



Proper 29C - Refugee Sunday  
Spiritual Communion  
Sunday, October 19, 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**

**Opening Hymn:** “Gathering Song” (*John Bell*)

*Redeemer Music Team*

**There is one among us whom we do not know;  
host of highest heaven present here below.**

**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.

**All: And also with you.**

*Priest:* Here in this place, there are no foreigners,

**All: for the love of God welcomes us all.**

*Priest:* Here in this place, there are no outsiders,

**All: for the love of God embraces us all.**

*Priest:* Here in this place, there are no strangers,

**All: for the love of God unites us all.**

*Priest:* Come, let us worship God in unity and love.



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.

## Collect of the Day

*Steven Mackison*

*Priest:* God, we come into your presence with praise and thanksgiving.  
You have searched us, known us, cared for us,  
and welcomed us as your children.  
In you, we find our home.  
Through the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and the inspiration of your Word,  
continue to work in us and through us.  
Transform us into your image.  
Make us signs of grace and hospitality to the world around us,  
so that your kingdom would come and your will would be done,  
on earth, as it is in heaven. **Amen.**

## ✠ Proclamation of the Word

### First Reading:

*Heather Bennett*

*Reader:* A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord. In those days they shall no longer say:

“The parents have eaten sour grapes,  
and the children’s teeth are set on edge.”

But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of the one who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

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

Jeremiah 31.27-34

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

*A moment of silence is observed*

Refrain

Your words are sweet - er than ho - ney.

Oh, how I love your law!  
 all the day long it is in my mind.  
 Your commandment has made me wiser than my enemies,  
 and it is always with me. **Refrain**

I have more understanding than all my teachers,  
 for your decrees are my study.  
 I am wiser than the elders,  
 because I observe your commandments. **Refrain**

I restrain my feet from every evil way,  
 that I may keep your word.  
 I do not shrink from your judgments,  
 because you yourself have taught me. **Refrain**

How sweet are your words to my taste!  
 they are sweeter than honey to my mouth.  
 Through your commandments I gain understanding;  
 therefore I hate every lying way. **Refrain**

*A moment of silence is observed.*

## Second Reading:

*Heather Bennett*

*Reader:* A Reading from the Second Letter to Timothy.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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

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

2 Timothy 3.14-4:5

*A moment of silence is observed*

I've wept for those who suffer long  
But how I weep for those who've gone  
Into rooms of grief and questioned wrong  
But keep on killin'

It's in the soul to feel such things  
But weak to watch without speaking  
Oh, what mercy sadness brings  
If God be willing

There is a train that's headed straight  
To heaven's gate, to heaven's gate  
And on the way, child and man  
And woman wait, watch and wait  
For redemption day

Fire rages in the streets  
And swallows everything it meets  
It's just an image often seen  
On television

Come leaders, come you men of great  
Let us hear you pontificate  
Your many virtues laid to waste  
And we aren't listening

## **The Gospel**

*Steven Mackison*

*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.**

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my accuser.’ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’ ” And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

*Priest:* The Gospel of Christ.

Luke 18.1-8

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

*A moment of silence is observed.*

## **Homily:** Marin Lehmann-Bender

*After living with refugee claimants at Romero House, Marin began working in the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program in 2015. Since 2018 she has been the Sponsorship Director at AURA (the Anglican United Refugee Alliance), where she works closely with refugees, sponsors and newcomers to guide them through the sponsorship process. Marin was born and raised in Toronto.*

*A moment of silence is observed.*

## **Prayers of the People**

*Deb Hinton*

**Leader:** We recall that Jesus was a refugee. His parents fled with him to a different country seeking safety as those in authority sought to end his life.

God our refuge, we hold in our hearts those who flee their homes seeking safety in a new place. With courage they face fear, uncertainty, discomfort and hardship. May all nations and peoples be filled with a spirit of compassion and grace to welcome them with open arms.

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

**Leader:** Loving God,

**All:** **Hear and have mercy.**

**Leader:** We pray for families and persons who face impossible choices. We pray for parents who make the difficult decision to take their children away from their homes and communities, for children who leave parents who are unable to travel, and for families that must separate and find different paths to safety. May they travel safely, find a safe and welcoming place to rest, and quickly be reunited with their loved ones.

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

**Leader:** Loving God,

**All:** **Hear and have mercy.**

**Leader:** We pray for refugees and displaced peoples who are too often treated as a stranger not worthy of respect or love, and are threatened with confinement and deportation. May we see all refugees as fellow human beings deserving of protection, treated with dignity and welcomed with hospitable hearts.

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

**Leader:** Loving God,

**All:** **Hear and have mercy.**

**Leader:** We pray for those living in refugee camps and for those whose housing is inadequate and insufficient for privacy or proper hygiene. We pray for those waiting to resettle in new countries. May an abundance of humanitarian relief and resettlement resources be provided and may the agencies working to meet these demands, including Alongside Hope and AURA be sustained, encouraged, and strengthened.

