



Season of Creation
Spiritual Communion
Sunday, September 7, 2025 at 9 AM



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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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: Liska Stefko

Opening Hymn: "Where Your Treasure Is"

Redeemer Music Team

Refrain

Musical notation for the opening hymn refrain, consisting of four staves. The first staff is in 4/4 time and contains the melody for the first line. The second staff contains the melody for the second line. The third staff contains the melody for the third line, with a key signature change to 2/4 for the final two measures. The fourth staff contains the melody for the fourth line, ending with a double bar line.

Where your treas - ure is, there your heart shall be.

All that you pos - sess will nev - er set you free.

Seek the things that last; come and learn from me.

Where your treas - ure is, your heart shall be.

Verses

1. What do you gain from all your worry,
What you should eat or what to wear?
There is no peace in stress or hurry.
Do you not know that you are held within God's care?

2. Look at the ravens high above you.
They do not work their whole life through,
And yet God feeds them and protects them.
So how much more will God protect and care for you?

3. Behold the lilies in their splendour.
In grace and beauty are they dressed,
And yet so soon their bloom is faded.
So how much more will those who look to God be blessed?

4. Do not fear, little flock, for God delights to give you the blessed reign of God.
Give your possessions to the needy; gain a treasure that will not fade.

Text: Luke 12:22-34; Marty Haugen, b.1950. Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950 © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

Opening Rite

Liska Stefko

Priest: This is the world God made and loves.

All: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Priest: Dear Friends,
In this Season of Creation
we take these first steps towards peace
renewing our relationship with God
and all that God has brought into being.
May the desire for peace
that God has planted in our hearts
bear the fruits of the Spirit.

Covenanting

Liska Stefko

Priest: Let us commit ourselves to reconcile with God, and all that is, saying

All: **Holy God,
we pledge ourselves to your service
in caring for your creation,
that your kingdom may grow from the seed of hope
into a tree of righteousness and justice for the world,
and 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,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Liska Stefko

Priest: Lord of all service and inclusion,
the author and giver of all good things:
Graft in our hearts the love of the lowly and lost in Creation;
increase in us true service; nourish us with all humility;
and bring forth in us the fruit of good giving;
through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

✠ Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Heather Bennett

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: “Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

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

Jeremiah 18.1-11

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence is observed

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 (George Black)

Redeemer Music Team

Refrain

When - ev - er I walk - or rest, you know where I have been.

God, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways. **Refrain**

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O God, know it altogether.
You press upon me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it. **Refrain**

For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I will thank you because I am marvellously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well. **Refrain**

My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book;
they were fashioned day by day,
when as yet there was none of them. **Refrain**

How deep I find your thoughts, O God!
how great is the sum of them!
If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours. **Refrain**

A moment of silence is observed.

Second Reading:

Heather Bennett

Reader: A reading from the Babylonian Talmud.

While the sage, Honi, was walking along a road, he saw a man planting a carob tree. Honi asked him, “How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?” “Seventy years,” replied the man. Honi then asked, “Are you so healthy a man that you expect to live that length of time and eat its fruit?” The man answered, “I found a fruitful world because my ancestors planted it for me. Likewise I am planting for my children.”

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

Taanit 23a

All: Thanks be to God.

A moment of silence is observed

Gospel Acclamation

The Gospel

Liska Stefko

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Priest: Shining Light tells the Good Story of Creator Sets Free.

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Someone from the crowd pushed forward and said to him, “Wisdomkeeper, tell my brother to give me my part of what our father left to us.” Creator Sets Free (Jesus) said to him, “Who made me the one to decide this between you and your brother? Watch your step, or greed will make you stumble. Remember, one’s life is not made up of many possessions.” There were many people in the crowd who heard what he said about possessions, so he told this story to help them see more clearly. “A man with many possessions had a field that was growing a great harvest of food. ‘What will I do with all this food?’ he said to himself. ‘I have no room in my storage barns for this great harvest.’ “The man thought about it and then said to himself again, ‘I know what I will do, I will tear down my

Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being

old storage barns and build larger ones. I will have enough to last me many winters. Then I will take my rest, eat, drink, and celebrate.’ “But the Great Spirit said to him, ‘Why are you being so foolish? This is the day you will cross over to death and give an answer for your life. Now who will get the goods you have stored up for yourself?’” Creator Sets Free (Jesus) let the people think about the story, and then he said, “This is how it will be for the ones who make themselves rich but forget about Creator’s true riches.”

demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be? ’So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

Priest: The Gospel of Christ.

