

Rockin' Christmas



ROCKIN' CHRISTMAS EVE
HOLY EUCHARIST
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024, AT 7:30 P.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)

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 at 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: “Christmas Reverie” (Don McDonald)

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

Gathering Song: “Jesus Christ” (William Alexander Chilton)

Angels from the realms of glory

Stars shone bright above

Royal David's city

Was bathed in the light of love

Jesus Christ was born today

Jesus Christ was born

Jesus Christ was born today

Jesus Christ was born

Now, they did rejoice

Fine and pure of voice

And the wrong shall fail

And the right prevail

Jesus Christ was born today
Jesus Christ was born
Jesus Christ was born today
Jesus Christ was born

And we're gonna get born, now

✠ 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.

Glory to God (*Jacques Berthier*)
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.**

✠ 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*

Our worship begins with the Gathering. We come to this sacred place as individuals, but we gather together to worship, pray, and give thanks to God as a community.

Pronounced "CALL-ect," the Collect of the Day is the prayer that calls us together in worship and praise.

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.

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 heav’n 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

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**

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?

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 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 Gospel

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 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,

This is a love story. A story of God's love for creation. A story of a mother's love for her son. A story of our love for God.

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. 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.

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.

‘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: Steven Mackison

A moment of silence is observed

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.

All: **Lord, grant us peace.**

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

All: **Lord, grant us peace.**

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

All: **Lord, grant us peace.**

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.**



Your support of the ministries of the Church of the Redeemer allows us to be witnesses to God's love on our corner of Bloor Street and Avenue Road. Donations can be made through the QR code or by placing your offering on the plate as it is passed. Thank you for your gift and for joining in worship today.

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.

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"**

**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"**

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.

The Eucharistic Prayer tonight is the Joint Assembly Eucharistic Prayer.

✠ 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 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. 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.

All: He is born!

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!**

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.**

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

...

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

Fraction Song: “Born at the Right Time” *(Paul Simon)*

Down among the reeds and rushes
A baby boy was found
His eyes as clear as centuries
His silky hair was brown

Never been lonely
Never been lied to
Never had to scuffle in fear
Nothing denied to
Born at the instant
The church bells chime
And the whole world whispering
Born at the right time

Me and my buddies we are travelling people
We like to go down to restaurant row
Spend those Euro-dollars
All the way from Washington to Tokyo
I see them in the airport lounge
Upon their mother's breast
They follow me with open eyes
Their uninvited guest

Never been lonely
Never been lied to
Never had to scuffle in fear
Nothing denied to
Born at the instant
The church bells chime
And the whole world whispering
Born at the right time

Too many people on the bus from the airport
Too many holes in the crust of the earth
The planet grows
Every time it registers another birth

But among the reeds and rushes
A baby girl was found
Her eyes as clear as centuries
Her silky hair was brown

Never been lonely
Never been lied to
Never had to scuffle in fear
Nothing denied to
Born at the instant
The church bells chime
And the whole world whispering
Born at the right time

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.*

*Intinction is the practice of dipping the bread or wafer into the wine when receiving
communion. This practice is not allowed in churches in the Diocese of Toronto,
including the Church of the Redeemer, for health and safety reasons.*

Communion Song: "Christmas Must Be Something More" (Taylor Swift)

What if ribbons and bows didn't mean a thing?
Would the song still survive without five golden rings?
Would you still wanna kiss without mistletoe?
What would happen if God never let it snow?
What would happen if Christmas carols told a lie?
Tell me, what would you find?

You'd see that today holds something special
Something holy, not superficial
So here's to the birthday boy who saved our lives
It's something we all try to ignore
And put a wreath up on your door
So here's something you should know that is for sure
Christmas must be something more

What if angels did not pay attention to
All the things that we wished they would always do?
What if happiness came in a cardboard box?
Then I think there is something we all forgot
What would happen if presents all went away?
Tell me, what would you find?

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 counter-intuitive wisdom that it is in letting go of what we are afraid to lose that we are transformed and made new.

You'd see that today holds something special
Something holy, not superficial
So here's to the birthday boy who saved our lives
It's something we all try to ignore
And put a wreath up on your door
So here's something you should know that is for sure
Christmas must be something more

We get so caught up in all of it
Business and relationships
Hundred-mile-an-hour lives
And it's this time of year
And everybody's here
It seems the last thing on your mind

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 all 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 all 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 we are all equal and no one 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 all are free
Maybe not in time for you and me
But someday at Christmastime

Someday at Christmas we 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

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!

This closing 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.

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

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.

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

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US

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 of the Lord)

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

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

7:00 PM – Be Still

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)