

Season of Creation
Spiritual Communion
Sunday, September 21, 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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President: Steven Mackison

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement



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, by placing your offering on the plate as it is passed, or by using the TipTap electronic donation device in the welcome area. Thank you for your gift and for joining in worship today.

Opening Hymn: “(Nothing But) Flowers” *(David Byrne / Tina Weymouth / Jerry Harrison / Yves N'jock / Chris Franz)*

Redeemer Music Team

Here we stand
Like an Adam and Eve
Waterfalls
Garden of Eden
Two fools in love
So beautiful and strong
Birds in the trees
Are smiling upon them
From the age of the dinosaurs
Cars have run on gasoline
Where? Where have they gone?
Now it's nothing but flowers

There was a factory
Now there are mountains and rivers
You've got it, you've got it
We caught a rattlesnake
Now we've got something for dinner
You've got it, you've got it
There was a shopping mall
Now it's all covered with flowers
You've got it, you've got it
If this is paradise
I wish I had a lawn mower
You've got it, you've got it

Years ago
I was an angry young man
I'd pretend
That I was a billboard
Standing tall
By the side of the road
I fell in love
With the beautiful highway
This used to be real estate
Now it's only fields and trees
Where? Where is the town?
Now it's nothing but flowers

The highways and cars
Were sacrificed for agriculture
I thought that we'd start over
But I guess I was wrong

Once there were parking lots
Now it's a peaceful oasis
You've got it, you've got it
This was a Pizza Hut
Now it's all covered with daisies
You've got it, you've got it
I miss the honky tonks
Dairy Queens, and 7-Elevens
You've got it, you've got it
And as things fell apart
Nobody paid much attention
You've got it, you've got it

I dream of cherry pies
Candy bars and chocolate chip cookies
You've got it, you've got it
We used to microwave
Now we just eat nuts and berries
You've got it, you've got it
This was a discount store
Now it's turned into a cornfield
You've got it, you've got it
Don't leave me stranded here
I can't get used to this lifestyle

The Gathering of the Community

Steven Mackison

Priest: This is the world that God reconciles in Christ.

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

Priest: Jesus forgives all who truly turn to him.

All: **We turn our hearts toward God and all that God created.**

Collect of the Day

Steven Mackison

Priest: O God, your creation cries out for healing and wholeness.
Inspire and encourage those
who seek a renewed relationship with the earth.
Change the hearts of those who deny the need for change
and help us all to see creation itself as our neighbour.
This we pray through Jesus Christ the Redeemer. **Amen.**

✠ Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Laura Boast

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

My joy is gone; grief is upon me; my heart is sick. Listen! The cry of the daughter of my people from far and wide in the land: “Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?” (“Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?”) “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken, I mourn, and horror has seized me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored? O that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

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

Jeremiah 8.18-9.1

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence is observed

Psalm 32 (George Black)

Redeemer Music Team

Refrain

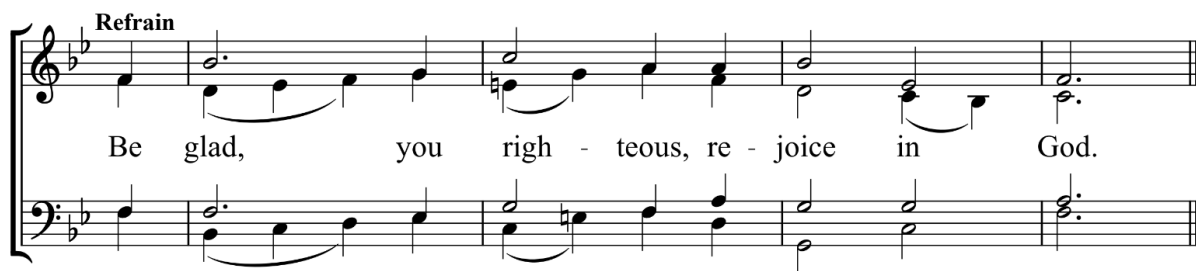
Be glad, you right - teous, re - joice in God.

