



ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS EVE
HOLY EUCHARIST
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023, AT 7:30 P.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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Why Christmas? Why do we gather to sing familiar carols and hear words from scripture? Why do we come forward to receive a morsel of bread and a sip of wine or a blessing? Why this moment? Sometimes we don't know what brings each of us here, now. Sometimes it is a fleeting feeling and others it is something deeply moving. Words like joy, hope, peace help to name those experiences; Words like longing, belonging, seeking to hold those feelings. Why Christmas? Because in this moment, God invites us to draw near. To see the babe born so long ago and born anew for us this night. God invites us to see Love. Love fragile and new and yet Love strong and as old as the ages. Come. Draw near. Love – Jesus – is here. For you.

May this Christmas night be a blessing to you.

Welcome to the Church of the Redeemer bulletin margin notes, where you will find a brief commentary and explanation of the liturgy as it unfolds, and making it more meaningful for all.

Presider: Paige Souter

Prelude

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

Entrance Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come, ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

O come let us adore him,

O come let us adore him,

O come let us adore him,

Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten not created;
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,

Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exhultation Sing, all ye citizens of heaven agove; Glory to God in the highest O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle, Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear; We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given, Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Text: St. 1, 2, 3 and 5, John Francis Wade (1711-1786); st. 4, Étienne-Jean-François Borderies, 1822; st. 1, 2, 3 and 5, tr. Frederick Oakley (1802-1880); st. 4, tr. William T. Brooke (1848-1917).

Music: ADESTE FIDELES. Melody attrib. John Francis Wade (1711-1786), alt.

¥ The Gathering of the Community

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.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria, Alleluia!

The Collect of the Day

Priest: Almighty God,

as we prepare with joy

to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,

embrace the earth with your glory

and be for us a living hope

in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pronounced "CALL-ect". The collect of the day is the prayer we say together that unites us in worship and praise. It focuses on the theme of the day and "collects" the meaning behind the readings and offers them in prayer.

God works wonders. The prophecy of Isaiah points to a future kingdom in which the oppressed are liberated. While the text was originally interpreted to refer to Hezekiah then Josiah, in the Christian tradition, we interpret this text as the coming of the messianic king, Jesus.

¥ Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Please be seated

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

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader: The word of the Lord. Isaiah 9.2-7

All: Thanks be to God.

A moment of silence is observed

Carol: "Silent Night"

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night Shepherds quake at the sight Glories stream from heave afar Heavenly hosts sing alleluia Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: Melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863), alt.; harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

Second Reading:

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

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader: The word of the Lord. Titus 2.11-14

All: Thanks be to God.

A moment of silence is observed

Grace is an ever-acting communication of love. The writer of Titus describes
Jesus as
God's gift of grace to the world. Having received this gift, do we live a grace-based life?

Sequence Song: "Wonderful Christmastime" (Paul McCartney)

The mood is right
The spirits up
We're here tonight
And that's enough
Simply having a wonderful Christmastime
Simply having a wonderful Christmastime

The party's on
The feeling's here
That only comes
This time of year
Simply having a wonderful Christmastime
Simply having a wonderful Christmastime

The choir of children sing their song Ding dong, ding dong We're simply having a wonderful Christmastime Simply having a wonderful Christmastime

The word is out
About the town
So lift a glass
Oh and don't look down
Simply having a wonderful Christmastime

The choir of children sing their song They practiced all year long Ding dong, ding dong

The party's on The spirits up We're here tonight And that's enough

Simply having a wonderful Christmastime Simply having a wonderful Christmastime

The mood is right
The spirits up
We're here tonight
Oh and that's enough
We're simply having a wonderful Christmastime

We turn and face the Gospel as it is processed to the midst of the gathered community.

We do this as a sign of respect and to symbolize that

its message is at the centre of our lives and its truth is always before our eyes.

The Sequence Song (from the Latin sequentiae, "following") is a song that is sung after the second reading and before the reading of the Gospel.

