



IN EARTH'S LIFE WE LIVE



SEASON OF CREATION – SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024, 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 <https://theredeemer.ca/post-17524>.

theredeemer.ca

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President: Steven Mackison



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.

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

Opening Hymn: #419 (Common Praise) "Let All Creation Bless our God"

Redeemer Music Team



1. Let all cre - a - tion bless our God, till heaven with praise is
2. All liv - ing things up - on this earth, green fer - tile hills and
3. Let all the peo - ple ev - ery - where, lift up a hymn of



ring - ing. Sun, moon, and stars, peal out a chord, stir
moun - tains, sing to the God who gave you birth; be
glo - ry; all you who know God's stead - fast care, tell



up the an - gels' sing - ing. Sing, wind and rain! Sing, snow and sleet! Make
joy - ful, springs and foun - tains. Lithe wa - ter - life, bright air - borne birds, wild
out sal - va - tion's sto - ry. No tongue be si - lent; sing your part you



mu - sic, day, night, cold, and heat: ex - alt the God who made you.
rov - ing beasts, tame flocks and herds: ex - alt the God who made you.
hum - ble souls and meek of heart; ex - alt the God who made you.

✠ The Gathering of the Community

Steven Mackison

Priest: Blessed be the One who creates all things.

All: **The Holy One's love is new every morning.**

The Redeemer Music Team sings the refrain

All: **Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.**

Cantor: No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,
no hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,
no touch but yours to bind the broken hope of the people of God.
Through every gift, give back to those in need:
as Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,
with every gift a benediction, be to the people of God.

All: **Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work, to serve with the joy of compassion.**

Collect of the Day

Priest: Lord God,
Giver and sustainer of life,
You call us to responsibility and to care for your creation:
Help us to respond to your call to be keepers and healers of the Earth
Through Jesus Christ the Redeemer. **Amen.**

✠ Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Catherine Emerson

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

‘Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Isaiah 35:4-7

A moment of silence is observed



HALLELUJAH! How good it is to sing praises to you, our God! *
how pleasant it is to / honour you with praise!

**You heal the brokenhearted *
 and / bind up their wounds.**

You count the number of the stars *
 and call them / all by their names.

**How great you are, O God, how mighty in power! *
 There is no limit / to your wisdom.**

You lift up the lowly, *
 but cast the / wicked to the ground.

**Let us sing to the Most High with thanksgiving, *
 make music to our / God upon the harp.**

You cover the heavens with clouds *
 and prepare / rain for the earth;

**You make grass to grow upon the mountains *
 and green / plants to serve us all.**

You provide food for flocks and herds *
 and for the young /ravens when they cry.

**You are not impressed by the might of a horse; *
 you have no plea- / sure in human strength.**

A moment of silence is observed.

Second Reading: “Stone Mother” (*Tanaya Winder*)

Catherine Emerson

I was born in the desert
 learned to cherish water
 like it was created from tears.
 I grew up hearing the legend, the lesson
 of the Stone Mother who cried
 enough cries to make an entire lake
 from sadness. From her, we learned
 what must be done and that the sacrifices
 you make for your people are sacred.
 We are all related
 and sometimes it takes
 a revolution to be awakened.
 You see, the power of a single tear lies in the story.

It's birthed from feeling and following
the pain as it echoes into the canyon of grieving.
It's the path you stumble and walk
until you push and claw your way through to acceptance.
For us, stories have always been for lessons.

I remember my grandmother was well versed in dirt,
the way the earth clung to her hands as if it were a part of her.
We come from the earth. So she tended the seeds
as living beings, planted her garden full of foods
traditional to the land and handled them with care.
Every tree, plant, or rock has a spirit, she said "hear it."

I listen.
When my mother says words are seeds and to be careful
of the words you say, I pray. For I know each seed
carries a story.

My mother taught me that water is the source
of all living things and to honor life like the circle
we sit in for ceremony. From the doorway in
to the doorway out, life is about all our relations.

