

Celebrating Black History

Spiritual Communion

Sunday, February 8, 2026 at 9 AM

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>.

theredeemer.ca

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Presider: Steven Mackison

Welcome

Land Acknowledgement

Our Guest Speaker: The Reverend Canon Donald Butler was ordained as a priest in 1985 and has worked in the Diocese of Toronto since 1989. He has served in several parishes in the diocese and under his leadership The Church of the Nativity Malvern was built. Throughout his ministry, Canon Donald has focused on community development, collaborating with stakeholders to create youth programs and unite the community around important causes.



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: #451 (Common Praise) "King of Love, O Christ, We Crown You"

Led by Redeemer Music Team



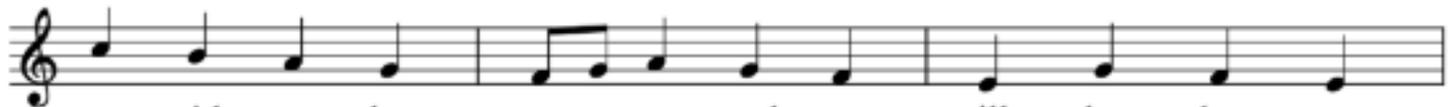
1. King of love, O Christ, we crown you
2. King of life, you have cre - a - ted
3. King of mer - cy, you have saved us
4. King tri - um - phant, King vic - to - rious,



Rul - er of our thought and will, each de - mand of
wheat in gold - en har - vest spread: make your ser - vants
from the haunt - ing sense of loss, nail - ing in your
take your throne our hearts with - in, lest the might of



your high chal - lenge ded - i - cat - ed to ful - fil;
strong to serve you by the gift of dai - ly bread.
vast com - pas - sion sin's in - dict - ment to the cross.
fierce temp - ta - tion snare us in - to dead - ly sin.



we with you by grace co - work - ers, till, where hu - man
Feed us with your bod - y bro - ken, with your blood out -
Those who love, by your sore ang - uish, from the past you
By the Spir - it's rich a - noint - ing, grant us strength life's



foot has trod, peo - ples, kings, do - min - ions, rac - es,
poured sus - tain, that our souls di - vine - ly strength - ened
cleanse and free, breath - ing words of ab - so - lu - tion
race to run, till the power of sin be van - quished,



own the em - pire of our God.
may the life e - ter - nal gain.
throned and reign - ing from the tree.
till the prize of God be won.

✠ 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: It is a long walk to freedom.
A walk filled with sorrow, injustice, and fear.
And it is a walk of hope, of protest, of rising up.

All: **We need Jesus to walk with us,
to lead us
to befriend us,
to comfort us.
We need Jesus to walk with us.**

The Collect of the Day

Steven Mackison

Priest: God of all,
you sent your son Jesus Christ to set us on the path of justice.
Give us generous hearts as we work to end racism
and build your kingdom where freedom reigns and where all flourish.
Anoint us to be your loving agents of justice:
through your Son Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

✠ Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Heather Bennett

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Exodus.

Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.'

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

Exodus 3:7-10

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence is observed

Refrain

Our God has done great things for us, and we are glad in deed.

When God restored the fortunes of Zion,
 then were we like those who dream.
 Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
 and our tongue with shouts of joy. **Refrain**

Then they said among the nations,
 "Our God has done great things for them."
 Our God has done great things for us,
 and we are glad indeed. **Refrain**

Restore our fortunes, O God,
 like the watercourses of the Negev. **Refrain**

Those who sowed with tears
 will reap with songs of joy.
 Those who go out weeping, carrying their seed,
 will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. **Refrain**

Second Reading:

