

Palm Sunday  
Spiritual Communion  
Sunday, March 29, 2026 at 9 AM  
Church of the Redeemer

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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)

## Land Acknowledgement

*All are encouraged to offer this prayer, acknowledging the lands on which we dwell, before the service begins.*

As we begin our journey through Holy Week, 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.

**Presider:** Liska Stefko

## The Greeting

*Liska Stefko*

**Priest:** Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

**All:** **Hosanna in the highest!**



## ✠ The Proclamation of the Word

### First Reading

Sylvia Keesmaat

*Reader:* A Reading from the Prophet Zechariah

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the warhorse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle-bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations;  
his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

Zechariah 9:9-10

**People:** Thanks be to God.

*A moment of silence is observed*

### Psalm 24 (George Black)

Refrain:

The God of hosts it is who reigns in glo - ry.

The earth is our God's and all that is in it, the world and all who dwell therein.

For God has founded it upon the seas

and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep. **Refrain**

"Who can ascend the hill of the Holy One?"

and who can stand in the holy place?"

"Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,  
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,  
nor sworn by what is a fraud. **Refrain**

They shall receive a blessing from the Holy One,  
and a just reward from the God of their salvation."

Such is the generation of those who seek you, of those who seek your face,  
O God of Jacob. **Refrain**

## Second Reading

*Sylvia Keesmaat*

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

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

Philippians 2.5-11

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

*A moment of silence is observed*

## 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 Matthew.

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet; "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

*Priest:* The Gospel of Christ.

Matthew 21:1-11

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

## The Exhortation: Steven Mackison

*A moment of silence is observed*

## The Prayers of the People

*Christina Chang*

*Leader:* Lord Jesus Christ,  
...over the broken glass of our world,  
the rumours meant to hurt, the prejudice meant to wound,  
the weapons meant to kill, ride on...  
trampling our attempts at disaster into dust. Ride on,

*All:* **Ride on, ride on, in majesty.**

*Leader:* ...over the distance,  
which separates us from you and it is such a distance,  
measurable in half-truths, in unkept promises,  
in second-best obedience, ride on...  
until you touch and heal us,  
who feel for no one but ourselves.  
Ride on,

*All:* **Ride on...**

*Leader:* ...through back streets,  
and the forgotten corners of the city,  
where human life festers and love runs cold,  
ride on...  
bringing hope and dignity where most send scorn and silence.  
Ride on,

*All:* **Ride on...**

*Leader:* For you,  
O Christ, do care and must show us how.  
On our own, our ambitions rival your summons,  
and thus threaten good faith and neglect God's people.  
In your company and at your side,  
we might yet help to bandage and heal the  
wounds of the world. who feel for no one but ourselves.  
Ride on,

*All:* **Ride on...**

*A time of reflection follows where all may add their prayers aloud or in silence.  
The Priest then offers a concluding prayer.*

# The Peace

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

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

## Offertory Hymn: #181 (Common Praise) "All Glory, Laud, and Honour"

*Led by Redeemer Choir*

### Refrain



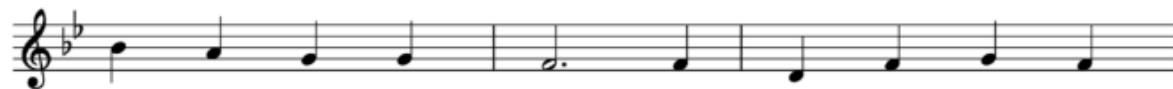
All glo - ry, laud, and hon - our to thee, Re-deem - er, King, to



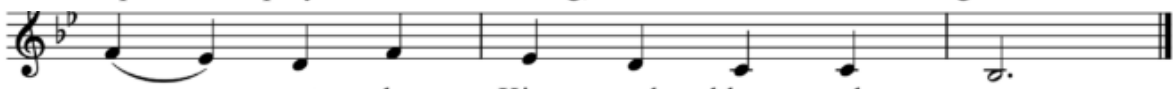
whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



1. Thou art the King of Is - rael, thou
2. The com - pa - ny of an - gels are
3. The peo - ple of the He - brews with
4. To thee be - fore thy Pas - sion they
5. Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac -



Da - vid's roy - al Son, who in our God's name  
prais - ing thee on high, and we with all cre -  
palms be - fore thee went; our praise and prayer and  
sang their hymns of praise; to thee now high ex -  
cept the prayers we bring, who in all good de -



com - est, the King and bless - ed one.  
a - tion in chor - us make re - ply.  
an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.  
alt - ed our mel - o - dy we raise.  
light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

## The Lord's Prayer

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:* 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.

Closing Hymn: #556 (Gather) "Canticle of the Turning"

*All sing*



1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
 3. From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
 4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the  
 work great things in me, And your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the crown be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your  
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from their throne. The  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This



fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
 sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; There are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

**Refrain**

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the  
fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the  
dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn!

The image shows a musical score for a refrain. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff concludes the phrase with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn!"

Text: Luke 1.46-58; Rory Cooney, b.1952. Tune: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN; Irish traditional; arr. By Rory Cooney, b.1952 © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

*There is no Dismissal at the end of this, or any other, liturgy in Holy Week.  
For we have not been dismissed; nor shall we be until God has finished working our redemption for us.*

# 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*

