



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY
SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025, 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

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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: Steven Mackison

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

Opening Hymn: #487 (Common Praise) “Where Charity and Love Prevail”

Redeemer Music Team



1. Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found; brought
2. With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear his char - i - ty we learn; let
3. For - give we now each oth - er's faults as we our faults con - fess; and
4. Let strife a-mong us be un-known, let all con - ten - tion cease; be
5. Let us re - call that in our midst dwells God's be - got - ten Son; as
6. Love can ex-clude no race or creed if hon-oured be God's name; our



here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.
us with heart and mind and strength now love God in re - turn.
let us love each oth - er well in Chris-tian ho - li - ness.
yours the glo - ry that we seek, be ours the ho - ly peace.
mem-bers of his bo - dy joined, we are in him made one.
com-mon life em - brac - es all whose Mak - er is the same.

✠ The Gathering of the Community

Steven Mackison

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God
and fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: It is a long walk to freedom.
A walk filled with sorrow, injustice, and fear.
And it is a walk of hope, of protest, of rising up.

All: **We need Jesus to walk with us,
to lead us
to befriend us,
to comfort us.
We need Jesus to walk with us.**

The Collect of the Day

Steven Mackison

Priest: God of All,
you sent your son Jesus Christ to set us on the path of justice.
Give us generous hearts as we work to end racism
and build your kingdom where freedom reigns and where all flourish.
Anoint us to be your loving agents of justice:
through your Son Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

✠ Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Henry Krol

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

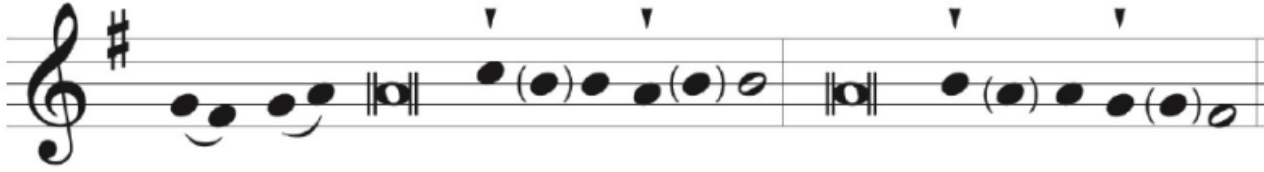
I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

Amos 5:21-24

People: **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence is observed



BLĚSSĚD are you, O God! *
for you have shown me the wonders of your love in a besieged city.

Yet I said in my alarm,
“I have been cut off from the sight of your eyes.” *
Nevertheless, you heard the sound of my entreaty
when I cried out to you.

All you who worship God; *
love the One who protects the faithful,
but repays to the full those who act haughtily.

Be strong and let your heart take courage, *
all you who wait for God.

Second Reading:

Henry Krol

Reader: A writing from Cole Arthur Riley.

Justice is becoming one of those words that hurts on the way out of me. To petition and hope for justice in a society predicated on corruption can feel futile and naïve. Lately, it’s felt almost embarrassing – or is that shame? . . . On April 20, 2021, when police officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty of murdering George Floyd, I felt nothing. I had prepared myself for an acquittal but hadn’t considered what coping would still be necessary in the event he was found guilty. . . . When the verdict was announced, I felt no relief. It didn’t feel triumphant. I felt no release in my chest which had grown tight against my heartbeat. I felt no resolve. . . . Sometimes I wonder if we lack imagination for any form of justice apart from punishment of the perpetrator. I think justice can contain this, but if this is all justice is, is it worth marching at all? Maybe so. But I want justice that is just as concerned with rectifying the systems that allowed the injustice to take place. . . . Justice alone is not the destination. Becoming human is. This is liberation. We want no need for gavels, no need for sit-ins or philanthropy. No need for food drives or keys clenched between knuckles at night. We want more for ourselves. But until then, we speak. We organize. We create. We hold hope for one another on the edge of despair, our voices sustained in the collective. Whether they listen or fail to listen, our mouth is ours. There is meaning in that.

Reader: This is the word that God has made known to us.

