

# The Second Sunday in Lent

Spiritual Communion

Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 9 AM

Church of the Redeemer

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

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# OUR VISION

## Becoming the Body of Christ at the corner of Bloor & Avenue Road and beyond

Guided by commitment to our shared values, we seek to become the body of Christ, nurturing a lively faith, a persistent hope, and an ever-expanding love for God's world.

We seek to - open our doors and hearts, embracing all who seek a sacred space. We offer worship in many forms, touching the hearts of those yearning for spiritual connection, in-person or online.

We seek to - listen deeply, hearing the stories of Jesus and of one another with open minds and hearts. Through faithful questioning, reflection, and shared learning, we grow together in wisdom and grace.

We seek to - serve with generous hospitality, gathering at the table with our physical and spiritual hunger. We walk alongside one another with compassion in the seasons and conditions of life, sharing our needs and thanks.

We seek to - embody Jesus' teachings that all people are God's children, worthy of love, and that all of creation is interconnected. Where structures or attitudes threaten or diminish, we advocate for justice, peace, equity and ecological responsibility.

We seek to - reach out in-person and virtually to the world around us. We dare to love in word and action so that others see something of God in their midst.

### Our Values

**Compassion:** meeting every soul with tenderness and dignity

**Openness:** welcoming questions, embracing differences, and following the movement of the Spirit

**Respect:** honouring each person's unique story and gifts, and the inherent worth of all Creation

**Inclusion:** making room for all to enter, find a place, and participate fully

**Stewardship:** nurturing respect for our resources and partnerships for long-term vitality



*Christ has no body now but ours, no hands, no feet on earth but ours.*

*Ours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world.*

*Ours are the feet with which he walks to do good,*

*Ours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.*

Teresa of Avila (Adapted)

# WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER!

## Who We Are

We are followers of Jesus: children, young adults, families, and seniors who come from a variety of backgrounds. We are long-time members and newcomers; people of deep faith and those still searching; people shaped by many traditions—and sometimes seeking a deeper sense of faith and community. We are not limited by ability, age, economic status, ethnicity, gender identity, personal history or sexual orientation.

## Where We Stand

Dwelling on the traditional lands of the Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Mississauga of the Credit First Nation, Church of the Redeemer stands at the crossroads, physical and virtual—of neighbourhoods and nations, of government, education, arts, culture, and commerce—in the heart of Toronto.

From this place we seek to live into our identity as the body of Christ: living our faith, offering hope, and sharing love for God's world.

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>.

[theredeemer.ca](http://theredeemer.ca)

[instagram.com/TheRedeemerTO](https://www.instagram.com/TheRedeemerTO)

[facebook.com/TheRedeemerTO](https://www.facebook.com/TheRedeemerTO)

**President:** Liska Stefko

**Welcome**

## Land Acknowledgement

During the season of Lent, 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.

In this Holy time of Lent, we acknowledge with respect that we gather today in many sacred places that were home to those who have been displaced. We recognize that our church dwells on the traditional lands of the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinaabe Nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Holy One, help us to repent of all that we have done, and to make peace with those whom we have wronged, 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.*

## ✠ The Penitential Rite

Liska Stefko

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Priest:* Let us pray. Almighty God,

*All:* **to you all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Priest:* Dear friends in Christ

as we prepare to worship almighty God,  
let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins,  
that we may obtain forgiveness  
by God's infinite goodness and mercy.

## Confession and Absolution

Liska Stefko

*Priest:* Most merciful God,

*All:* **we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us,  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*Priest:* Almighty God have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All:* **Amen.**



**Our God shall preserve you from all evil;  
and shall keep you safe.**

**God shall watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth for evermore. Refrain.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*Led by Redeemer Music Team*

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## **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 John.

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

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"

Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

*Priest:* The Gospel of Christ.