Luke 12.13-21

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

A moment of silence is observed.

Homily: Suzanne Rumsey

A moment of silence is observed.

Prayers of the People

Laura Boast

Leader: Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.
In the beginning,

All: **God was.**

Leader: Here and now,

All: **God is.**

Leader: In the future,

All: **God will be.**

Leader: Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet.

Please add your prayers either silently or in the chat box.

Leader: God, Giver of life,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it.

Please add your prayers either silently or in the chat box.

Leader: God, Giver of life,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed.

Please add your prayers either silently or in the chat box.

Leader: God, Giver of life,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being.

Please add your prayers either silently or in the chat box.

Leader: God, Giver of life,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits.

Please add your prayers either silently or in the chat box.

Leader: God, Giver of life,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict.

Please add your prayers either silently or in the chat box.

Leader: God, Giver of life,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings.

Please add your prayers either silently or in the chat box.

Leader: God, Giver of life,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people and other creatures.

Please add your prayers either silently or in the chat box.

Leader: God, Giver of life,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help.

Please add your prayers either silently or in the chat box.

Leader: God, Giver of life,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died.

Please add your prayers either silently or in the chat box.

Leader: God, Giver of life,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

The Peace

Liska Stefko

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

People: **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: #577 (Common Praise) “God of Grace and God of Glory”

Redeemer Music Team



1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2. Lo, the hosts of e - vil round us scorn your Christ, as -
3. Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness. Bend our pride to
4. Set our feet on lof - ty pla - ces; gird our lives that

pour your power; now ful - fil your chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways. Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
your con - trol. Shame our wan - ton self - ish glad - ness,
they may be ar - moured with all Christ-like gra - ces

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
free our hearts to work and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
rich in goods and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
in the fight for lib - er - ty. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
lest we fail our - selves and thee, lest we fail our - selves and thee.

Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969), alt. Music: CWM RHONDDA. John Hughes (1873-1932) ©. Reprinted by permission of Ms. C.A. Webb.

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

Liska Stefko

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

Liska Stefko

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: "Abundant Life" (*Ruth Duck*)

Redeemer Music Team



1. We can-not own the sun-lit sky, The moon, the wild - flow'rs
2. When bod-ies shiv - er in the night And wea - ry wait for
3. God calls hu-man - i - ty to join As part - ners in cre -

grow-ing. For we are part of all that is With -
morn-ing, When chil-dren have no bread but tears, And
a - ting A fu - ture free from want or fear, Life's

in life's riv - er flow-ing. With o - pen hands re -
war-hornssound their warn-ing, God calls hu - man - i -
good-ness cel - e - brat-ing, That new world beck - ons

ceive and share The gifts of God's cre - a - tion, That
ty to wake, To join in com - mon la - bour, That
from a - far, In - vites our shared en - dea-vour, That



all may have a - bun-dant life In ev - 'ry earth - ly na - tion.
all may have a - bun-dant life And one-ness with their neigh-bour.
all may have a - bun-dant life And peace en-dure for - ev - er.

Text: Ruth Duck (1947-2024), © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc. Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING. Attrib. Robert Lowry (1826-1899), alt.

The Dismissal

Liska Stefko

Priest: Go in peace to tend the earth,
care for God's good creation,
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness. Alleluia!

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

FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

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WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday September 7 (Season of Creation 1)

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)

Sunday September 14 (Season of Creation 2)

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

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

4:00 PM – Be Still (in the Church and through YouTube)

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)