



IN EARTH'S LIFE WE LIVE



**SEASON OF CREATION – SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 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>.

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**President:** Paige Souter



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**Welcome**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Opening Hymn:** #422 (Common Praise) “God, Who Touchest Earth with Beauty”

*Redeemer Music Team*



1. God, who touch - est earth with beau - ty, make my heart a - new; with thy
2. Like thy springs and run - ning wa - ters, make me crys - tal pure; like thy
3. Like thy danc - ing waves in sun - light, make me glad and free; like the
4. Like the arch - ing of the heav - ens, lift my thoughts a - bove; turn my
5. God, who touch - est earth with beau - ty, make my heart a - new; keep me



Spir - it re - cre - ate me, pure and strong and true.  
rocks of tow - ering gran - deur, make me strong and sure.  
straight - ness of the pine trees, let me up - right be.  
dreams to no - ble ac - tion, min - is - tries of love.  
ev - er by thy Spir - it, pure and strong and true.

## ✠ The Gathering of the Community

Paige Souter

**Priest:** Let God hear the voice of beloved Creation  
of people and trees of birds beasts and fish.  
Let life breathe out praise from the heights to the depths

**All:** **Praise God: Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer.**

### Preamble

Paige Souter

### Prayers of the People

Catherine Emerson

**Leader:** We call upon the Earth, our beloved home, with its beautiful depths and soaring heights, its vitality and abundance of life



Teach us and show us the way

**Leader:** We call upon the waters that bring life to the earth, that fall upon our gardens and fields, that flow in the rivers and streams of the watersheds of the Humber and Don rivers, that fill the Great Lakes and flow to the oceans.

**All:** **Teach us, and show us the way.**

**Leader:** We call upon the forests and rocks of the Canadian Shield, the great trees reaching strongly to the sky with earth in their roots and the heavens in their branches, the pine and the maple and the silver birch.

**All:** **Teach us, and show us the way.**

**Leader:** We call upon the creatures of the fields and forests and lakes, our brothers and sisters the chipmunks and squirrels, the foxes and the deer, the hawks and red-winged blackbirds, the bass and the trout, who share our beautiful home.

**All:** **Teach us, and show us the way.**

**Leader:** We call upon the land which grows our food, the nurturing soil the fertile fields, the abundant gardens and orchards.

**All:** **Teach us, and show us the way.**

**Leader:** We call, with thanksgiving, upon all those who have lived on this earth, our ancestors and our friends, who dreamed the best for future generations, and upon whose lives our lives are built.

**All:** **Teach us, and show us the way.**

**Leader:** We call upon all that we hold most sacred, the presence and power of the Holy Spirit of love and truth which flows through all the universe to be with us.

**All:** **Teach us, and show us the way.**

*All are invited to pray silently or aloud during this long moment of pause*

**Priest:** Creator of the fruitful earth, you made us stewards of all things. Give us grateful hearts for all your goodness, and steadfast wills to use your bounty well, that the whole human family, today and in generations to come, may with us give thanks for the riches of your creation. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

## ✠ Proclamation of the Word

### First Reading:

Abigail Young

Reader: A Reading from *The Dream of the Earth* by Thomas Berry.

We are returning to our native place after a long absence, meeting once again with our kin in the earth community. For too long we have been away somewhere, entranced with our industrial world of wires and wheels, concrete and steel, and our unending highways, where we race back and forth in continual frenzy.

The world life, of spontaneity, the world of dawn and sunset and glittering stars in the dark night heavens, the world of wind and rain, of meadow flowers and flowing streams, of hickory and oak and maple and spruce pineland forests, the world of desert sand and prairie grasses, and within all this the eagle and the hawk, the mockingbird and chickadee, the deer and the world and the bear, the coyote, the raccoon, the whale and the seal, and the salmon returning upstream to spawn – all this, the wilderness world recently rediscovered with heightened emotional sensitivity, is an experience . . . of the entire human community at the moment of reconciliation with the divine after the long period of alienation and human wandering away from the true center.

Something of this feeling of intimacy we now experience as we recover our presence within the earth community. This is something more than working out a viable economy, something more than ecology, more even than Deep Ecology, is able to express. This is a sense of presence.

### Psalm 15 (George Black)

Redeemer Music Team

**Refrain**



The just shall dwell on your ho - ly mount - tain.