Letter XV

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

A moment of silence is observed



1. I want Je - sus _____ to walk with me; _____
 2. In my tri - als, _____ Lord, walk with me; _____
 3. In my sor - rows, _____ Lord, walk with me; _____



I want Je - sus _____ to walk with me; _____
 In my tri - als, _____ Lord, walk with me; _____
 In my sor - rows, _____ Lord, walk with me; _____



All a - long my _____ pil - grim jour - ney, _____
 When the shades of _____ life _____ are fall - ing, _____
 When my heart with - in _____ is ach - ing, _____



Lord, I want Je - sus _____ to walk with me. _____
 Lord, I want Je - sus _____ to walk with me. _____
 Lord, I want Je - sus _____ to walk with me. _____

Words and music: Traditional Spiritual

The Gospel

Paige Souter

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
 for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
 for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
 for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

Priest: The Gospel of Christ.

Luke 6:17-26

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A moment of silence is observed.

Homily: Paige Souter

A moment of silence is observed.

Prayers of the People

Murray Bryant

Leader: With hearts committed to building God’s kingdom of justice and freedom, let us lift our prayers to the One who empowers and enlivens us for this work.

God of all peoples, whose Son reached across the ethnic boundaries between Samaritan, Roman and Jew, help us to break down the barriers in our communities, enable us to see the reality of racism and bigotry, and free us to challenge and uproot it from ourselves, our society and our world.

Please add your prayers either silently or aloud.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all victims of racial hatred and discrimination, and we seek your protection for those affected in our churches, our schools, our places of work and our communities.

Please add your prayers either silently or aloud.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all in our world, of whatever race, who suffer the horrors of modern slavery. Your Son came to bring good news to the poor and freedom for the oppressed. We pray for all working to combat modern slavery and to end human trafficking: for governments and agencies, for Church and other faith leaders, for businesses, charities and individuals.

Please add your prayers either silently or aloud.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for ourselves. May we be voices against oppression and channels of the transforming power of the gospel. Open our hearts to all who suffer in our midst but out of sight. Help us to work for a world where human beings are valued, where no one is enslaved, and no one used against their will for another’s pleasure or need.

Please add your prayers either silently or aloud.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray that we may know the power of reconciliation. Wherever there is division between us and others, because of our race or ethnicity, we pray that we may all be led to reconciliation. We pray for all who work to bring communities together in ways that are just and equal for all.

Please add your prayers either silently or aloud.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: As we pray for reconciliation, we pray also for restoration. We pray for those whose spirits and communities have been weighed down by racism. Guide us as we strive to ensure everyone has equal dignity. Lord, in your mercy,

Please add your prayers either silently or aloud.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer. Amen.**

Prayer of Lament

Steven Mackison

Priest: Merciful God,

All: **We come with humble hearts,
confessing that we have inherited a faith
that was used to justify the enslavement of your people.
Touch hearts that have been shrivelled
by generations of suppressed empathy
and eyes that have lost the ability to see
siblings who suffer from systemic injustice.
Grant us courage to work for justice for all people.
As we unlearn the habits of racism, discrimination, and prejudice,
give us grace to draw deeply
from the prophetic witness of those who resisted injustice
by the power of your Spirit.
Give us grace to follow them to freedom. Amen.**

The Peace

Steven Mackison

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

People: **And also with you.**



1. The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by change but Spir - it led, must
2. A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic-tims of in - jus - tice cry for
3. Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car-ing church that longs to be a
4. For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fe - ver in our blood, and
5. We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o - be-dience to our God: to



claim and test its her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 shel - ter and for bread to eat, and nev - er live un - til they die.
 part - ner in Christ's sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 teach us how to share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 care for all, with - out re-serve, and spread the lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000). © 1971 Hope Publishing Co. Music: HERONGATE. Melody Essex trad.; adapt. and arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). Arr. © Oxford University Press.

