



# The First Sunday of Advent

Spiritual Communion

Sunday, November 30, 2025 at 9 AM

Church of the Redeemer

162 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON M5S 1M4

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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 [theredeemer.ca/newsletters](https://theredeemer.ca/newsletters).

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**President:** Liska Stefko

### Land Acknowledgement

During the season of Advent, we will begin the liturgy in silence. Therefore, all are encouraged to offer this prayer, acknowledging the lands on which we dwell, before the service begins.

We acknowledge with respect that we gather today to celebrate on many traditional lands. We give thanks for those peoples whose lands are home to Redeemer: the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinaabe Nation, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We pray that as we celebrate this Advent, we may help to create those things for which we wait: hope for a truthful tomorrow, a justice-filled peace, the joy of hearts and lives reconciled, and the love which binds us all as one. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.



*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. Thank you for your gift and for joining in worship today.*

**Opening Song: "Let it Be" (Lennon/McCartney)**

*Redeemer Music Team*

When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me  
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be  
And in my hour of darkness she is standing right in front of me  
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be  
Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be  
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be

And when the broken hearted people living in the world agree  
There will be an answer, let it be  
For though they may be parted, there is still a chance that they will see  
There will be an answer, let it be  
Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be  
There will be an answer, let it be  
Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be

And when the night is cloudy there is still a light that shines on me  
Shinin' until tomorrow, let it be  
I wake up to the sound of music, Mother Mary comes to me  
Speaking words of wisdom, let it be  
And let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be  
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be  
And let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be  
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be  
And let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be  
Whisper words of wisdom, let it be

**Opening Sentences**

*Liska Stefko*

*Priest:* Among the poor,  
among the proud,  
among the persecuted,  
among the privileged,

**All: Christ is coming to make all things new.**

*Priest:* In the private house,  
in the public place,  
in the wedding feast,  
in the judgment hall,

**All: Christ is coming to make all things new.**

*Priest:* With a gentle touch,  
with an angry word,  
with a clear conscience,  
with burning love,

**All: Christ is coming to make all things new.**

*Priest:* That the Kingdom might come,  
that the world might believe,  
that the powerful might stumble,  
that the hidden might be revealed,

**All: Christ is coming to make all things new.**



For there are the thrones of judgement, \*  
the thrones of the / house of Dä-vïd.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: \*  
“May they pros- / per who löve yöu.

Peace be withïn your walls \*  
and quiet- / ness withïn your töw’rs.

For my kindred and companions’ sake, \*  
I pray for / your prospëritÿ.

Because of the house of our God, \*  
I will / seek to dö you göod.”

*A moment of silence is observed*

## Gospel Acclamation

*Redeemer Music Team*

## 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 Matthew.

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

Jesus said "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

*Priest:* The Gospel of Christ.

Matthew 24.36-44

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

**Homily:** Steven Mackison

## Prayers of the People

*Elli Howard*

*Leader:* Loving and Faithful God,  
come close and draw us to yourself;  
help us to love you with our whole heart,  
and turn us to love our neighbours as ourselves.

*All:* **Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**

*Leader:* Jesus, our Emmanuel,  
you broke into our mortal world in humility and love.  
Come to us now as our lives are marred by war, indifference, cruelty and sin.  
Give hope and wisdom to those who negotiate for peace.  
Give respite and aid to those who have lost everything

and who, right now, live in grief and fear.  
Bring your gifts of justice and peace to all.

**All: Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**

*Leader:* Lord God of the universe, creator of all that is.  
Forgive our greed and hubris  
that have led to the destruction of so much  
that is good in the natural world.  
Bless those who work to revive and protect our fragile planet.  
Turn our hearts to give us the will and the wisdom  
to do our part to heal this our good earth.

**All: Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**

*Leader:* Jesus, our healer, your cross shows your faithfulness to us  
and your willingness to come along side of us in our suffering.  
Bring your healing touch to all in need;  
the sick and the friendless, the homeless and the captive,  
the weary and the depressed, and for all the cares we have on our hearts this day.

*Please add your prayers either silently or aloud*

*Leader:* Come to us in the power of your healing love; bring health, comfort, and hope.

**All: Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**

*Leader:* Jesus, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end,  
we thank you for giving us the precious gift of life  
and for sustaining us day to day.  
Thank you for all the ways you reveal yourself to us;  
goodness and beauty, comfort and wholeness,  
friendship and love. Thank you for guiding us, caring for us,  
bringing us closer to you step-by-step each day until at last,  
we meet you face-to-face in your heavenly kingdom.

**All: Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**

## **The Peace**

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

*People:* **And also with you.**



1. Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er  
 2. He shall come down likes show - ers up - on the fruit - ful  
 3. Kings shall fall down be - fore him, and gold and in - cense  
 4. O'er ev - ery foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall



Son! Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be -  
 earth, and love, joy, hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to  
 bring; all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple  
 rest, from age to age more glo - rious, all - bless - ing and all -



gun! He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive  
 birth. Be - fore him on the moun - tains shall peace the her - ald  
 sing. To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -  
 blest. The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.  
 go, and right - eous - ness in foun - tains from hill to val - ley flow.  
 cend, his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.  
 move. His name shall stand for - ev - er: that name to us is Love.

Text: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: CRÜGER. Melody Johann Crüger (1598-1662); adapt. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

## The Lord's Prayer

Liska Stefko

*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**

*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.

**Departing Hymn: #318 (Gather) “People Look East”**

*Redeemer Music Team*

1. Peo - ple look East. The time is near  
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare.  
 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
 4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
 5. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth

Of the crown - ing of the year.  
 One more seed is plant - ed there:  
 Guard the nest that must be filled.  
 One more light the bowl shall brim,  
 Him who brings new life to earth.

Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen  
 Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.  
 That in course the flow'r may flour - ish.  
 He for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.  
 Bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.  
 With the word, the Lord is com - ing.

Peo - ple look East and sing to - day:

Love the Guest is on the way.  
 Love the Rose is on the way.  
 Love the Bird is on the way.  
 Love the Star is on the way.  
 Love our God is on the way.

*Priest:* Go forth in hope and serve the Lord. Alleluia!

*People:* Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

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Advent at Redeemer

30

November

Advent Carol Service

14

December

Bach Vespers

21

December

Quiet Christmas

Sunday at 4 PM

Wardle & Co.