O God, who may dwell in your tabernacle?  
who may abide upon your holy hill?  
All those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,  
and speak truth from their hearts. **Refrain**

There is no guile upon their tongues; they do no evil to their friends;  
they do not heap contempt upon their neighbours.  
In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honour those who fear God.  
They have sworn to do no wrong they do not take back their words. **Refrain**

They do not give their money in hope of gain,  
nor do they take bribes against the innocent.  
Whoever does these things  
shall never be overthrown. **Refrain**

*A moment of silence is observed.*

**Second Reading:**

*Abigail Young*

*Reader:* A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Romans 8:19-25

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

*A moment of silence is observed*

**Sequence Hymn: #386 (Gather) "Hosea"**

*Redeemer Music Team*



1. Come back to me with all your heart.  
Trees do bend, 'though straight and tall;  
2. The wil - der - ness will lead you  
In - teg - ri - ty and jus - tice,  
3. You shall sleep se - cure with peace;



Don't let fear keep us a - part.  
so must we to oth - ers' call.  
to your heart where I will speak.  
With ten - der - ness, you shall know.  
faith - ful - ness will be your joy. *(To refrain)*

**Refrain**



Long have I wait - ed for your com - ing home to me and

D.C.



liv - ing deep - ly our new life.

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

*Priest:* War Club Tells the Good Story of Creator Sets Free.

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

The Separated Ones (Pharisees) and some of the scroll keepers had come from Village of Peace (Jerusalem). Like hungry wolves they gather around Creator Sets Free (Jesus). They noticed that some of his followers had not ceremonially washed their hands before eating the food.

The Separated Ones (Pharisees) and many of the tribal people will not eat until they ceremonially wash their hands, following the traditions of the elders. They will not eat the food offered at the trading posts unless it is first purified by washing.

They also follow many other traditions, such as the washing of drinking cups, bowls, and even the benches they sit on.

So the Separated Ones (Pharisees) and the scroll keepers asked him, “Why do your followers not walk in the traditions of the elders and ceremonially wash their hands before eating?”

“Your false faces do not fool me,” he answered back, “The prophet Creator Will Help Us (Isaiah) was talking about you when he said in the Sacred Teachings: ‘These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far away from me. Their prayers are empty words and their ceremonies are for show. Their teachings are nothing but rules made up by weak human beings.’” Then he said to them, “You ignore the instructions given by the Great Spirit and use your traditions to make yourselves look good to others.’

Creator Sets Free (Jesus) then gathered the people around him and said, “Listen with your hearts and understand what I tell you. There is nothing you can take into your mouth that will make you impure. It is what comes out of your mouth that makes you impure.”

“From people’s bad hearts and broken ways come worthless plans, sexual impurity, stealing, killing, unfaithfulness in marriage, greed, evil doings, forked tongues, uncontrolled desires, selfish ways, speaking evil of others, boastful talk, and foolish ways. It is things like this that make a person impure, not failing to wash one’s hands.”

*Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.)*

*So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, ‘Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?’ He said to them, ‘Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,*

*“This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.” You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.’*

*Then he called the crowd again and said to them, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.’ For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.’*

*Priest:* The Gospel of Christ.  
*All:* Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 7.1-8,14-15,21-23  
*A moment of silence is observed.*

**Homily:** Paige Souter

*A moment of silence is observed.*

### Affirmation of Faith

*Paige Souter*

*Priest:* Together we say  
*All:* We have faith in one God, one Source of all life,  
one Ground of the whole Earth, who created all things good.  
And we have faith  
in Christ, in whom we have been shown the special role of humanity to bear  
God's likeness in working and caring for Creation,  
in seeking to understand her mysteries and powers,  
in working with these powers for the wellbeing of life on Earth.  
And we have faith  
in God's Spirit who leads us to a meek, unselfish and compassionate lifestyle.  
So that the Earth is inherited in peace,  
her life is transformed for all creatures and her bounty shared justly. Amen.

