men went where the ba - by was born, and they



Refrain

say that his name was Je - sus. He come from the glo - ry,
claim him the Sav - iour Je - sus.
say that his name was Je - sus.

he come from the glo - rious king - dom. He come from the glo - ry,
 he come from the glo - rious king - dom. O yes, be - liev - er! O
 yes, be - liev - er! He come from the glo - ry, he come from the
 glo - rious king - dom!

Text and music: West Indian carol; adapt. Edric Conner, *Collection of West Indian Spirituals*, 1945; arr. John Barnard (1948-). Text and music © 1945 Boosey & Co., Ltd., copyright reserved. Used by permission of Boosey & Hawkes, Inc.

✠ The Gathering of the Community

Paige Souter

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 and the love of God,
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
 be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

The Collect of the Day

Paige Souter

Priest: Eternal God,
 who by a star led wise men to the worship of your Son.
 Guide by your light the nations of the earth,
 that the whole world may know your glory;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

✠ Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Heather Bennett

Reader: A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

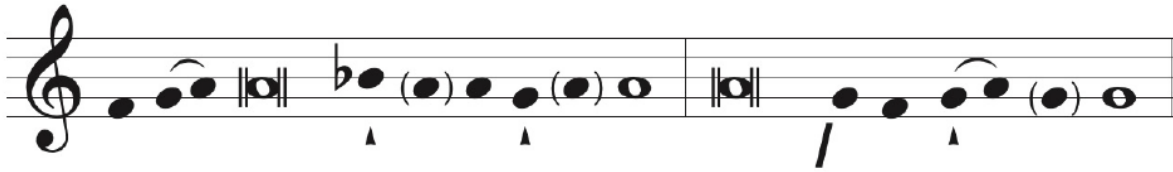
A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Isaiah 60.1-6

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence is observed



GIVE THĒ king your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the king's son;

That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice.

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.

He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water thē earth.

In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall bē no more.

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the kings of Arabia and / Saba offer gifts.

All kings shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations / do him service.

For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *
and the oppressed who / has no helper.

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives / of the needy.

He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood / be in hīs sight.

Second Reading:

Heather Bennett

Reader: A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles -for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.


Reader: The word of the Lord.

Ephesians 3.1-12

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence is observed

Sequence Hymn: #147 (Common Praise) "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" *Redeemer Music Team*



3. Come, dear-est child, in - to our hearts, and leave your crib be-hind you! Let
this be where the new life starts for all who seek and find you. To
you the hon-our, thanks and praise, for all your gifts this time of grace; come,
con-quer and de - liv-er this world, and us, for- ev-er.

Text: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000). © 1989 Hope Publishing Co. Music: Melody Johann Schop (1595?-1667?); harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

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 Matthew.

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where

the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Priest: The Gospel of Christ.

Matthew 2.1-12

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

Homily: Margaret Rodrigues

The Nicene Creed

Paige Souter

Priest: Let us confess our faith as we say,

All: **We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Murray Bryant

Leader: Father of glory,
your Son has brought the light of life
to those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.
Grant to your Church throughout the world
boldness to share that good news with all people.

A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over the chat box.

Leader: Lord our God:

All: **Lead us to light and life.**

Leader: Lord of the nations,
remember in your kindness all those entrusted with earthly government.
We pray that the leaders of the nations may find peace.
Give them wisdom to exercise their authority
for the good of those they serve.
Inspire us to discern and to be faithful to your will
for all that you have created.

A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over the chat box.

Leader: Lord our God:

All: **Lead us to light and life.**

Leader: All-compassionate One,
in your never-failing mercy
receive the pleas of all who are in need.
Remember the imprisoned, those persecuted for the faith,
the home-bound, the hospitalized, the lonely and the suffering.

A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over the chat box.

Leader: Shine on them, Lord, the comfort of your Word,
and relieve them of all that brings them pain and sorrow.

Leader: Lord our God:

All: Lead us to light and life.

Leader: Giver of life everlasting,
we pray for those who are dying,
and those whom you have welcomed home.
Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.
And let light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory.
Meet those they love in the midst of their grief
and hold them in your embrace.

A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over the chat box.

Leader: Lord our God:

All: Lead us to light and life.

Leader: Gracious God,
by light you led the magi to behold your incarnate Son.
May your light lead us to discover your presence
in the world and in our lives.

A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over the chat box.

Leader: Gracious God,
accept these prayers for the sake of the Babe of Bethlehem,
your Son, Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end.

All: Amen.

The Peace

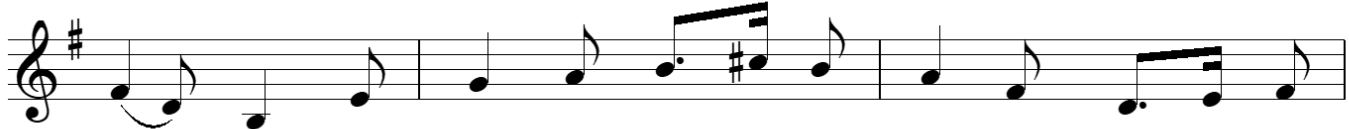
Paige Souter

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

People: And also with you.



1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar-y's lap is
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold and myrrh, Come peas-ant, king to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for sin - ners here The
 own him; The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, Let



shep- herds watch are keep - ing?
 si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;



Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mar-y.

Text: William C. Dix (1827-1898). Tune: English melody, 16th C.; harm. by John Stainer, 1840-1901).

The Lord's Prayer

Paige Souter

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: Lord, you stand at the door of my heart and knock.
You wait for me and only I can let you in.
I believe and trust in you and ask you now to fill me with your presence.
Feed me with your body and unite me in your blood,
that I may be your blessing to a world in need. 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.**

Departing Hymn: #154 (Common Praise) “Joy to the World!”

Redeemer Music Team



1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive the King; let
2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - iour reigns: let us glad songs em - ploy, while
3. No more let wrongs and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground; he
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove the



ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and heaven and na - ture
fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains re - peat the sound - ing
comes to make his bless - ings flow far as our sin is
glo - ries of his right - eous - ness and won - ders of his



sing, and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as our sin is found, far as, far as our sin is found.
love, and won - ders of his love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Priest: Followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit,
serve the world God loves. Alleluia!

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

FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

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WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday January 7 (Baptism of the Lord)

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

7:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)

Sunday January 14 (Second Sunday after Epiphany)

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

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

7:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)