



Proper 30C  
Spiritual Communion  
Sunday, October 26, 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**



*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.*

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Opening Hymn:** "Life of Ages"

*Redeemer Music Team*



1. Life of a - ges, rich - ly poured, love of God, un - spent and free,  
2. Nev - er was by your rich grace that un - stint - ed tide con - fined;  
3. Con - se - crat - ing art and song, ho - ly book and pil - grim way,  
4. Life of a - ges, rich - ly poured, love of God, un - spent and free,



flow - ing in the proph - et's word and the peo - ple's lib - er - ty—  
yours is ev - ery time and place, foun - tain sweet of heart and mind.  
quell - ing floods of ty - rant wrong, widen - ing free - dom's sa - cred sway.  
flow still in the proph - et's word and the peo - ple's lib - er - ty!

Text: Samuel Johnson (1822-1882). Music: CULBACH. Melody *Heilige Seelenlust*, Breslau, 1657; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870).

## 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.**

## Collect of the Day

Steven Mackison

*Priest:* Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people  
is governed and sanctified:  
receive our supplications and prayers  
which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church,  
that in our vocation and ministry, we may truly and devoutly serve you;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## ✠ Proclamation of the Word

### First Reading:

Elli Howard

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

O children of Zion, be glad,  
and rejoice in the Lord your God,  
for he has given the early rain for your vindication;  
he has poured down for you abundant rain,  
the early and the later rain, as before.  
The threshing floors shall be full of grain;  
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years  
that the swarming locust has eaten,  
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,  
my great army that I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied  
and praise the name of the Lord your God,  
who has dealt wondrously with you.  
And my people shall never again be put to shame.  
You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel  
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.  
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Then afterward  
I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;  
your children shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.  
Even on the male and female slaves,  
in those days I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

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

Joel 2:23-32

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

*A moment of silence is observed*

**Psalm 65** (George Black)

Redeemer Music Team

Refrain

You crown the year with your good-ness, O God. God.

Last time

You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;  
to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.  
To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come,  
because of their transgressions. **Refrain**

Our sins are stronger than we are,  
but you will blot them out.  
Happy are they whom you choose  
and draw to your courts to dwell there!  
they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple. **Refrain**

Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,  
O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.  
You make fast the mountains by your power;  
they are girded about with might. **Refrain**

You still the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves, and the clamour of the peoples.  
Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvellous signs;  
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy. **Refrain**

You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous;  
the river of God is full of water.  
You prepare the grain,  
for so you provide for the earth. **Refrain**

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.  
You crown the year with your goodness,  
and your paths overflow with plenty. **Refrain**

May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,  
and the hills be clothed with joy.

May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;  
let them shout for joy and sing. **Refrain**

*A moment of silence is observed.*

**Second Reading:**

*Elli Howard*

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

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

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

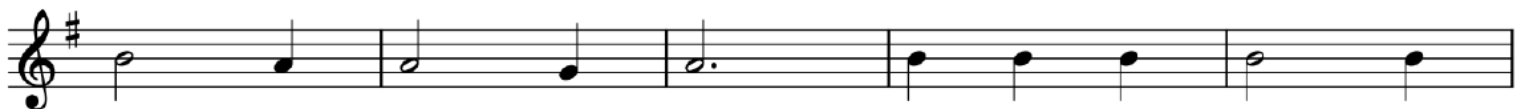
*A moment of silence is observed*

**Sequence Song:** #503 (Common Praise) "Fight the Good Fight with All Thy Might"

*Redeemer Music Team*



1. Fight the good fight with all thy might, Christ is thy  
2. Run the straight race through God's good grace; lift up thine  
3. Cast care a - side, lean on thy guide; his bound - less  
4. Faint not, nor fear, his arms are near; he chang - eth



strength and Christ thy right; lay hold on life and  
eyes and seek his face. Life with its path be -  
mer - cy will pro - vide; trust, and the trust - ing  
not and thou art dear. On - ly be - lieve, and



it shall be thy joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.  
fore us lies; Christ is the way and Christ the prize.  
soul shall prove Christ is its life, and Christ its love.  
thou shalt see that Christ is all in all to thee.

## 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.**

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

*Priest:* The Gospel of Christ.

Luke 18:9-14

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

*A moment of silence is observed.*

**Homily:** Liska Stefko

*A moment of silence is observed.*

## Prayers of the People

*Leader:* O Lord, in this harvest time of the year.

We are thankful that again you have visited the earth and have watered it abundantly, that again you have prepared the crops to feed the whole earth and with your gentle rains, you have softened the ground for increase.

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

*Leader:* O Lord, you crown the year with your goodness

*All:* **and your paths overflow with plenty.**

*Leader:* And yet despite your abundant provision, so many in our world go hungry.

Thinking of Myanmar and Haiti, South Sudan and Somalia, the DRC and Yemen, Afghanistan and Niger - we pray not only for food but for their people to dream dreams and see visions guiding them to better days ahead.

We pray for countries like ours - overflowing with plenty - to be quick to share and be generous, wise in our use of food and other resources, so the whole world might be fed.

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

*Leader:* O Lord, you crown the year with your goodness

*All:* **and your paths overflow with plenty.**

*Leader:* We pray that the ceasefire in the Middle East will lead to a permanent and just peace, making room for a homeland for Palestinians.

We pray that the war in Ukraine would end, that their crops might flourish to sustain her people through these hard times.

In response to the many global tensions and crises, we pray for wisdom, patience and discernment for our world's leaders, making the planet a safer place for all.

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

*Leader:* O Lord, you crown the year with your goodness

*All:* **and your paths overflow with plenty.**

*Leader:* We pray for your Church that we resemble in what we do and say, a likeness to those who fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith and long for your appearing - whenever and wherever you show up.