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

**Leader:** Loving God,

**All:** **Hear and have mercy.**

**Leader:** We pray for an end to the causes of displacement and migration that have led to the refugee crises in our world: climate change, war, economic disparity, and repressive regimes. May we be advocates for peace, acting with courage and strength to be people of compassion and justice.

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

*Leader:* Loving God,

*All:* **Hear and have mercy.**

*Leader:* God our refuge, we know that you love all people. Help us to be the instruments of your love and peace in the world. Help us to be a hospitable and compassionate community welcoming and supporting refugees and all in need.

*All:* **Amen.**

## **Statement of Faith**

*Steven Mackison*

*Priest:* Together we say:

*All:* **I believe in Almighty God,  
who guided the people in exile and in exodus,  
the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon,  
the God of foreigners and immigrants.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean,  
who was born away from his people and his home,  
who fled his country with his parents when his life was in danger.  
When he returned to his own country  
he suffered under the oppression of Pontius Pilate,  
the servant of a foreign power.  
Jesus was persecuted, beaten, tortured and unjustly condemned to death.  
But on the third day Jesus rose from the dead,  
not as a scorned foreigner but to offer us citizenship in God's kingdom.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the eternal immigrant from God's kingdom among us,  
who speaks all languages, lives in all countries, and reunites all races.  
I believe that the Church  
is the secure home for foreigners and for all believers.  
I believe that the communion of saints begins  
when we embrace all God's people in all their diversity. Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Steven Mackison*

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

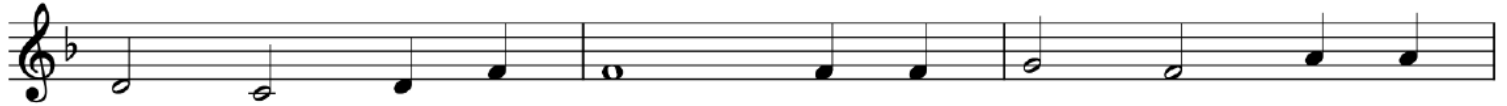
*All:* **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: #663 (Gather) "As a Fire is Meant for Burning"

Redeemer Music Team



1. As a fire is meant for burn - ing With a  
2. We are learn - ers; we are teach - ers; We are  
3. As a green bud in the spring - time Is a



bright and warm - ing flame. So the church is meant for  
pil - grims on the way. We are seek - ers; we are  
sign of life re - newed, So may we be signs of



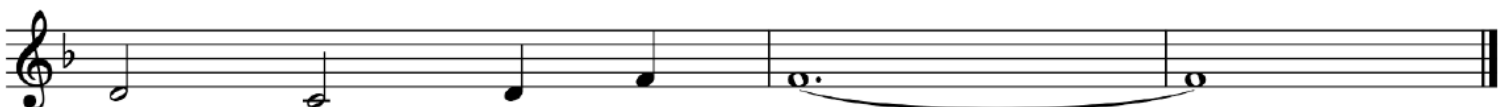
mis - sion, Giv - ing glo - ry to God's name. Not to  
giv - ers; We are ves - sels made of clay. By our  
one - ness 'Mid earth's peo - ples, man - y hues. As a



preach our creeds or cust - oms, But to build a bridge of  
gen - tle, lov - ing ac - tions, We would show that Christ is  
rain - bow lights the heav - ens When a storm is past and



care, We join hands a - cross the na - tions, Find - ing  
light. In a hum - ble, lis - t'ning Spir - it, We would  
gone, May our lives re - flect the ra - diance Of God's



neigh - bours ev - 'ry - where.  
live to God's de - light.  
new and glor - ious dawn.

## The Lord's Prayer

Steven Mackison

*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

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

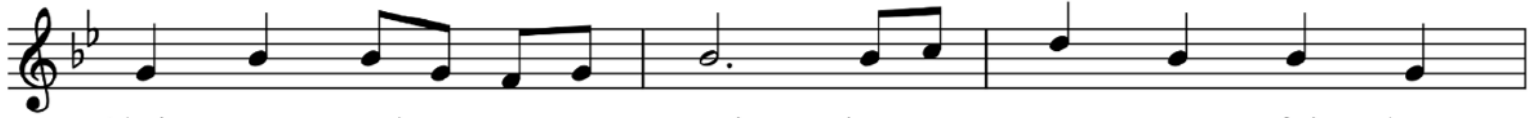
*Priest:* Glory to God,

*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



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.

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Music: MCKEE. Melody: African American spiritual; adapt. Henry Thacker Burleigh (1866-1949). Adapt. © Estate of Henry Thacker Burleigh.

### The Dismissal

Steven Mackison

*Priest:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!

*All:* Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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## FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

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Prayers of the People adapted from Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Worship Resources for World Refugee Day.

The Statement of Faith is by The Rev. Jose Luis Casal.

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### WORSHIP WITH US

**Sunday October 19 (Refugee Sunday and Proper 29C)**

**8:00 PM** – Compline (on Zoom only)

**Sunday October 26 (Refugee Sunday and Proper 30C)**

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

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

**4:00 PM** – Sing and Joyful Be: A Sacred Harp Eucharist  
(in the Church and through YouTube)

**8:00 PM** – Compline (on Zoom only)