Before I was born, they tried to silence us,
pierced our tongues with needles then taught
our then-girl-grandmothers how to sew like machines.
You see, colonialism has always been
about them not seeing us as human but as object,
a thing. Conquest meant they saw our bodies as land,
full of resources waiting to be extracted and exploited.
Our land was stolen.

Our language. Our grandmothers, grandfathers, fathers, sisters, mothers, brothers, daughters,
sons, children, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and ancestors.
Our Mother Earth holds our histories in her dirt.
But today, she burns not in the traditional ways once taught,
controlled and deliberate. Today she burns desperate,
for all to resist fossil fuels, the drilling, and the black snake named
greed that swallows everything.

When you lose something, you hope it will be found.
When something is stolen, you want it returned.
We've had our land stolen and we're losing it again
unless we all take action for the climate to change.

Stand with us as accomplices.
Follow our lead for we have always been well versed in survival.)
We were shaped by fire, made from lightning and
dirt-covered hands that know when to ignite healing.
Now is the time. Let us not drown in Mother Earth's tears.
Mother Earth has a spirit and she's asking us to listen.

A moment of silence is observed



1. When we must bear per - sis - tent pain and suf - fer
2. Sup - port us as we learn new ways to care for
3. We thank you for the bet - ter days when we may
4. In ease or pain, in life and death, to you our



with no cure in sight, come, Ho - ly Pres - ence, breathe your
bod - ies new - ly frail. Help us en - dure, and live and
smile to greet the sun, to do your work with clear - ing
frag - ile lives be - long, and so we trust you in all



peace with gifts of warmth and heal - ing light.
love. Hear our com - plaint when pa - tience fails.
mind, and bless your name when day is done.
things. You are our hope, our health, our song.

Text: Ruth Duck, 2004. © 2005 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: PROSPECT. William Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. David N. Johnson, 1968. Harm. © 1968 Augsburg Fortress.

The Gospel

Paige Souter

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.**

From there Creator Sets free (Jesus) journeyed into the territory of Rock Land (Tyre) and Hunting Grounds (Sidon). He wanted to keep away from the crowds, so he found a house to stay out of sight but was unable to stay hidden.

A women came to him who had a daughter with an unclean spirit in her. As soon as she heard about Creator Sets free (Jesus), she came and humbled herself before him. She was an Outsider from the territory along the coastline of the Great Middle Sea (Mediterranean). She begged Creator Sets Free (Jesus) to force the evil spirit out of her daughter.

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,

but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

“The children should be fed first,” he said. “It is not right to take the children’s portion and throw it to the dogs.”

“But Wisdomkeeper,” she answered back, “even the dogs under the table can eat the children’s crumbs.”

“Because your words are well chosen,” he replied, “You may return home. You will find that the evil spirit has left your daughter.”

The woman went home and found her daughter resting on her sleeping mat – the evil spirit had left her.

From the territory of Rock Land (Tyre) Creator Sets Free (Jesus) went through Hunting Grounds (Sidon) to the Lake of Circle of Nations (Sea of Galilee) in the territory of the Ten Villages (Decapolis).

The people who lived there brought a man who could not hear or speak right. They begged Creator Sets Free (Jesus) to lay his hands on him. So he took the man away from the crowd. When he was alone with him, he put his fingers into the man’s ears, and then spit and touched the man’s tongue. He then looked up into the spirit-world above, let out a deep breath, and said in his native language, “Ephphatha!” which means, “Be opened.”

Right then the man’s ears were opened and his tongue was released. He could now hear and speak clearly! Creator Sets Free (Jesus) then instructed the people to tell no one. But the more he told them not to, the more they told the story to others. The people were amazed beyond belief and full of wonder.

“He does all things well!” they told everyone. “He even heals the ones who cannot hear or speak!”

