

# Epiphany of the Lord

## Spiritual Communion

Sunday, January 4, 2026 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 <https://theredeemer.ca/news-events/>.

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**Presider:** Liska Stefko

**Welcome**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**The Procession**

*Please rise as you are able*

**Priest:** Let us go forth in peace. Alleluia.

**People:** **In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia.**



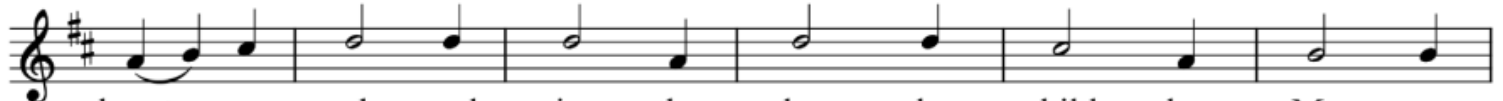
*Your support of the ministries of the Church of the Redeemer allows us to be witnesses to God's love on our corner of Bloor Street and Avenue Road. Donations can be made through the QR code. Thank you for your gift and for joining in worship today.*

**Opening Hymn: #155 (Common Praise) "From East to West. from Shore to Shore"**

*Led by Redeemer Music Team*



1. From east to west, from shore to shore, let ev - ery  
2. Be - hold! The world's cre - a - tor wears the form and  
3. For this how wond - rous - ly he wrought! A maid - en,  
4. As - sent - ing to the an - gel's word, she chose what  
5. He shrank not from the ox - en's stall, he lay with -  
6. And while the an - gels in the sky sang praise a -  
7. All glo - ry for this bless - ed morn to God, the



heart a - wake and sing the ho - ly child whom Ma - ry  
fash - ion of a slave; our ver - y flesh our Mak - er  
in her low - ly place, be - came, in ways be - yond all  
God the Spir - it willed, and sud - den - ly the prom - ised  
in the man - ger bed, and he whose boun - ty feeds us  
bove the si - lent field, to shep - herds poor the Lord most  
source of all, is due; all praise to you, O Vir - gin -



bore, the Christ, the ev - er - last - ing King.  
shares, his fal - len crea - ture now to save.  
thought, the cho - sen ves - sel of his grace.  
Lord that pure and hal - lowed tem - ple filled.  
all at Ma - ry's breast him - self was fed.  
high, the one great Shep - herd, was re - vealed.  
born; all praise, O Ho - ly Ghost, to you.

Text: Caelius Sedulius (5<sup>th</sup> cent.); tr. John Ellerton (1826-1893), alt. Music: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR. Melody Trier MS (15<sup>th</sup> cent.); adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621);  
harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934). Harm. © Mowbray (an imprint of Cassell plc, London).

**✠ The Gathering of the Community**

*Liska Stefko*

*Priest:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

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

**The Collect of the Day**

*Liska Stefko*

*Priest:* Eternal God,  
who by a star led wise men to the worship of your Son.  
Guide by your light the nations of the earth,  
that the whole world may know your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## ✠ Proclamation of the Word

### First Reading:

Henry Krol

*Reader:* A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

*Reader:* This is the word that God has made known to us.

Isaiah 60.1-6

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

*A moment of silence is observed*

### Psalm 72:1-7,10-14

#### Refrain

All kings shall bow down before him, and the nations do him service.

Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;  
that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;  
that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the little hills bring righteousness. **Refrain**

He shall defend the needy among the people;  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.  
He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another. **Refrain**

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.  
In his time shall the righteous flourish;  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. **Refrain**

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,  
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

All kings shall bow down before him,  
and all the nations do him service. **Refrain**

For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress,  
and the oppressed who has no helper.  
He shall have pity on the lowly and poor;  
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.  
He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,  
and dear shall their blood be in his sight. **Refrain**

## **Second Reading:**

*Henry Krol*

*Reader:* A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles -for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

*Reader:* This is the word that God has made known to us.

Ephesians 3.1-12

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*A moment of silence is observed*

**Sequence Song:** "Home By Another Way" (*James Taylor*)

*Led by Redeemer Music Team*

Those magic men, the Magi  
Some people call them wise  
Or oriental, even kings  
Well anyway, those guys  
They visited with Jesus  
They sure enjoyed their stay  
Then warned in a dream of King Herod's scheme  
They went home by another way  
Yes, they went home by another way  
Home by another way  
Maybe me and you can be wise guys too  
And go home by another way  
We can make it another way

Safe home as they used to say  
Keep a weather eye to the chart on high  
And go home another way  
Steer clear of royal welcomes  
Avoid a big to-do  
A king who would slaughter the innocents  
Will not cut a deal for you  
He really, really wants those presents  
He'll comb your camel's fur  
'Til his boys announce they've found trace amounts  
Of your frankincense, gold, and myrrh  
Time to go home by another way  
Home by another way  
You have to figure the Gods saying play the odds  
And go home by another way  
We can make it another way  
Safe home as they used to say  
Keep a weather eye to the chart on high  
And go home another way  
Home is where they want you now  
You can more or less assume that you'll be welcome in the end  
Mustn't let King Herod haunt you so  
Or fantasize his features when you're looking at a friend  
Well it pleasures me to be here  
And to sing this song tonight  
They tell me that life is a miracle  
And I figured that they're right  
But Herod's always out there  
He's got our cards on file  
It's a lead pipe cinch, if we give an inch  
Then he realized it'd take a mile  
It's best to go home by another way  
Home by another way  
We got this far through a lucky star  
But tomorrow is another day  
We can make it another way  
Safe home as they used to say  
Keep a weather eye to the chart on high  
And go home another way  
Go home another way

## 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.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*Priest:* The Gospel of Christ.

