



## THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024, 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 <https://theredeemer.ca/post-17524>.

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

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If you would like to support the ministry of this parish with a financial gift, scan the QR code to go to our online donation page. We thank you for your generosity.

**Presider:** Paige Souter

**Welcome**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Opening Hymn:** #577 (Gather) "Come My Way"

*Redeemer Music Team*



1. Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a way as gives us breath; Such a  
2. Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: Such a light as shows a feast; Such a  
3. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: Such a joy as none can move; Such a



truth as ends all strife; Such a life as kill - eth death.  
feast as mends in length; Such a strength as makes his guest.  
love as none can part; Such a heart as joys in love.

Text: George Herbert (1593-1632). Tune: THE CALL; Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), © Stainer and Bell Publications.

**The Easter Greeting**

*Paige Souter*

**Priest:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**People:** **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**Priest:** May his grace and peace be with you.

**All:** **May he fill our hearts with joy.**

## The Collect of the Day

Paige Souter

*Priest:* Holy God,  
send your promised Spirit of revelation and wisdom,  
so that, in the blessed freedom of hope,  
we may witness to the grace of forgiveness  
and sing with joy to the One who makes us one. **Amen.**

## ✠ Proclamation of the Word

### First Reading:

Heather Bennett

*Reader:* A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

Acts 1:1-11

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

*A moment of silence is observed*

### Psalm 47 (George Black)

Redeemer Music Team

#### Refrain

God has gone up with a shout.

Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with a cry of joy.  
For the Most High is to be feared;  
the Ruler of all the earth. **Refrain**

Who subdues the people under us,  
and the nations under our feet.  
Who chooses our inheritance for us,  
the pride of Jacob beloved of God. **Refrain**

God has gone up with a shout,  
the Most High with the sound of the ram's-horn.  
Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our Sovereign sing praises. **Refrain**

For God rules over all the earth;  
sing praises with all your skill.  
God reigns over the nations;  
God sits upon the highest throne. **Refrain**

The nobles of the peoples have gathered together  
with the people of the God of Abraham.  
The rulers of the earth belong to God,  
to the One who is highly exalted. **Refrain**

**Second Reading:**

*Heather Bennett*

*Reader:* A Reading from Paul to the Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Ephesians 1:15-23

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*A moment of silence is observed*

**Sequence Song:** "Live Forever" (*Billy Joe Shaver / Eddie Shaver*)

*Redeemer Music Team*

I'm gonna live forever, I'm gonna cross that river  
I'm gonna catch tomorrow now  
You're gonna wanna hold me, just like I always told ya  
You're gonna miss me when I'm gone

Nobody here will ever find me  
But I will always be around  
Just like the songs I leave behind me  
I'm gonna live forever now

You fathers and you mothers, be good to one another  
Please try to raise your children right  
Don't let the darkness take 'em, don't make 'em feel forsaken  
Just lead 'em safely to the light

When this old world is blown asunder  
And all the stars fall from the sky  
Remember someone really loves you  
We'll live forever you and I

I'm gonna live forever, I'm gonna cross that river  
I'm gonna catch tomorrow now

## 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.**

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

*Priest:* The Gospel of Christ.

Luke 24:44-53

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

**Homily:** Steven Mackison

*A moment of silence is observed.*

## Prayers of the People

*Sylvia Keesmaat*

*Leader:* On this day of the Ascension of Christ, let us pray with amazement, wonder, awe, astonishment. Joining Christ who intercedes for all the world before God, let us offer our prayers to God.

O God, we stand amazed; for Christ ascended from the earth in order to be everywhere at once. We are in awe; for in leaving, Jesus has not left us alone. We thank you, O God, for the life of your Son. Turn our eyes continually to see, to gaze with wonder at your miraculous ways.

*Leader:* O God of wonder,

*All:* **Let our prayers rise up.**

*Leader:* Turn the eyes of your people to see signs of Jesus everywhere. Show us where he is working for freedom, peace, and justice.