John 3.1-17

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

*A moment of silence is observed.*

**Homily:** Sylvia Keesmaat

*A moment of silence is observed.*

*At this time you are invited to write down prayers for the concerns of your heart.*

## **Prayers of the People**

*Henry Krol*

*Leader:* Let us pray. Because you, God, love the world,  
because in Christ you walked it, we dare to pray;

*Please add your prayers, either silently or in the chat.*

*Leader:* God, send your spirit:

*All:* **O Lord hear my prayer.**

*Leader:* To connect the words of ancient scripture to the life of the world today; to let the urgent summons of Jesus surpass our reticence to respond, God, send your spirit: to awaken the minds of those in power to the realities of those they govern; to confront the arrogance of the privileged with the vulnerability of the poor,

*Please add your prayers, either silently or in the chat.*

*Leader:* God, send your spirit:

*All:* **O Lord hear my prayer.**

*Leader:* To engage the fragile state of the planet with those who carelessly abuse it; to let the pain of those who are hurting awaken the caring potential in the healthy,

*Please add your prayers, either silently or in the chat.*

*Leader:* God, send your spirit:

*All:* **O Lord hear my prayer.**

*Leader:* To eradicate the distance between our convictions and commitments,  
our potentials and our performance, our prayers and our politics,  
our faith and our discipleship,

*Please add your prayers, either silently or in the chat.*

*Leader:* God, send your spirit:

*All:* **O Lord hear my prayer.**

*Leader:* To hold before God in confidence the ones for whom we weep,  
and the ones who, in joy or sorrow weep for us;  
the ones who reveal in themselves what is hidden,  
and the ones who treat as precious all we confide in them,  
the ones who, today, we want to pray for,  
and the ones who, unasked, today will pray for us,

*Please add your prayers, either silently or in the chat.*

*Leader:* God, send your spirit:

*All:* **O Lord hear my prayer.**

*Leader:* Convince us, gracious God,  
that all is up for redemption.  
And since in Jesus  
you destined all to be changed and made new,  
enable us to be agents of your purpose.  
We pray in Jesus' name:

*Leader:* God, send your spirit:

*All:* **O Lord hear my prayer. Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Liska Stefko*

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

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

## **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 this prayer to help you:*

*One:* O Christ,  
I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.  
I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection.  
I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.  
Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart.  
Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you.  
May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. 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.**

Concluding Hymn: #128 (SANC) "Jesus Christ is Waiting"

Led by Redeemer Music Team



1. Je - sus Christ is wait - ing, wait - ing in the streets;  
2. Je - sus Christ is rag - ing, rag - ing in the streets;  
3. Je - sus Christ is heal - ing, heal - ing in the streets;  
4. Je - sus Christ is danc - ing, danc - ing in the streets;  
5. Je - sus Christ is call - ing, call - ing in the streets;



no one is his neigh - bour, all a - lone he eats.  
where in - jus - tice spi - rals and real hope re - treats.  
cur - ing those who suf - fer, touch - ing those he greets.  
where each sign of ha - tred he, with love de - feats.  
"Who will join my jour - ney? I will guide their feet."



Lis - ten, Lord Je - sus, I am lone - ly too.  
Lis - ten, Lord Je - sus, I am an - gry too.  
Lis - ten, Lord Je - sus, I have pit - y too.  
Lis - ten, Lord Je - sus, I should tri - umph too.  
Lis - ten, Lord Je - sus, let my fears be few.



Make me, friend or stran - ger, fit to wait on you.  
In the King - dom's caus - es, let me rage with you.  
Let my care be ac - tive, heal - ing just like you.  
On sus - pi - cion's grave - yard, let me dance with you.  
Walk one step be - fore me; I will fol - low you.

