

# The Fourth Sunday in Lent

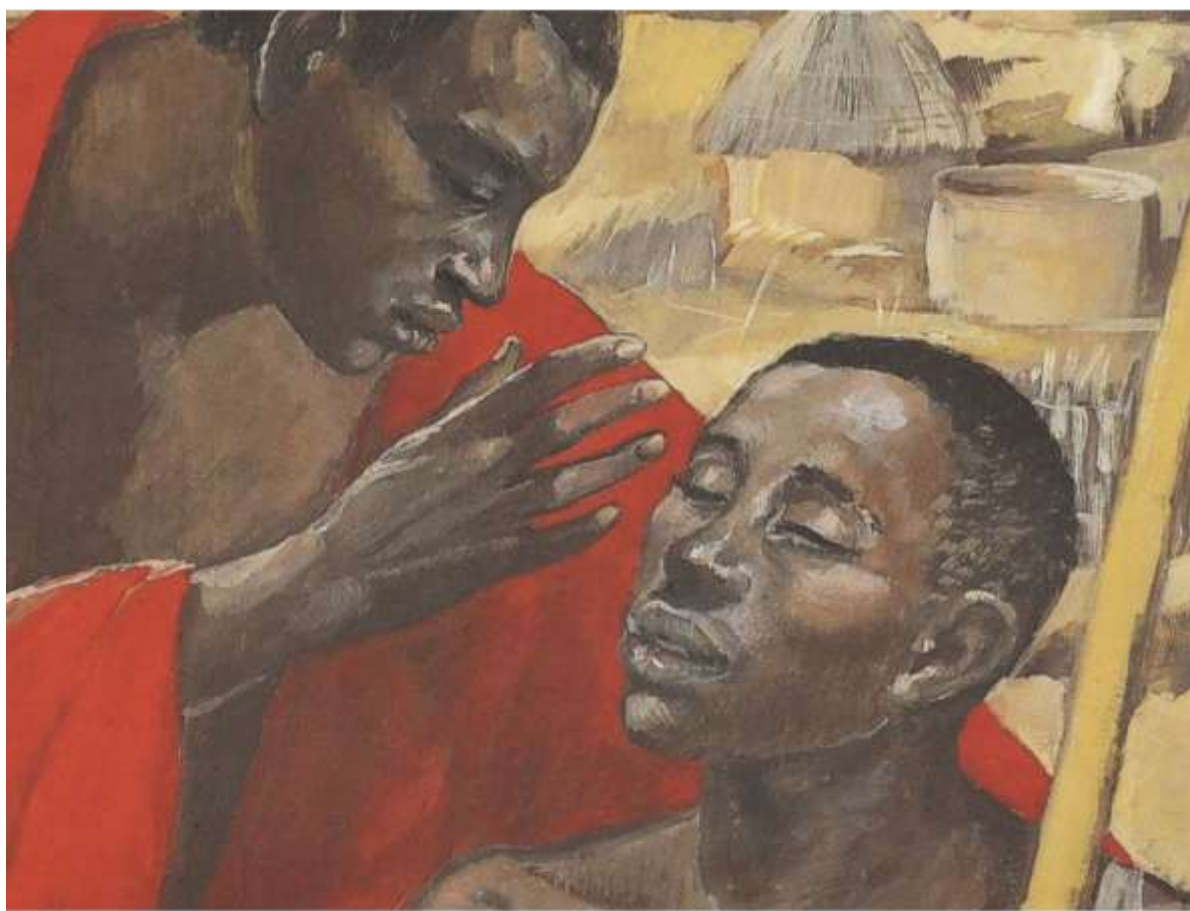
## Spiritual Communion

Sunday, March 15, 2026 at 9 AM

## Church of the Redeemer

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

office@theredeemer.ca • Tel: (416) 922 4948 • www.theredeemer.ca



## 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:* Blessed be God who forgives all our sins;

*All:* **whose mercy endures forever.**

*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. **Amen.**

## The Collect of the Day

Liska Stefko

*Priest:* Holy God, in Jesus Christ you reveal yourself to the world, even when we cannot behold your grace. Open our eyes to a vision of your transforming love in our midst, so that we may see your world anew; through Jesus Christ, the saviour who shows compassion. **Amen.**

## ✠ Proclamation of the Word

### First Reading:

Heather Bennett

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

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

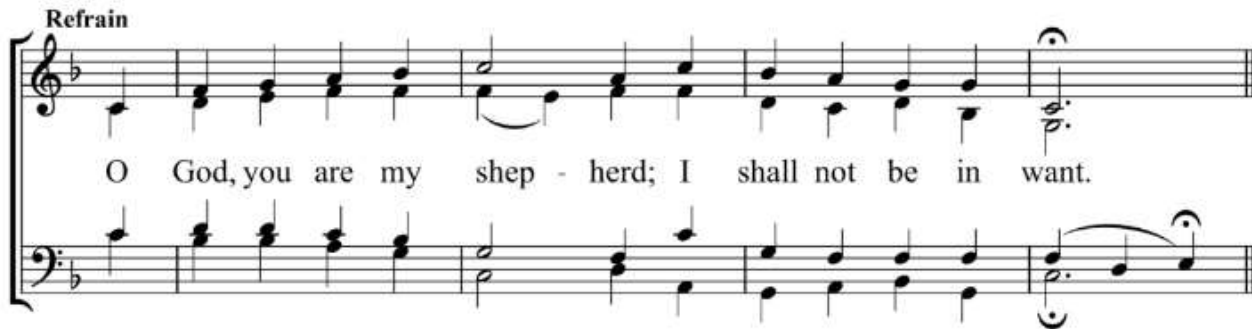
*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

1 Samuel 16.1-13

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

*A moment of silence is observed*

Refrain



O God, you are my shep - herd; I shall not be in want.