Heather Bennett

Reader: A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians

For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

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

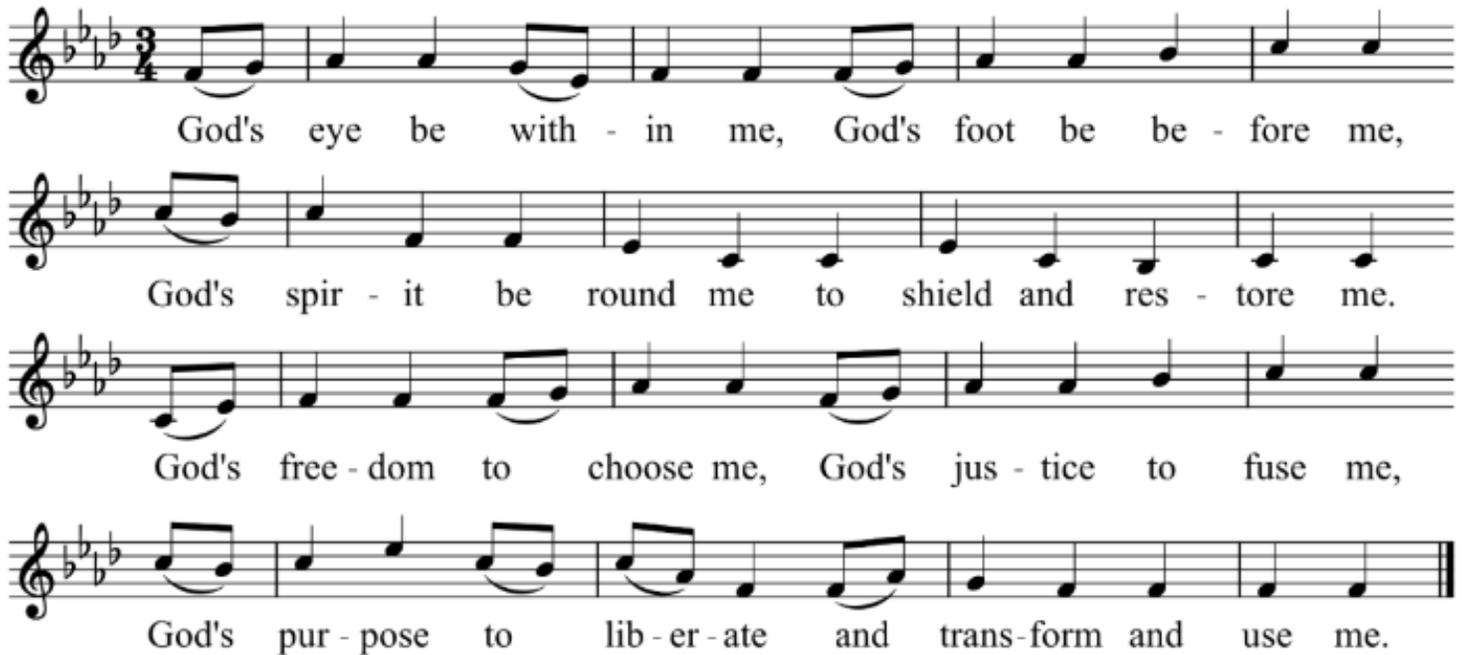
Galatians 3:26-28

All: Thanks be to God.

A moment of silence is observed

Sequence Hymn: "God's Eye be Within Me"

Led by Redeemer Music Team



God's eye be with - in me, God's foot be be - fore me,
God's spir - it be round me to shield and res - tore me.
God's free - dom to choose me, God's jus - tice to fuse me,
God's pur - pose to lib - er - ate and trans - form and use me.

Words: John L. Bell. Music: COLUMCELE, Irish traditional; arr. John L. Bell. Words and arrangement © 1998 WGRG, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent.

The Gospel

Liska Stefko

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.**

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

Priest: The Gospel of Christ.

Luke 4:16-21

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

Homily: The Rev. Canon Donald Butler

A moment of silence is observed.

Prayers of the People

Christina Chang

Leader: With hearts committed to building God's kingdom of justice and freedom, let us lift our prayers to the One who empowers and enlivens us for this work.

God of all peoples, whose Son reached across the ethnic boundaries between Samaritan, Roman and Jew, help us to break down the barriers in our communities, enable us to see the reality of racism and bigotry, and free us to challenge and uproot it from ourselves, our society and our world.

