



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024, AT 9:00 A.M.

The Church of the Redeemer:

162 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON M5S 1M4

office@theredeemer.ca • Tel: (416) 922 4948 • www.theredeemer.ca

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/news-events/>

theredeemer.ca

[instagram.com/TheRedeemerTO](https://www.instagram.com/TheRedeemerTO)

[facebook.com/TheRedeemerTO](https://www.facebook.com/TheRedeemerTO)



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.

President: Paige Souter

Land Acknowledgement

During the season of Advent, we will begin the liturgy in silence. Therefore, all are encouraged to offer this prayer, acknowledging the lands on which we dwell, before the service begins.

We acknowledge with respect that we gather today to celebrate on many traditional lands. We give thanks for those peoples whose lands are home to Redeemer: the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinaabe Nation, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We pray that as we celebrate this Advent, we may help to create those things for which we wait: hope for a truthful tomorrow, a justice-filled peace, the joy of hearts and lives reconciled, and the love which binds us all as one. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

The community gathers in silence. The Priest rings a bell, then begins with the following Opening Sentences.

Opening Sentences

Paige Souter

Priest: Among the poor, among the proud,
among the persecuted,
among the privileged,

All: Christ is coming to make all things new.

Priest: In the private house, in the public place,
in the wedding feast,
in the judgment hall,

All: Christ is coming to make all things new.

Priest: With a gentle touch, with an angry word,
with a clear conscience,
with burning love,

All: Christ is coming to make all things new.

Priest: That the Kingdom might come, that the world might believe,
that the powerful might stumble,
that the hidden might be revealed,

All: **Christ is coming to make all things new.**

Priest: Within us, without us, behind us, before us,
in this place, in every place,
for this time, for all time,

All: **Christ is coming to make all things new.**

Opening Hymn: #117 (Common Praise) "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Redeemer Music Team



1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing
2. I - sai - ah 'twas fore - told it,
3. O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der



from ten - der stem hath sprung, of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing
the Rose I have in mind; with Ma - ry we be - hold it,
with sweet-ness fills the air, dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dour



as seers of old have sung. It came, a blos - som bright
the vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right,
the dark-ness ev - ery-where; true man, yet ve - ry God,



a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
she bore to us a Sav - iour, when half spent was the night.
from sin and death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Text: St. 1-2, German (15th cent.); tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). St. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925).
Music: ES IST EIN' ROS. Melody *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Köln, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621).

The Collect of the Day

Paige Souter

Priest: God of promise,
you look with favour on the lowly,
you scatter the proud and you fill the hungry.
May we, like Mary, respond to your call
and be obedient to your will;
through Jesus Christ who is to come. **Amen.**

✠ Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Abigail Young

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

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader: For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

One minute of silence is observed

Canticle: #401 (Common Praise) “My Life Flows On in Endless Song (How Can I Keep from Singing)”

Redeemer Music Team



1. My life flows on in end-less song a-bove earth's lam-en-ta-tion. I
2. Through all the tum-ult and the strife, I hear that mus-ic ring-ing; it
3. What though the temp-est 'round me roar, I hear the truth it liv-eth. What
4. When ty-rants trem-ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells ring-ing; when
5. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing. All



hear the real though far-off hymn that hails a new cre-a-tion.
sounds and ech-oes in my soul; how can I keep from sing-ing?
though the dark-ness 'round me close, songs in the night it giv-eth.
friends re-joice both far and near, how and I keep from sing-ing?
things are mine since I am his; how can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling-ing. Since



Love is lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry (1826-1899); adapt. with additional text by Doris Plenn. © 1957 (renewed) Sanga Music, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING. Attrib. Robert Lowry (1826-1899), alt.

One minute of silence is observed

The Gospel

Susan Haig

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.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said, "my soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever."

Priest: The Gospel of Christ.

Luke 1.39-55

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

Homily: Steven Mackison

Prayers of the People:

Henry Krol

Leader: As we continue our Advent journey, may we open our minds and hearts to welcome Jesus in new and deeper ways into our lives and into the world.

Emmanuel, help us to keep a holy Advent. As we wait for your coming anew into our midst, help us to draw closer to you and to each other. Help us to see the blessings of your presence.

Please add your prayers either silently or aloud.

Leader: With open hearts, we pray,

People: **Come, Lord Jesus**

Leader: With tear-stained cheeks, we see the suffering and pain in our communities. We pray for comfort and strength and healing for all in need. We hold close to our hearts refugees and displaced peoples, victims of violence, war, racism, and gender-based violence. May we be a community of welcome and rest.

Please add your prayers either silently or aloud.