## Dismissal

Steven Mackison

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

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

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### FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

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Pray · Fast · Give

1	March	9 AM - Worship on Zoom 10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist <i>in the church and on YouTube</i> 4 PM - Be Still <i>in the church and on YouTube</i>
8	March	9 AM - Worship on Zoom 10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist <i>in the church and on YouTube</i> 4 PM - No Service
15	March	9 AM - Worship on Zoom 10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist <i>in the church and on YouTube</i> 4 PM - Bach Vespers <i>in the church</i>
22	March	9 AM - Worship on Zoom 10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist <i>in the church and on YouTube</i> 4 PM - Be Still <i>in the church and on YouTube</i>

Reflect · Repent

# CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER LEADERSHIP

## Pastoral Staff

**Incumbent:** Steven Mackison  
**Associate Priest:** Liska Stefko  
**Children, Youth & Family Minister:** Lor Maroney  
**Honorary Assistants:** Jim Boyles, Susan Haig, Ann Jervis, Renata Koke, Paul MacLean, Margaret Rodrigues, Paul G. Walker, Katy Waugh, Andrew Welsey  
**Theological Intern:** Bianca Mathews

## Program Staff

**Director of Music:** Dan Norman  
**Assistant Director of Music:** Mike Daley  
**Musician in Residence:** Jill Daley

## Common Table Staff & Leads

**Director:** Tom More  
**Outreach Worker:** Jim Willis  
**Volunteer & Kitchen Coordinator:** Beverley Galandzy  
**Kitchen Coordinator:** Natalie Buyniak  
**Counsellors:** Jane Brushey-Martin, Francis Martin

## Ministry Support

**Administrative Assistant:** Brianna Davies  
**Bookkeeper & IT Support:** Nasir Qamar  
**Facilities Manager:** Craig Martin  
**Communications:** Ann Cope  
**AV & Sound Tech:** M. Yew  
**Event Hosts:** Michael Broder, Catharin Carew, Mark Rainey  
**Duty Custodian:** Lloyd Simangan

## Members of Diocesan Synod

Wesley Acheampong, Chris Ambidge, Peter Bennett, Lyn Sibley, Karen Visser, Richrd Van Delft (alternate)

## Board of Management

**Chair:** Carol Scovil  
**Vice-Chair:** Laura Boast  
**Advisory Board Chair:** Henry Krol  
**Property:** Susan Graham Walker  
**Stewardship:** Ron Waldie  
**Finance:** James Newman  
**HR:** Wesley Acheampong  
**At Large:** Jonathan Batty, Sheila Crummey

## Advisory Board

**Chair:** Henry Krol  
**Vice-Chair:** Susanne Hunter  
**Board of Management Chair:** Carol Scovil  
**Creation Matters:** Grant Jahnke, Andrew Scorer  
**ISWG:** Stephen Allen  
**Redeemer Explorers:** David Townsend, Deb Deacon  
**At Large:** Christina Chang, Mark Ebden, Louise Grieg, Deb Hinton, Scott MacLeod, Dawn Lee, Alanna Zоргdrager

## Redeemer Ministry Leads

**Accessibility Advocate:** Carol Scovil  
**Archives:** Nancy Luno  
**Catechesis:** Georgi Georgievski  
**Creation Matters:** Grant Jahnke, Andrew Scorer  
**Hospitality:** Tony Crosbie  
**Human Resources:** Tim Hadwen  
**Inclusion:** Christina Chang  
**Indigenous Solidarity Working Group:** Stephen Allen  
**Liturgy Animator:** Ann Cope  
**Martha League:** Richard Van Delft  
**Meditation Group:** Lilian Junkin  
**Pastoral Care:** Tony Crosbie  
**Property:** Susan Graham Walker  
**Redeemer Explorers:** David Townsend, Deb Deacon  
**Redeemer Pilgrims:** Susan Haig  
**Refugee Settlement:** Alison Colvin, Henry Krol  
**Stewardship:** Ron Waldie  
**Trans Ministry:** Margaret Rodrigues  
**Young Adults:** Shirley Park  
**Zoom Moderators:** Anne Lee

If you spot any errors or omissions, or to find out more about our ministry areas, please contact us: [office@theredeemer.ca](mailto:office@theredeemer.ca)

