

# The Third Sunday of Easter

Spiritual Communion

Sunday, April 19, 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](https://theredeemer.ca)

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

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**President:** Steven Mackison

**Welcome**

**Land Acknowledgement**



*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 Song: "O Beautiful Gaia" (Carolyn McDade)

Led by Redeemer Music Team

Refrain



O beau-ti-ful Gai - a, O Gai - a, call-ing us home.

O beau-ti-ful Gai - a, call - ing us on.

1. Soil yield-ing its har - vest, O Gai - a, call-ing us home.  
2. Waves crash-ing on gran - ite, O Gai - a, call-ing us home.  
3. Pine bend-ing in wind - storm, O Gai - a, call-ing us home.  
4. Loon nest-ing in marsh - land, O Gai - a, call-ing us home.

Soil yield-ing its har - vest, call - ing us on.  
Waves crash-ing on gran - ite, call - ing us on.  
Pine bend-ing in wind - storm, call - ing us on.  
Loon nest-ing in marsh - land, call - ing us on.

Text: Carolyn McDade. Music: Lydia Pedersen.

## The Easter Greeting

Steven Mackison

*Priest:* Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*All:* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Priest:* May his grace and peace be with you.

*All:* **May he fill our hearts with joy.**

## The Collect of the Day

Steven Mackison

*Priest:* O God, your Son made himself known  
to his disciples in the breaking of bread.

Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him  
in his redeeming work, who is alive and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## ✠ Proclamation of the Word

### First Reading:

Laura Boast

*Reader:* A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

Acts 2.14a, 36-41

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

*A moment of silence is observed*

### Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (George Black)

*Led by Redeemer Music Team*

Refrain

I will lift up the cup of sal - va - tion. - va - tion.

Last time

**I love you, O God, because you have heard the voice of my supplication,  
because you have inclined your ear to me whenever I called upon you.  
The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me;  
I came to grief and sorrow.**

**Then I called upon your name, O God:**

**"My defender, I pray you, save my life." Refrain**

**How shall I repay you, O God  
for all the good things you have done for me?  
I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call upon your name, O God. Refrain**

**I will fulfil my vows to you, O God,  
in the presence of all your people.  
Precious in your sight, O God,  
is the death of your servants. Refrain**

**O God, I am your servant;  
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.  
I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon your name, O God. Refrain**

**I will fulfil my vows to you, O God,  
in the presence of all your people.  
In the courts of God's house,  
in the midst of Jerusalem.  
Hallelujah! Refrain**

**Second Reading:**

*Laura Boast*

*Reader:* A Reading from the First Letter of Peter.

If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

1 Peter 1.17-23

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*A moment of silence is observed*

### 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 Luke.

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

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!"

Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

*Priest:* The Gospel of Christ.

Luke 24.13-35

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

**Homily:** Ann Jarvis

*A moment of silence is observed.*

**Prayers of the People**

*Christina Chang*

*Leader:* We pray to you, O God, who judge all people impartially according to the things we do. We thank you for raising Jesus Christ from the dead, through whom we are born anew.

*A silence is observed. Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.*

*Leader:* Through your beloved Son, the Resurrected One,

*All:* **help us to trust in you.**

*Leader:* Lord, these are difficult times where it seems that each day we hear more distressing news. Help us to stand with those who are not just hearing of troubling events, but who are experiencing terrible suffering because of these events. Strengthen us to stand in solidarity with the suffering, and to pray each day for those whose streets are being bombed in Tehran and Lebanon, those cut off from food and fuel in Cuba, those subject to constant bombardment in Kyiv, those rebuilding their homes from the rubble in Gaza, those traumatized by violence and war in Sudan, Myanmar and the DRC. Break the arrogance and weaponry of the aggressors and raise up voices for peace everywhere.