### The Peace

*Paige Souter*

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

### Offertory Hymn: #409 (Common Praise) "Before the Earth Had Yet Begun"

*Redeemer Music Team*



1. Be - fore the earth had yet be - gun its jour - ney round the burn - ing  
2. In that bright dawn - ing of the world, ere o - cean surged or wind un -  
3. Thus when cre - a - tion's God did take the clay of earth our form to  
4. For us who would this God at - tend, no earth - ly mind can com - pre -



sun, be - fore a seed of life had stirred, there sound - ed  
furl'd, the vaults of heaven with prais - es rang; the morn - ing  
make, God willed that to our race be - long the gifts of  
hend e - ter - nal glo - ry; praise a - lone is our com -



God's cre - a - ting Word.  
stars to - geth - er sang.  
mu - sic, word, and song.  
pan - ion by that throne.

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## 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:* 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.

**Song:** "Tit for Tat" (*Benjamin Britten / Walter De la Mare*)

*Redeemer Music Team*

Have you been catching of fish, Tom Noddy?  
Have you snared a weeping hare?  
Have you whistled "No Nunny" and gunned a poor bunny,  
Or blinded a bird of the air?

Have you trod like a murderer through the green woods,  
Through the dewy deep dingles and glooms,  
While every small creature screamed shrill to Dame Nature  
"He comes - and he comes!"?

Wonder I very much do, Tom Noddy,  
If ever, when you are a-roam,  
An Ogre from space will stoop a lean face,  
And lug you home:

Lug you home over his fence, Tom Noddy,  
Of thorn-sticks nine yards high,  
With your bent knees strung round his old iron gun  
And your head a dan-dangling by:



And hang you up stiff on a hook, Tom Noddy,  
From a stone-cold pantry shelf,  
Whence your eyes will glare in an empty stare,  
Till you're cooked yourself!

### **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**

**Concluding Hymn: "Sowing the Seeds of Love"** (*Roland Orzabal, Curt Smith*)

*Redeemer Music Team*

High time we made a stand  
And shook up the views of the common man  
And the love train rides from coast to coast  
DJ's the man we love the most  
Could you be, could you be squeaky clean  
And smash any hope of democracy?  
As the headline says you're free to choose  
There's egg on your face and mud on your shoes  
One of these days they're gonna call it the blues, yeah, yeah

### **Sowing the seeds of love, seeds of love**

I spy tears in their eyes  
They look to the skies for some kind of divine intervention  
Food goes to waste  
So nice to eat, so nice to taste  
Politician granny with your high ideals  
Have you no idea how the majority feels?  
So without love and a promised land  
We're fools to the rules of a government plan  
Kick out the style, bring back the jam

### **Sowing the seeds of love, seeds of love**

Sowing the seeds  
The birds and the bees  
My girlfriend and me  
In love  
Feel the pain, talk about it  
If you're a worried man, then shout about it  
Open hearts, feel about it  
Open minds, think about it  
Everyone, read about it  
Everyone, scream about it  
Everyone, yeah, yeah  
Everyone read about it, read about it  
Read it in the books, in the crannies and the nooks, there are books to read for us

**Sowing the seeds of love, seeds of love**

Time to eat all your words  
Swallow your pride  
Open your eyes  
Time to eat all your words  
Swallow your pride  
Open your eyes

High time we made a stand  
Time to eat all your words  
And shook up the views of the common man  
Swallow your pride  
And the love train rides from coast to coast  
Open your eyes  
Every minute of every hour  
I love a sunflower  
Open your eyes  
And I believe in love power  
Open your eyes  
Love power

**Sowing the seeds of love, seeds of love**

An end to need  
And the politics of greed  
With love

**Sowing the seeds of love, seeds of love**

**The Dismissal**

*Paige Souter*

*Priest:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!

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

## FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

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The Gathering of the Community from the Ecocongregation of Scotland. Prayers of the People from the Chinook Psalter (adapted).

First reading by Thomas Berry. The Dream of the Earth. Sierra Club Books, San Francisco. 1988. P. 1.

New Testament readings are from Terry M. Wildman, First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament.

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## WORSHIP WITH US

### Sunday September 8 (Season of Creation 1)

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)

### Sunday September 15 (Season of Creation 2)

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

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

7:00 PM – Taize Among the Beings (in the Church and through YouTube)

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)



**Sunday**  
*at*  
**Seven**  
Rock  
Bach  
and More

**September**

- 15 Taizé Among the Beings
- 22 Rock Eucharist:  
*featuring the music of David Bowie*
- 29 Bach Vespers:  
*BWV 149 for St. Michael & All Angels*  
*~ Man singet mit Freuden vom Sieg*