Leader: With open hearts, we pray,

People: **Come, Lord Jesus**

Leader: With hope filled hearts, we seek your peace and justice. We pray for an end to war and strife, for the protection of civilians, for soldiers, and for all who have died in conflicts. We pray for healing for the planet that is in peril. May we be advocates for peace and kin of creation.

Please add your prayers either silently or aloud.

Leader: With open hearts, we pray,

***People:* Come, Lord Jesus**

Leader: With faith-filled spirits, we pray for our Redeemer Community and the Common Table. We pray for vision, faith, courage, and perseverance. May our community and ministry be a beacon of hope for all seekers who come to Redeemer, either online or in person.

Please add your prayers either silently or aloud.

Leader: With open hearts, we pray,

***People:* Come, Lord Jesus**

Leader: With wearied souls, we pray for all those close to our hearts. We pray for those who are ill, isolated, homeless, afraid. May we be a source of comfort and care.

Please add your prayers either silently or aloud.

Leader: With open hearts, we pray,

***People:* Come, Lord Jesus**

Leader: Emmanuel we long for you. We long for your kingdom. Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

***People:* Amen.**

The Peace

Paige Souter

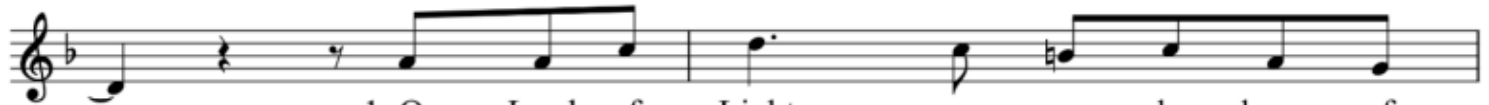
Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

Refrain



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits, tru-ly my hope is in you.



1. O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of
2. O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our
3. O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with -
4. O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our
5. Come, let us bow be - fore the God who
6. Here we shall meet the Mak - er of the



glo - ry, your ra - diance shines in all who look to
 spir - its, our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your
 in us, and in your ad - vent, draw us all to
 pil - grim - age, we ev - er seek, yet un - ful - filled re -
 made us, let ev - 'ry heart be o - pened to the
 heav - ens, Cre - a - tor of the moun - tains and the

D.C.



you, come, light the hearts of all in dark and shad - ow.
 Word, come, make us whole, be com - fort to our hearts.
 you, our hope re - born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.
 main, o - pen to us the path - way of your peace.
 Lord, for we are all the peo - ple of his hand.
 seas, Lord of the stars, and pres - ent to us now.

Text: Psalm 95 and "O" Antiphon; Marty Haugen (1950-). Tune: Marty Haugen (1950-) © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.

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.

Healing

For those desiring prayers for healing, please contact one of the clergy present privately in the chat.

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.**

1. Who would think that what was need-ed To trans-form and
 2. Shep-herds watch and wise men won-der, Mon-archs scorn and
 3. Cen-tu-ries of skill and sci-ence Span the past from
 save the earth Might not be a plan or ar-my,
 an-gels sing; Such a place as none would reck-on
 which we move, Yet ex-pe-rience ques-tions wheth-er,
 Proud in pur-pose, proved in worth? Who would think, de-
 Hosts a ho-ly help-less thing; Sta-ble beasts and
 With such pro-gress, we im-prove. While the hu-man
 spite de-ri-sion, That a child should lead the way?
 by-passed stran-gers Watch a ba-by laid in hay: God sur-
 lot we pon-der, Lest our hopes and hu-mour fray,
 pris-es earth with heav-en, Com-ing here on Christ-mas Day.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949. Tune: SCARLET RIBBONS, English traditional; arr. by John L. Bell, b.1949. © 1987, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.

The Dismissal

Susan Haig

Priest: Go forth in love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!

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

FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

All Liturgical Texts unless otherwise noted excerpted from the Book of Alternative Services © 2004 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. All rights reserved. Reproduced under license from ABC Publishing, Anglican Book Centre, a ministry of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, from Anglican Liturgical Library. Further copying is prohibited. The Opening Sentences and Reading Response are courtesy of the Iona Community. The Collect is from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002) alt.

Prayers of the People written by Paige Souter. Cover art by Yani Feng.

All music, not in the public domain, is reproduced under OneLicense.net #A-707061

WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday, December 22 (Advent 4)

7:00 PM – Blue Christmas (in the Church and through YouTube)

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US

Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

3:00 PM – Cozy Christmas (in the Church and through YouTube)

7:30 PM - Rockin' Christmas Eve - Traditional Carols and the Rock Eucharist Band
(in the Church and through YouTube)

10:30 PM - Carols, Procession & Solemn Sung Eucharist (in the Church and through YouTube)

Wednesday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

10:30 AM - Christmas Day Holy Eucharist (in the Church and through YouTube)

Sunday December 29 (First Sunday after Christmas)

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)

Sunday January 5 (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)