

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Spiritual Communion

Sunday, March 22, 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

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

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

President: Steven Mackison

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

Steven Mackison

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

Steven Mackison

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

Steven Mackison

Priest: God of all consolation,
your Son comforted the grieving sisters, Martha and Mary,
for your breath alone brings life to dry bones and weary souls.
Pour out your Spirit upon us,
so that we may face despair and death
with the hope of the resurrection and faith in the One
who called Lazarus forth from the grave. **Amen.**

✠ Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Henry Krol

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Ezekiel.

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Ezekiel 37:1-14

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence is observed



OUT ÖF the depths have I called to you, O God;
God, hear mÿ voice; *
 let your ears consider well the voice of my supp- / licatiön.

If you were to note what is done ämiss, *
 O God, / who could ständ?

For there is forgiveness with you; *
 Therefore you / shall be fëared.

I wait for you, O God, my soul waits för you; *
 in your word / is my höpe.

My soul waits for God,
 more than sentinels for the mörning, *
 more than sentinels for / the morning.

O Israel, wait för God,
 the One with whom there / is mercÿ;

With you, O God, there is plenteous redëmption, *
 and you shall redeem Israel / from all their sïns.

Gospel Acclamation

Led by Redeemer Music Team

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ

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 John.

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

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the people were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them."

After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping and those who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So they said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

Priest: The Gospel of Christ.

John 11.1-45

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

Homily: Liska Stefko

A moment of silence is observed.

At this time you are invited to offer prayers for the concerns of your heart in the chat.

Prayers of the People

Elli Howard

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

Steven Mackison

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

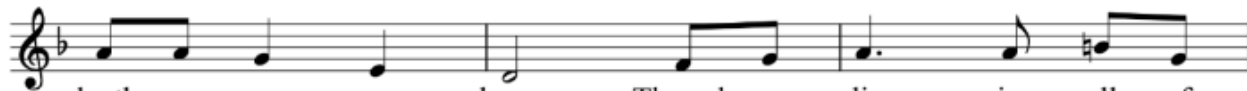
All: **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: #397 (Gather) "Tree of Life"

Led by Redeemer Music Team



1. Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, In your
2. Seed that dies to rise in glo - ry, May we
3. We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, Love passed
4. Gen - tle Je - sus, might - y Spir - it, Come in -
5. Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, Stum - bling
6. God of all our fear and sor - row. God who



death we are re - born, Though you die in all of
see our - selves in you, If we learn to live your
on through act and word, Ev - 'ry per - son lost and
flame our hearts a - new, We may all your joy in -
though our steps may be, One with you in joy and
lives be - yond our death; Hold us close through each to -



his - t'ry, Still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, Still you
sto - ry We may die to rise a - new, We may
bro - ken Wears the bod - y of our Lord, Wears the
her - it If we bear the cross with you, If we
sor - row, We the riv - er, you the sea, We the
mor - row, Love as near as ev - ery breath. Love as



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
die to rise a - new.
bod - y of our Lord.
bear the cross with you.
riv - er, you the sea.
near as ev - ery breath.

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: 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

Steven Mackison

Priest: Glory to God,

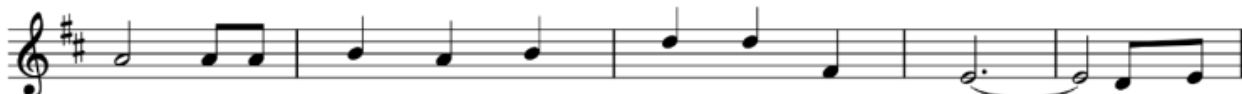
All: whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

Concluding Hymn: #489 (Common Praise) "From the Falter of Breath"

Led by Redeemer Music Team



1. From the fal - ter of breath, through the si - lence of
2. From frus - tra - tion and pain, through hope hard to sus -
3. From the dim - ming of light, through the dark - ness of
4. From to - day till we die, through all ques - tion - ing



death, to the won - der that's break - ing be - yond, God has
tain, to the whole - ness here prom - ised, there known, Christ has
night, to the glo - ry of good - ness a - bove, God the
why, to the place from which time and tide flow, an - gels



wo - ven a way, un - ap - par - ent by
gone where we fear and has vowed to be
Spir - it is sent to en - sure heaven's in -
tread on our dreams, and mag - nif - i - cent



day, for all those of whom heav - en is fond.
near on the jour - ney we make on our own.
tent is em - braced and com - plet - ed in love.
themes of heaven's prom - ise are ech - oed be - low.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

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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>

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

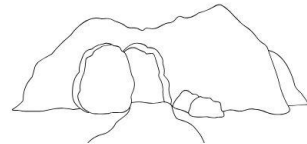
9:30 AM - Good Friday for
All Ages
in the church and through YouTube
12 PM - Solemn Good Friday
in the church and through YouTube

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 Greig, Deb Hinton, Scott MacLeod, Dawn Lee, Alanna Zоргdrager, Salome Pinto

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
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