Please add your prayers either silently or in the chat.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all victims of racial hatred and discrimination, and we seek your protection for those affected in our churches, our schools, our places of work and our communities.

Please add your prayers either silently or in the chat.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all in our world, of whatever race, who suffer the horrors of modern slavery. Your Son came to bring good news to the poor and freedom for the oppressed. We pray for all working to combat modern slavery and to end human trafficking: for governments and agencies, for Church and other faith leaders, for businesses, charities and individuals.

Please add your prayers either silently or in the chat.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for ourselves. May we be voices against oppression and channels of the transforming power of the gospel. Open our hearts to all who suffer in our midst but out of sight. Help us to work for a world where human beings are valued, where no one is enslaved, and no one used against their will for another's pleasure or need.

Please add your prayers either silently or in the chat.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray that we may know the power of reconciliation. Wherever there is division between us and others, because of our race or ethnicity, we pray that we may all be led to reconciliation. We pray for all who work to bring communities together in ways that are just and equal for all.

Please add your prayers either silently or in the chat.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: As we pray for reconciliation, we pray also for restoration. We pray for those whose spirits and communities have been weighed down by racism. Guide us as we strive to ensure everyone has equal dignity. Lord, in your mercy,

Please add your prayers either silently or in the chat.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer. Amen.

Prayer of Lament

Priest: Merciful God,

All: We come with humble hearts,
confessing that we have inherited a faith
that was used to justify the enslavement of your people.
Touch hearts that have been shrivelled
by generations of suppressed empathy
and eyes that have lost the ability to see
siblings who suffer from systemic injustice.
Grant us courage to work for justice for all people.
As we unlearn the habits of racism, discrimination, and prejudice,
give us grace to draw deeply
from the prophetic witness of those who resisted injustice
by the power of your Spirit.
Give us grace to follow them to freedom. Amen.

The Peace

Steven Mackison

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

All: And also with you.

Hymn: #631 (Common Praise) "The Kingdom of God is Justice and Joy"

Led by Redeemer Music Team



1. The king - dom of God is jus - tice and joy,
2. The king - dom of God is mer - cy and grace;
3. The king - dom of God is chal - lenge and choice:
4. God's king - dom is come, the gift and the goal,
for Je - sus re - stores what sin would de - stroy.
the cap - tives are freed, the sin - ners find place.
be - lieve the good news, re - pent and re - joice!
in Je - sus be - gun, in heav - en made whole.
God's pow - er and glo - ry in Je - sus we know,
The out - casts are wel - comed God's ban - quet to share,
God's love for us sin - ners brought Christ to his cross,
The heirs of the king - dom shall an - swer the call,
and here and here - af - ter the king - dom shall grow.
and hope is a - wak - ened in place of de - spair.
our cris - is of judge - ment for gain and for loss.
and all things cry "Glo - ry!" to God All - in - All.

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

Departing Hymn: #484 (Common Praise) "In Christ There is No East or West"

Led by Redeemer Music Team



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.

Text: John Oxenham (1852-1941), alt., © Reprinted by permission of Desmond Dunkerley.
Music: MCKEE. Melody: African American spiritual; adapt. Henry Thacker Burleigh (1866-1949). Adapt. © Estate of Henry Thacker Burleigh.

The Dismissal

Liska Stefko

Priest: Let us go into the world to build God's kingdom. Alleluia!

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

FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

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Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Lament is adapted from the Church of England, Liturgical Resources for Black History Month. The Prayer Over the Gifts and Prayer after Communion is adapted from the Alternative Collects for Years, A, B, and C of the Revised Common Lectionary.

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WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday February 8 (Celebration of Black History)

4:00 PM – Be Still (in the Church and through YouTube)

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)

Monday February 9 to Saturday February 14

12:15 PM – Midday prayer (on Zoom only)

Wednesday February 11

12:00 PM – Mid-week Eucharist (in the Church)

Sunday February 15 (Transfiguration Sunday)

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)