The Lord's Prayer

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

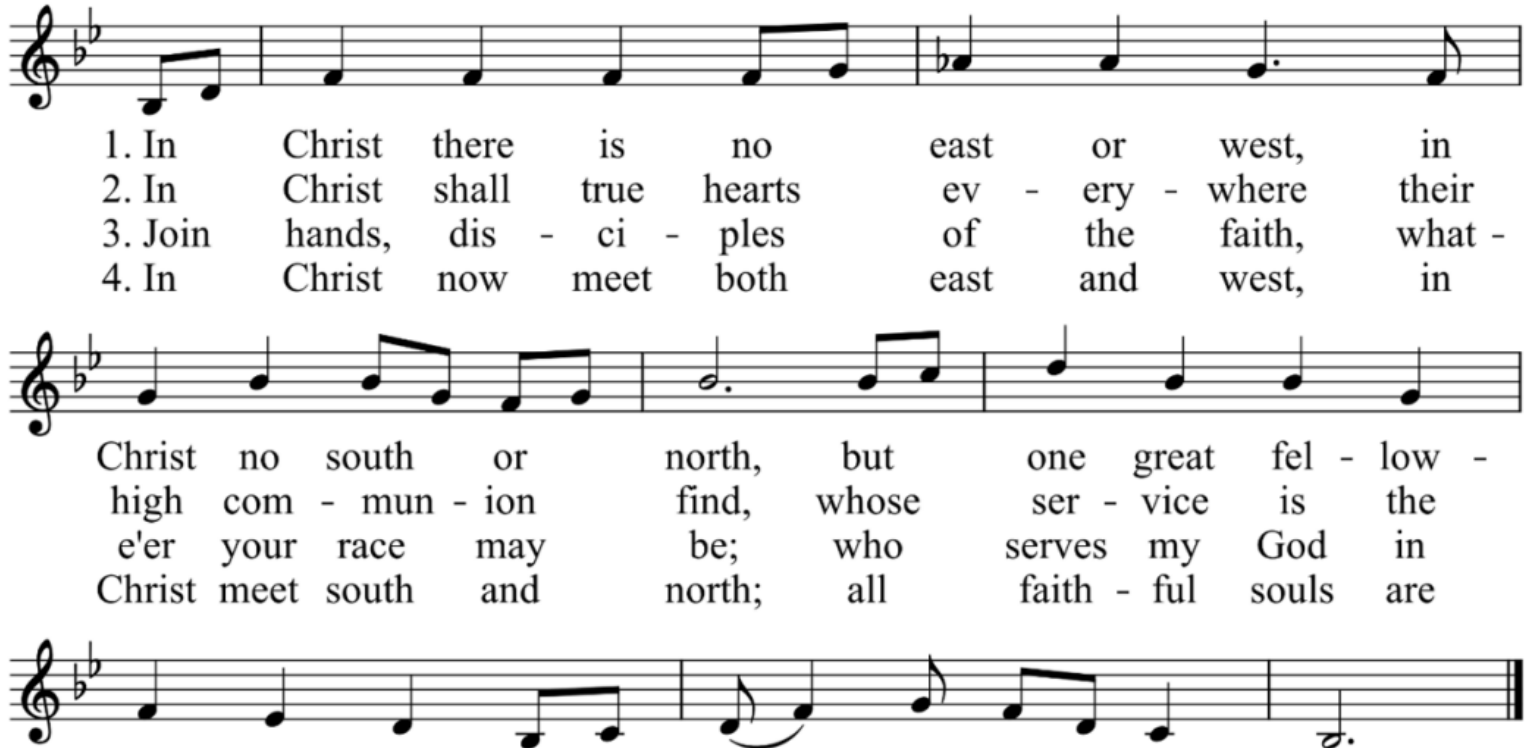
Steven Mackison

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

Departing Hymn: #484 (Common Praise) “In Christ There Is No East or West”

Redeemer Music Team



1. In Christ there is no east or west, in
2. In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their
3. Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -
4. In Christ now meet both east and west, in

Christ no south or north, but one great fel - low -
high com - mun - ion find, whose ser - vice is the
e'er your race may be; who serves my God in
Christ meet south and north; all faith - ful souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man kind.
truth and love is sure - ly kin to me.
joined in one through - out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham (1852-1941), alt., © Reprinted by permission of Desmond Dunkerley.
Music: MCKEE. Melody: African American spiritual; adapt. Henry Thacker Burleigh (1866-1949). Adapt. © Estate of Henry Thacker Burleigh.

The Dismissal

Paige Souter

Priest: Let us go into the world to build God's kingdom. Alleluia!
People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

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Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Lament is adapted from the Church of England, Liturgical Resources for Black History Month.
The Prayer Over the Gifts and Prayer after Communion is adapted from the Alternative Collects for Years, A, B, and C of the Revised Common Lectionary.

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WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday February 16 (Sixth Sunday after Epiphany)

12:30 PM – Pre-Vestry Meeting (Zoom)

7:00 PM – Be Still (in the Church and through YouTube)

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)

Sunday February 23 (Seventh Sunday after Epiphany)

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

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

12:30 PM – Vestry Meeting (in the Church and on Zoom)

7:00 PM – Taizé Eucharist (in the Church and through YouTube)

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)