We pray for Liska, thankful that you have called her to serve in and be served by this church. May she feel a deep sense of being welcomed here, free to flourish in what you have called her to be and to do. May your Spirit be upon her.

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

*Leader:* O Lord, you crown the year with your goodness

*All:* **and your paths overflow with plenty.**

*Leader:* Lord, we thank you that we are like other people, people who despite our frailty and arrogance bear your image and your likeness. Help us to identify with those who like the tax collector, can barely look heavenward and yet who find in you, mercy and love.

May they, with the Spirit's help, see us as advocates, supporters and friends.

We remember those who know this Church by The Common Table and ask that they find refuge among us. We pray for other agencies devoted to 'the least of your brothers, sisters and siblings' - agencies like Sanctuary, All Saints and St Stephen's in the Field - that you come to their aid and to their defence, that their good work might continue among us.

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

*Leader:* O Lord, you crown the year with your goodness

*All:* **and your paths overflow with plenty.**

*Leader:* We pray that those who are ill would be healed, that those who are deeply discouraged be infused with hope, and those alienated by suffering find people who truly care.

We pray for those, overwhelmed in caring for others, be cared for.

We pray for those who are dying to feel your presence.

We pray that those who do good be encouraged in the good work that they do.

We pray for those who have recently lost a loved one, that you comfort them in their loss.

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

*Leader:* O Lord, you crown the year with your goodness

*All:* **and your paths overflow with plenty. Amen.**

## **The Covenant in Ministry**

*Selection Committee, Wardens, Deputy Warden, and Pastoral Care:*

On this day, it is our joy to welcome The Rev'd Liska Stefko, chosen to be Associate Priest, entrusted with pastoral care in this parish.

We ask you to solemnize a covenant in ministry between us.

*Priest:* Do you, Liska, in the presence of this congregation, commit yourself to the responsibility entrusted to you?

*Liska:* I do.

*Priest:* Do you, people of the Church of the Redeemer, having invited Liska to share your life and mission, now commit yourselves to this new ministry together?

**All: We do.**

**Liska:** I, Liska Stefko, commit myself to you, people of the Church of the Redeemer, as your Associate Priest. I bring my strengths and my weaknesses, my hopes and my concerns, my gifts and those talents bestowed on me by God's grace, and will endeavour with the help of God, to share with you in the ministry and mission of this parish, in the name of Christ, and by the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** **We, people of the Church of the Redeemer, commit ourselves to you, Liska our Associate Priest, as people solemnly sworn to minister Christ to the world. We bring our strengths and our weaknesses, our hopes and our concerns, our gifts and those talents bestowed on us by God's grace, and will endeavour with the help of God, to share with you in the ministry and mission of this parish, in the name of Christ, and by the empowering of the Holy Spirit.**

**Priest:** In the Name of God, I commission you Liska, and people of the Church of the Redeemer, to worship and work together to the glory of God, for the building up of the Body of Christ, and the proclamation of the reign of Christ to this community in the name of God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier.

**All: Amen.**

*The Priest presents the Associate Priest to the community.*

## The Peace

*Liska Stefko*

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

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

## Offertory Hymn: #604 (Gather) "You Are Near"

*Redeemer Music Team*

**Refrain**



O God, I know you are near, standing al - ways  
at my side. You guard me from the foe, and you  
lead me in ways ev - er - last-ing.

**Verses**



1. God, you have searched my heart, and you  
2. Where can I run from your love? If I  
3. You know my heart and its ways, you who  
4. Mar - vel - ous to me are your works; how pro -

know when I sit and when I stand. Your  
climb to the heav - ens you are there; if I  
formed me be - fore I was born in the  
found are your thoughts, my God. E - ven  
hand is up - on me pro - tect - ing me from death,  
fly to the sun - rise or sail be - yond the sea,  
se - cret of dark - ness be - fore I saw the sun  
if I could count them, they num - ber as the stars, **D.C.**  
keep - ing me from harm.  
still I'd find you there.  
in my moth - er's womb.  
you would still be there.

Text: Psalm 139; Dan Schutte, b.1947. Tune: Dan Schutte, b.1947; acc. by Sr. Theophane Hytrek, OSF (1915-1992) © 1971, Daniel L. Schutte, administered by New Dawn Music.

## 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.

## Healing

*For those desiring prayers for healing, please contact one of the clergy present privately in the chat.*

## 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: #707 (Gather) "Guide My Feet"


*Redeemer Music Team*




1., 6. Guide my feet while I run this race,  
 2. Hold my hand while I run this race,  
 3. Stand by me while I run this race,  
 4. I'm your child while I run this race,  
 5. Search my heart while I run this race,



Guide my feet while I run this race,  
 Hold my hand while I run this race,  
 Stand by me while I run this race,  
 I'm your child while I run this race,  
 Search my heart while I run this race,



Guide my feet while I run this race, for I  
 Hold my hand while I run this race, for I  
 Stand by me while I run this race, for I  
 I'm your child while I run this race, for I  
 Search my heart while I run this race, for I



don't want to run this race in vain!  
 don't want to run this race in vain!  
 don't want to run this race in vain!  
 don't want to run this race in vain!  
 don't want to run this race in vain!

Text: African-American spiritual. Music: African-American spiritual; harm. by Diana Kodner, b.1957, © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

## The Dismissal

*Steven Mackison*

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

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

### 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.

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## WORSHIP WITH US

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

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

**8:00 PM** – Compline (on Zoom only)

### Sunday November 2 (All Saints Day)

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

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

**4:00 PM** – All Souls Eucharist (in the Church and through YouTube)

**8:00 PM** – Compline (on Zoom only)