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

Happy are they to whom God imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile! **Refrain**

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.
For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer. **Refrain**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to God."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin. **Refrain**



Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
 when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
 you surround me with shouts of deliverance. **Refrain**

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
 I will guide you with my eye.
 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
 who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
 or else they will not stay near you." **Refrain**

Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
 but mercy embraces those who trust in God.
 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in God;
 shout for joy, all who are true of heart. **Refrain**

A moment of silence is observed.

Second Reading

Laura Boast

Reader: A Reading of "Do not doubt what you see" from Ladder to the Light (Steven Charleston)

Last night they came again, the spirits of earth and sky, of wind and rain, of deep seas and tall mountains. In all shapes and sizes they came, from every tribe and nation: the deer and the elk, the bear and the wolf, broad-winged eagles and crows as black as night. They all came and stood in a solemn circle beneath the one-eyed moon and spoke with a single voice this message from the sacred: "Do not doubt what you see: the world is warming, the waters are rising, and the winds are coming stronger than before. Do not turn away, do not pretend not to see, but speak the truth and set the spirits free to heal the world, before the ice has gone, before the last tiger falls, before only the desert remembers the ones who once walked this land.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence is observed

Sequence Song: "Peace" (Norah Jones)

Redeemer Music Team

There's a place that I know
 Where the sycamores grow
 And daffodils have their fun
 Where the cares of the day
 Seem to slowly fade away
 In the glow of the evening sun
 Peace when the day is done

If I go there real late
 Let my mind meditate
 On everything to be done

If I search deep inside
Let my conscience be my guide
Then the answers are sure to come
Don't have to worry none

When you find peace of mind
Leave your worries behind
Don't say that it can't be done
With a new point of view
Life's true meaning comes to you
And the freedom you seek is won
Peace is for everyone
Peace is for everyone
Peace is for everyone

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.**

Tribal tax collectors and other outcasts would often gather around Creator Sets Free (Jesus) to listen to him tell his stories. But the Separated Ones (Pharisees) and the scroll keepers would complain about this. They would say things like, "This man welcomes outcasts to join him at the table and eat with him." On one of those occasions Creator Sets Free (Jesus) answered them with a story. "Who among you, if you were caring for one hundred sheep and one of the lambs wandered away, would not leave the ninety-nine and search for that lost lamb until you found it? Would you not put that lamb on your shoulders, hurry home, and invite your friends to a celebration, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost lamb!'" "In the same way, the spirit-world above will celebrate even more over one outcast who finds the way back home than for ninety-nine who are already safely there. "Let me say it another way," he explained. "What man who has ten eagle feathers and loses one would not light a torch, sweep the house clean, and look everywhere until he found it? Then, after he finds it, would he not gather his friends together for a celebration? In the same way, Creator's spirit-messengers will celebrate when even one outcast finds the way back home."

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Priest: The Gospel of Christ.

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

Luke 15.1-10

A moment of silence is observed.

Homily: Steven Mackison

A moment of silence is observed.

Prayers of the People

Abigail Young

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

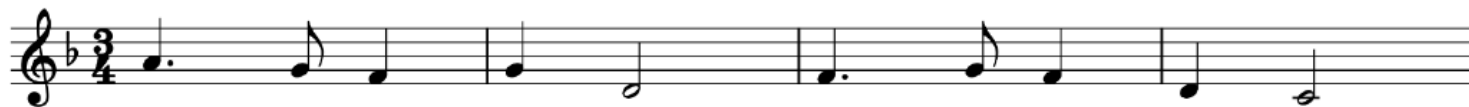
Steven Mackison

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

All: **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: "Touch the Earth Lightly"