The Gospel

Priest: The Lord be with you. And also with you. All:

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ. All:

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Priest: The Gospel of Christ. Luke 2.1-20

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily: Paige Souter

One minute of silence is observed

All:

Litany of the Incarnation:

Please rise

Leader: In joy and humility let us pray to the Creator of the universe, saying Lord, grant us

peace. Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace. All:

By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord. Leader:

Lord, grant us peace. All:

This form of prayer is called a litany. It begins with our requests. The person leading the prayers asks for God's aid then the community responds with a common refrain, which will be sung throughout Advent. At the end of the Litany there is a long silence so that we may offer the cares and concerns that are on our hearts.

This is a love

story. A story

of God's love for creation. A

mother's love

for her son. A

story of our

love for God.

story of a

Leader: By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord.

All: Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and

maji, hear us, O Lord.

All: Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph

of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord.

All: Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O

Lord.

All: Lord, grant us peace.

Leader: Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom

of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord.

All: Lord, grant us peace.

The Peace

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

People: And also with you.

Please support the ministries of Church of the Redeemer



Or place your gift in the offering plate as it is passed

Your support allows us to be witnesses to God's love on our corner of Bloor and Avenue Road—now, and in the future.

Thank you for joining us today.

Offertory Hymn: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

All sing

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

When Jesus appeared to his disciples after the resurrection, his first words to them were "Peace be with you." We share the peace with our neighbour as a sign that we are reconciled with one another and with God. You can share the peace through a nod, a handshake, or by raising your hand in the peace symbol.

The offering is our opportunity to worship God by giving back out of the abundance from which we have received. It is not obligatory, but the opportunity is there for all who wish to express their love to God through the giving of monetary gifts.

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb:

veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity, pleased as one of us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

Text: Charles Wesley (1701-1788), alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847); adapt. William Hayman cummings (1831-1915); altern. Harm. David Willcocks (1919-2015).

Altern. Harm. © 1961 Oxford University Press.

★ The Holy Eucharist

Prayer Over the Gifts

Priest: Source of light and gladness,

accept all we offer on this joyful feast.

May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours;

for he is Lord now and for ever. Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer tonight was written by Andrew Asbil for Church of the Redeemer.

The Great Thanksgiving

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Priest: Truly it is right to praise you, Holy God,

wonderful and beyond all knowing. You are glorious in splendour and light. In your goodness and loving-kindness,

you breathed your word of love and all creation sprang forth:

All He is born!

Priest: Giver of life, and lover of all things, you formed us in your own image, placing us

in the garden of your delight, and giving the whole world into our care.

All: He is born!

Priest: When we turned from you in folly and in pride, you would not leave us. In every

generation your wisdom entered into holy people, making them your friends,

prophets and witnesses to your love, heralds of your reign of justice and mercy.

All: He is born!

Priest: And so with all the angels and saints of every time and place, we join our voices to

proclaim the glory of your name.

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Priest: Holy One, in the fullness of time you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in

the womb of his mother Mary. Dwelling among us as a servant, he revealed your glory. He fasted to learn your will, and feasted with sinners. Holding out his hands of mercy to all in need, he called all the fallen to join in your great feast. On the night before he gave his life for us Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it and gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat, this is my

body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Priest: In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks. He gave it to his friends, saying, "Drink this all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which

is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do

this for the remembrance of me."

All: He is born!

Priest: Send forth your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be for us the body and

blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ. As we share this holy sacrament, so renew us by your Spirit that we may live as Christ's Body for the love of the world. Bless what is broken, bring healing to the sick, and freedom to the oppressed. Make us swift

and faithful to serve you.

All: He is born!

Priest: Gather your people from the ends of the earth together with the ever-blessed

Virgin Mary, with prophets, apostles, martyrs and all your saints to feast at the table of your kingdom. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity

of the Holy Spirit, all honour, glory, and praise are yours, now and forever.

All: He is born!

Jesus' life lived for and on behalf of others inspires us to see our own lives as a gift to be shared; and the resurrection affirms the counterintuitive wisdom that it is in letting go of what we are afraid to lose that we are transformed and made new.

When asked by his disciples how to pray, Jesus gave them these simple words ...