Priest: The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily: The Rev. Dr. Christopher C. Brittain

A moment of silence is observed.

He said to her, ‘Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.’

But she answered him, ‘Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.’

Then he said to her, ‘For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.’

So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, ‘Ephphatha’, that is, ‘Be opened.’

And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.

They were astounded beyond measure, saying, ‘He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.’

Luke 12.22-32

A moment of silence is observed.

Prayers of the People

Henry Krol

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

All: **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

The Priest offers a closing prayer.

The Peace

Steven Mackison

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

People: **And also with you.**



1. We are the for - est of ten thou - sand seeds____
 We are the wa - ters each small drop of rain____
 2. We are the wind filled song that sounds of joy____
 We are the sun fired passion - ate love of life____
 3. Our heal - ing love, our hands reach out and touch____
 Hold true this tough spun web as hard times come____

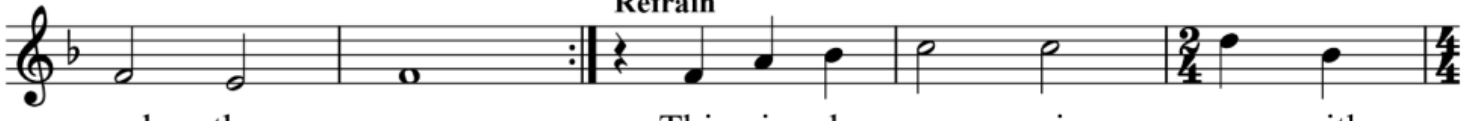


— in shades of green that hold the sun.____ With min - gled
 — life - spawn - ing ponds and stream filled sea.____ We run the
 — and cries from dun - geons cast a - way.____ The deep sung
 — the burn - ing heart with - in the soul.____ We are the
 — the cher - ished bo - dy, quiv - ering mind.____ Our lives like
 — and much be lost or taken a - way.____ We strug - gle



roots our limbs to - ge - ther lean.____ We are the ma - ny
 blood that flows in liv - ing veins____ to live and die that
 dreams of those who lab - our on____ to shape a just and
 love that grows re - sist - ing chains____ to free the bound and
 grass, like bread, like fal - ling rain____ the or - di - na - ry,
 not for things that best be gone____ in - te - gri - ty re -

Refrain



and the one. This cir - cle o - pening moves with
 all be free.
 car - ing way.
 make us whole.
 our sub - lime.
 webs our way.



deep - ened faith Our lives to birth a liv - ing dawn____ as love re -



newed turns in our com - mon way____ cre - a - ting hope we car - ry on.

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

Steven Mackison

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

Steven Mackison

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: #584 (Gather) "Healing River"

Redeemer Music Team



1. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your
2. This land is parch - ing, this land is
3. Let the seed of free - dom, a - wake and



wa - ters, Send down your wa - ters up - on this
burn - ing, No seed is grow - ing in the bar - ren
flour - ish, Let the deep roots nour - ish, let the tall stalks



land. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your wa - ters, And wash the
ground. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your wa - ters, O heal - ing
rise. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your wa - ters, O heal - ing



blood, from off the sand.
riv - er, send your wa - ters down.
riv - er, from out of the skies.

Text: Fran Minkoff. Tune: Fred Hellerman; arr. by Michael Joncas, b. 1951. © 1964, Appleseed Music, Inc.

The Dismissal

Paige Souter

Priest: Let us go forth into all Creation,
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. 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). The Collect is from Adapted by Stephen C. Warner, 2003, from St. Teresa of Avila. New Testament readings are from Terry M. Wildman, First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament.

The cover image "Season of Creation" is by Dawn Lee.

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WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday September 22 (Season of Creation 3)

7:00 PM – Rock Eucharist featuring the music of David Bowie
(in the Church and through YouTube)

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)

Sunday September 29 (Season of Creation 4)

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

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

7:00 PM – Bach Vespers (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*