Redeemer Music Team



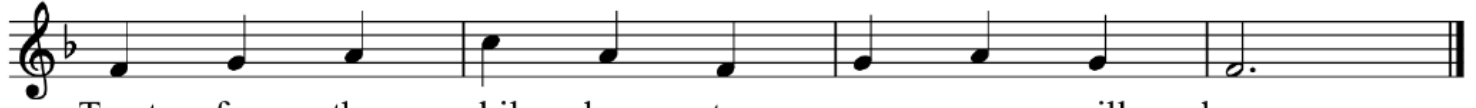
1. Touch	the earth	light - ly,	Use	the earth	gen - tly,
2. We	who en -	dan - ger,	Who	cre - ate	hun - ger,
3. Let	there be	green - ing,	Birth	from the	burn - ing,
4. God	of all	liv - ing,	God	of all	lov - ing,



Nour - ish	the	life	of	the	world	in	our	care:	
A - gents	of	death	for	all	crea -	tures	that	live,	
Wa - ter	that	bless -	es,	and	air	that	is	sweet,	
God	of	the	seed -	ling,	the	snow,	and	the	sun,



Gift of great won - der, Ours to sur - ren - der,
We who would fos - ter Clouds of dis - as - ter—
Health in God's gar - den, Hope in God's chil - dren,
Teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,



Trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
Re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
Us - ing us gen - tly, and mak - ing us one.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020), © 1992, Hope Publishing Company. Tune: Tony E. Alonso (1980-), © 2007, GIA Publications, Inc.

The Lord's Prayer

Steven Mackison

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.

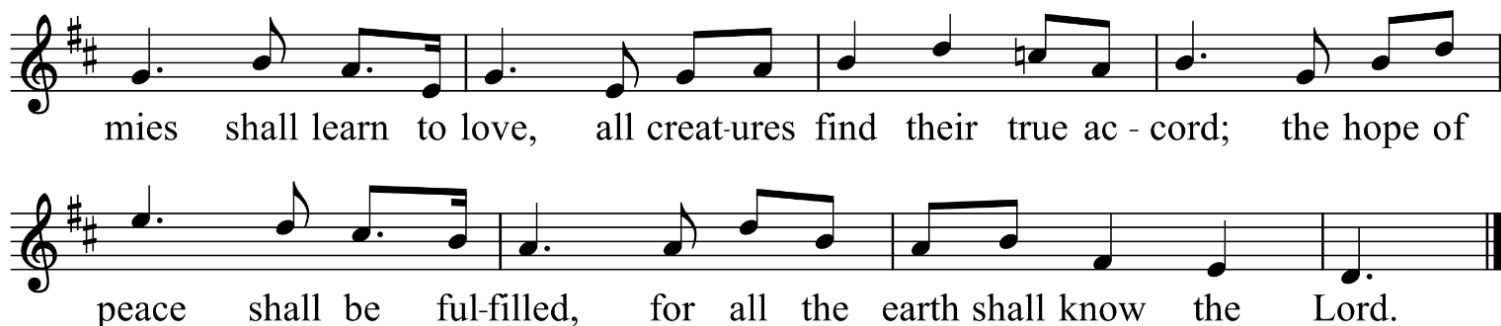
Announcements

Concluding Hymn: #573 (Common Prayer) "O Day of Peace"

Redeemer Music Team

1. O day of peace that dim - ly shines through all our
hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to jus - tice, truth and
love, de - liv - ered from our self - ish schemes. May swords of
hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re - lease till by God's
grace our war - ring world shall see Christ's prom - ised reign of peace.

2. Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the
fierce de - vour the small; as beasts and cat - tle calm - ly
graze, a lit - tle child shall lead them all. Then en - e -



Text: Carl P. Daw (1944-). © 1982 *Hope Publishing Co.* Music: JERUSALEM. Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918); arr. *The Church Hymnary*, 3rd edition, Oxford, 1973, alt.

The Dismissal

Liska Stefko

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve all creation. Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

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Kyrie Confessions from Times and Seasons: The Church in Wales.

Collect of the Day is from the Episcopal Church Season of Creation – A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes 2025.

New Testament readings are from Terry M. Wildman, First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament. Prayers of the People from: Three prayer forms from “Honoring God in Creation”

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WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday September 21 (Season of Creation 3)

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

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)

Sunday September 28 (Season of Creation 4)

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)