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 Breaking of the Bread

Priest: We break the bread of life,

and that life is the light of the world.

All: God here among us,

light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

Priest: The gifts of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Fraction Carol: "What Child is This?"

All sing

What child is this, who, laid to rest,

On Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,

While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the king,

Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:

Haste, haste to bring him laud,

The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate,

Where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear: for sinners here

The silent Word is pleading.

This, this is Christ the king,

Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:

Haste, haste to bring him laud,

The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,

Come, peasant, king to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings;

Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

This, this is Christ the king,

Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:

Haste, haste to bring him laud,

The babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: Melody English trad.; arr. Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871, alt.

The Fraction
Song (from the
Latin "fractio"
meaning "to
break") is a
song sung
during the
Eucharist
when the
priest breaks
the
consecrated

bread.

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: 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 Communion



All in the church are invited to come forward to receive communion. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please indicate this to the priest.

If you would like to receive a blessing rather than communion, please cross your arms as shown in the picture and the clergy will be pleased to offer you a blessing.

Communion Hymn: "O Holy Night" (Adolphe Adam/John Sullivan Dwight)

All sing

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth; Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn; Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born. O night, O holy night, O night divine.

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming;
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand:
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from Orient land,
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend;
He knows our need, To our weakness no stranger!
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King! your King! before him bend!

Sharing bread and wine is the enactment of a two thousand year old ritual instituted by Jesus through which we are reminded of these core elements of our spiritual tradition: a radically open table to which all people are invited and welcomed reminds us to be more open ourselves; Jesus' life lived for and on behalf of others inspires us to see our own lives as a gift to be shared; and the resurrection affirms the counterintuitive wisdom that it is in letting go of what we are afraid to lose that we are transformed and made new.

Eucharist is a Greek word that means "thanksgiving." It is a sacramental act of worship. A sacrament is "an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace." This means that Jesus is somehow present to us in this ritual act, not by "magic," but through the mystery of God's revealing himself in a unique way when we partake of this sacred meal of bread and wine.

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is Love and His gospel is Peace;
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
And in his name all oppression shall cease,
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful Chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise his Holy name!
Christ is the Lord, then ever! ever praise we!
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory, evermore proclaim!

Song: "Someday at Christmas" (Stevie Wonder)

Someday at Christmas men won't be boys Playing with bombs like kids play with toys One warm December our hearts will see A world where men are free

Someday at Christmas there'll be no wars When we have learned what Christmas is for When we have found what life's really worth There'll be peace on earth

Someday all our dreams will come to be Someday in a world where men are free Maybe not in time for you and me But someday at Christmastime

Someday at Christmas we'll see a land With no hungry children, no empty hand One happy morning people will share Our world where people care

Someday at Christmas there'll be no tears When all men are equal and no man has fears One shining moment one prayer away From our world today

Someday all our dreams will come to be Someday in a world where men are free Maybe not in time for you and me But someday at Christmastime

Someday at Christmas man will not fail Hate will be gone and love will prevail Someday a new world that we can start With hope in every heart

Prayer after Communion

Priest: Father of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take

our human nature. May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Doxology

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.

Concluding Hymn: "Joy to the World"

All sing

Joy to the world! The Lord is come Let Earth receive the King Let every heart prepare him room And heaven and nature sing And heaven and nature sing And heaven and heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns Let us glad songs employ While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy Repeat the sounding joy Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love And wonders of His love And wonders, wonders, of His love

No more let wrongs and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground He comes to make his blessings flow Far as our sin is found Far as our sin is found Far as, far as our sin is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove The glories of his righteousness And wonders of his love, And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love,

Text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: Melody George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. William Holford, Voce de Melodia, 1835; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

The Dismissal

Priest: Go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

prayer is called the "Doxology", which comes from the Greek word "doxalogia" meaning "words of glory." This expression of praise proclaims that worshipping God together has made a difference in our lives.

This closing

In the dismissal we affirm that we are now strengthened and nurtured to be sent out into the many circumstances of our lives to be agents of God's grace.

FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

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WORSHIP WITH US

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US

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)