O God, you are my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

You make me lie down in green pastures  
and lead me beside still waters. Refrain

You revive my soul

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Refrain

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in your house, O God, for ever. 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.**

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the he." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"

He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

*Priest:* The Gospel of Christ.

John 9.1-41

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

**Homily:** Susan Haig

*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**

*Laura Boast*

*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.**

Offertory Hymn: #514 (Gather) "The Word of Life"

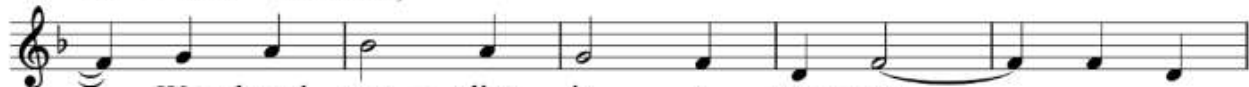
Led by Redeemer Music Team



1. In a byre near Beth - le - hem, Passed by man - y a  
2. By the Gal - i - le - an lake Where the peo - ple  
3. Qui-et was Geth - sem - an - e, Cam - ou - flag - ing  
4. On the hill of Cal - va - ry— Place to end all  
5. In a gar - den, just at dawn, Near the grave of



wand - 'ring stran-ger,  
flocked for teach-ing,  
priest and sol-dier; The most pre - cious Word of Life  
hope of liv - ing—  
hu - man vio-lence,



Was heard gur - gling in a man - ger,  
Fed their mouths as well as preach-ing,  
Took the world's weight on his shoul - der, For the  
Breathed his last and died, for - giv - ing,  
Cleared his throat and end - ed si - lence,



good of us all. And he's here when we call him, bring-ing



health, love, and laugh-ter to life now and ev - er



af - ter, for the good of us all.

## 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,

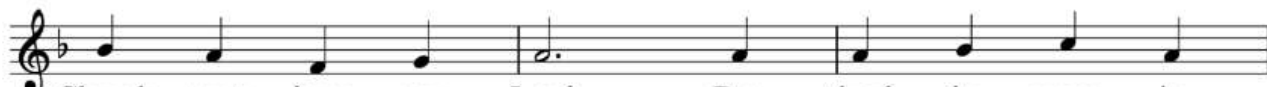
*All:* **whose power working in us  
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.  
Glory to God from generation to generation,  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Concluding Hymn: #474 (Blue Gather) "From Ashes to the Living Font"

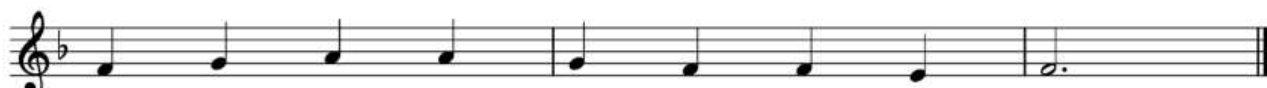
*Led by Redeemer Music Team*



1. From ash - es to the liv - ing font Your  
2. Through fast - ing, prayer, and char - i - ty Your  
3. For thirst - ing hearts let wa - ters flow, Our  
4. We sit be - side the road and plead, "Come,  
5. From ash - es to the liv - ing font, Your



Church must jour - ney, Lord, Bap - tized in grace, in  
voice speaks deep with - in, Re - turn - ing us to  
faint - ing souls re - vive; And at the well your  
save us, Da - vid's son!" Now with your vi - sion  
Church must jour - ney still, Through cross and tomb to



grace re - newed By your most ho - ly word.  
ways of truth And turn - ing us from sin.  
wa - ters give Our ev - er - last - ing life.  
heal our eyes, The world's true Light a - lone.  
Eas - ter joy, In Spir - it - fire ful - filled.

Text: Alan J. Hommerding, b.1956. © 1994, 2011, World Library Publications. Tune: ST. FLAVIAN; *John's Day Psalter*, 1562; harm. based on the original *faux-bourdon* setting.

## Dismissal

Steven Mackison

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

*All:* Thanks be to God.

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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

# HOLY WEEK

at

## CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

### Palm Sunday

9 AM - Worship on Zoom  
10.30 AM - Procession and Holy Eucharist  
*in the church and through YouTube*  
4 PM - Rock Vespers  
*featuring the music of U2*  
*in the church*

### Monday in Holy Week

12 PM - Sung Eucharist  
*in the church and through YouTube*  
6 PM - Taizé Eucharist  
*in the church and through YouTube*

### Tuesday in Holy Week

12 PM - Sung Eucharist  
*in the church and through YouTube*  
6 PM - Taizé Eucharist  
*in the church and through YouTube*

### Wednesday in Holy Week

12 PM - Sung Eucharist  
*in the church and through YouTube*  
6 PM - Service of Darkness  
*in the church and through YouTube*

### Maundy Thursday

7.30 PM - Foot-washing,  
Holy Eucharist and Vigil  
*in the church and through YouTube*

### Good Friday

9.30 AM - Good Friday for  
All Ages  
*in the church and through YouTube*  
12 PM - Solemn Good Friday  
*in the church and through YouTube*

### The Great Vigil

9 PM - The First Eucharist of Easter  
*in the church and through YouTube*

### Easter Sunday

9 AM Worship on Zoom  
10.30 AM Holy Eucharist with  
Dramatic Retelling of the Gospel  
*in the church and through YouTube*



# 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 Kok, Paul MacLean, Margaret Rodrigues, Paul G. Walker, Katy Waugh, Andrew Wesley  
**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:** Morgan  
**Duty Custodian:** Lloyd Simangan

## Members of Diocesan Synod

Wesley Acheampong, Chris Ambidge, Peter Bennett, Lyn Sibley, Karen Visser, Richard 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)