Matthew 2.1-12

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

**Homily:** Steven Mackison

*A moment of silence is observed*

## The Nicene Creed

*Priest:* Let us confess our faith as we say,

*All:* **We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

Deb Hinton

*Leader:* Let us worship the Saviour with joy  
And make our prayer to our heavenly Father.  
The magi came from the east to worship your Son:  
Grant to us the spirit of adoration

*A moment's pause is observed for those who wish to voice their prayers, aloud or silently*

*Leader:* Holy One,  
**All: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh:  
Accept the offering of our hearts and minds

*A moment's pause is observed for those who wish to voice their prayers, aloud or silently*

*Leader:* Holy One,  
**All: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* The kingdoms of this world have become  
The kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ.  
Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world...

*A moment's pause is observed for those who wish to voice their prayers, aloud or silently*

*Leader:* Holy One,  
**All: Hear our prayer**

*Leader:* Your Son shared the life of his home and family at Nazareth:  
Protect in your love our neighbours,  
Our families and this community of which we are a part

*A moment's pause is observed for those who wish to voice their prayers, aloud or silently*

*Leader:* Holy One,  
**All: Hear our prayer**

*Leader:* Creator of all, we rejoice in our fellowship  
with the shepherds, the angels, the magi,  
who gathered with Mary and Joseph  
to welcome the Christ Child.  
In your unfailing love for us and for all people,  
hear and answer our prayers through your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ

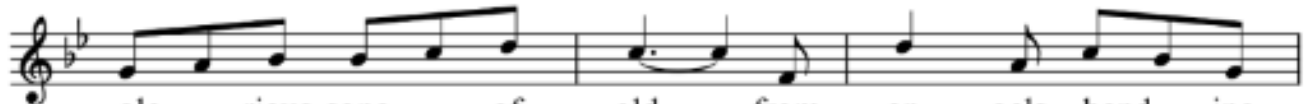
**All: Amen.**

## The Peace

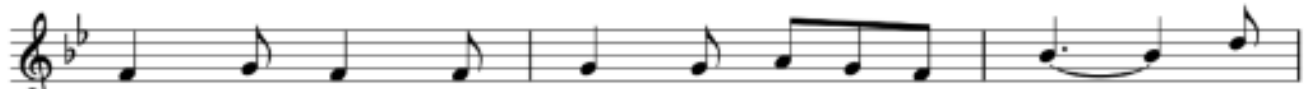
*Priest:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**People: And also with you.**



1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that  
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come with  
 3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife the  
 4. And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose  
 5. For lo, the days are hast - ening on, by



glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing  
 peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly  
 world has suf - fered long; be - neath the an - gel -  
 forms are bend - ing low; who toil a - long the  
 proph - ets seen of old, when with the ev - er -



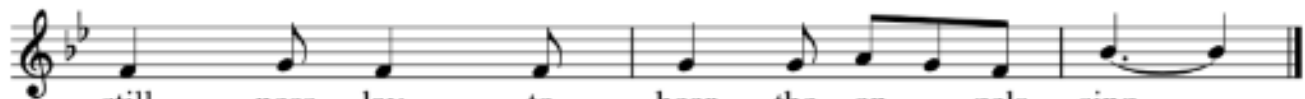
near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace  
 mus - ic floats o'er all the wea - ry world; a -  
 strain have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong; and  
 climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow; look  
 circ - ling years shall come the time fore - told: when



on the earth, to all good will from  
 above its sad and low - ly plains they  
 we a - mid our wars hear not the  
 now, for glad and gold - en hours come  
 the new heaven and earth shall own the



heaven's most gra - cious king!" The world in sol - emn  
 bend on hover - ing wing, and ev - er o'er its  
 words of peace they bring; O lis - ten now, and  
 swift - ly on the wing: O rest be - side the  
 Prince of Peace their King, and the whole world send



still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 still your strife to hear the an - gels sing.  
 wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing.  
 back the song which now the an - gels sing.

## 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

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 the following 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.**

1. He came down that we may have love; He  
2. He came down that we may have peace; He  
3. He came down that we may have joy; He

came down that we may have love; He came down that we may  
came down that we may have peace; He came down that we may  
came down that we may have joy; He came down that we may

have love, Hal - le - lu - jah for ev - er - more.  
have peace, Hal - le - lu - jah for ev - er - more.  
have joy; Hal - le - lu - jah for ev - er - more.

Text: Cameroon traditional. Tune: Cameroon traditional; transcribed and arr. by John L. Bell, b.1949, © 1990, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.

## The Dismissal

*Priest:* Followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit,  
serve the world God loves. Alleluia!

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

### WORSHIP WITH US

**Sunday, January 4 (Epiphany of the Lord)**

**4:00 PM – Be Still**

**8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)**

**Sunday, January 11 (Baptism of the Lord)**

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

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

**8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)**

### FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

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