*Leader:* O God of wonder,

*All:* **Let our prayers rise up.**

*Leader:* Turn the eyes of your church to see the places in which Christ dwells with those who are marginalized, victims of violence and war, and experiencing poverty, housing and food insecurity. Help us to see the body of Christ, wounded and yet bright with the light of the Spirit.

*Leader:* O God of wonder,

*All:* **Let our prayers rise up.**

*Leader:* Turn the eyes of the leaders of nations to envision a new world in which peace and harmony reign. Turn the eyes of all in power to see the oppressed and the needy. For all who live by your inner sight, we give thanks.

*Leader:* O God of wonder,

*All:* **Let our prayers rise up.**

*Leader:* Turn the eyes of all gathered here to see beyond this place. Help us to look toward our glorified Lord, and then to look back anew.

*Leader:* O God of wonder,

*All:* **Let our prayers rise up.**

*We pause for one minute at this time to offer our prayers aloud or silently.*

*Leader:* O God, keep us in the spirit of amazement. Keep us believing when we cannot see; keep us hoping while we wait; keep us looking for your presence. Fix our eyes on the glorious one who ascended to intercede, who will come in greatest glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Peace

*Steven Mackison*

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

*People:* **And also with you.**

## Offertory Hymn: #456 (Gather) "Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

*Redeemer Music Team*



1. Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and  
2. Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -  
3. Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,  
4. Lord, you show us love's true meas - ure: "Fa - ther, what they  
5. Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the Church ne - glect its mis - sion,  
tize and teach." That the world may trust your pro - mise,  
this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,  
do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate treas - ure  
to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



And the Gos - pel go un - heard, Help us wit - ness  
 Life a - bun - dant meant for each, Give us all new  
 Dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, Ask - ing that the  
 All that you so free - ly give. May your care and  
 May we serve as you in - tend, And, a - mid the



to your pur - pose With re - newed in - teg - ri - ty: With the  
 fer - vour, draw us Clos - er in com - mun - i - ty:  
 world a - round us Share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:  
 mer - cy lead us To a just so - ci - e - ty:  
 cares that claim us, Hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:



Spir - it's gifts em - power us For the work of min - is - try.

Text: Jeffrey Rowthorn, b.1934, © 1978. Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH. Cyril V. Taylor (1907-1991), © 1942, 1970, Hope Publishing Co.

## 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, lived 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.**

### Announcements

### Departing Hymn: #245 (Common Praise) "O Lord Most High, Eternal King"

*Redeemer Music Team*



1. O Lord most high, e - ter - nal king by thee re-  
 2. As - cend - ing to the sap - phire throne, thou claim'st the  
 3. Be thou our joy, O migh - ty Lord, as thou wilt  
 4. O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to



deemed thy praise we sing. The bonds of death are burst by thee, and  
 king - dom as thine own; and an - gels won - der when they see how  
 be our great re - ward; let all our glo - ry be in thee both  
 thee let earth ac - cord, who art, while end - less a - ges run, with



grace has won the vic-to-ry.  
 changed is our hu-man-i-ty.  
 now and through e-ter-ni-ty.  
 Fa-ther and with Spir-it, one. Al-le-lu-ia!

Text: Latin (Aeternae Rex altissime, 10<sup>th</sup> cent?); st. 1-3, tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), and others; rev. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), alt.; st. 4, tr. attrib. Laurence Housman (1865-1959). St. 1-3 rev. © 1982 The Church Pension Fund. Music: Percy Carter Buck (1871-1947). © Oxford University Press.



*Priest:* Let us go in peace to love and serve God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

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**FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN**

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**WORSHIP WITH US**

**EASTERTIDE**

**Sunday May 12 (Ascension)**

**7:00 PM** – Be Still (in the Church and through YouTube)  
(Church is open from 6:30 PM)

**8:00 PM** – Compline (on Zoom only)

**Sunday May 19 (Pentecost)**

**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)