*A silence is observed. Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.*

*Leader:* Through your beloved Son, the Resurrected One,

*All:* **help us to trust in you.**

*Leader:* We pray for the Church and for the leaders of the church, here in our country and around the world. We pray that you guide and direct them, giving them strength, wisdom, and the courage to not shy away from the difficult issues. We pray especially for Pope Leo as he proclaims what it means to live out the gospel message.

*A silence is observed. Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.*

*Leader:* Through your beloved Son, the Resurrected One,

*All:* **help us to trust in you.**

*Leader:* We pray for people in high places everywhere, in government and in business, that they learn to govern with humility, accountability and wisdom. We pray for Prime Minister Carney, Premier Ford and Mayor Chow. For all the issues that they face on any given day, please help them to make decisions which bring goodness and health and compassion to our communities.

*A silence is observed. Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.*

*Leader:* Through your beloved Son, the Resurrected One,

*All:* **help us to trust in you.**

*Leader:* Lord, as you did for the two who walked with you to Emmaus, reveal yourself when we break bread with the hungry, show hospitality to the stranger, and provide refuge for those living on our streets. May those who have newly found our church, find hospitality and friendship here.

*A silence is observed. Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.*

*Leader:* Through your beloved Son, the Resurrected One,

*All:* **help us to trust in you.**

*Leader:* Thank you for the gifts so evident at this time of year - the greening of the earth, the heightened song of birds, and people filling our streets. Bless this time of the year for everyone. Help us to be more neighbourly and less suspicious of those around us, more generous and less fearful, knowing that we really have time and room for everyone. Help us to be kinder to this bountiful planet, to care for it in the way you intended.

*A silence is observed. Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.*

*Leader:* Through your beloved Son, the Resurrected One,

*All:* **help us to trust in you.**

*Leader:* We pray for those we know who are ill. Comfort them in their affliction and show us how we can bring your comfort to them. We pray for those who are overwhelmed by loss, whether the loss of employment or housing, the loss of a relationship, or the loss of a good friend. Help us to walk alongside them in their sadness. We pray for those who are dying and for those who care for them. Remind us to care for them in their journey of grief.

*A silence is observed. Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.*

*Leader:* Through your beloved Son, the Resurrected One,

*All:* **help us to trust in you. Amen.**

## The Peace

*Steven Mackison*

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

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

## Offertory Hymn: #239 (Common Praise) “Jesus Lives! Thy Terrors Now”

*Led by Redeemer Music Team*



1. Je - sus lives! Thy ter - rors now can no more, O  
2. Je - sus lives! Hence-forth is death but the gate of  
3. Je - sus lives! For us he died; then, a - lone to  
4. Je - sus lives! Our hearts know well nought from us his



death, ap - pal us. Je - sus lives! By this we know  
life im - mor - tal; this shall calm our trem - bling breath  
Je - sus liv - ing, pure in heart may we a - bide,  
love shall sev - er; life, nor death, nor powers of hell



thou, O grave, canst not en - thral us.  
when we pass its gloom - y por - tal. Al - le - lu - ia!  
glo - ry to our Sav - iour giv - ing.  
tear us from his keep - ing ev - er.

Text: Christian Furchtegott Gellert (1715-1769); tr. Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812-1897), alt. Music: ST. ALBINUS. Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876).

## 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.**

Concluding Hymn: #435 (Gather) "Sing to the Mountains"

Led by Redeemer Music Team

**Refrain**

Sing to the moun-tains, sing to the sea. Raise your  
voic - es, lift your hearts. This is the day our  
God has made. Let all the earth re - joice.

1. I will give thanks to you, my God. You have an-swered my  
plea. You have saved my soul from death.  
You are my strength and my song. **D.C.**

2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. **D.C.**

3. This is the day that our God has made.  
Let us be glad and re - joice. Now all death has turned to life.  
Sing of the glo - ry of God. **D.C.**

*Priest:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

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

**FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN**

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**WORSHIP WITH US**

**EASTERTIDE**

**Sunday April 19 (Third Sunday after Easter)**

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

**8:00 PM** – Compline (on Zoom only)

**Wednesday April 22**

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

**Sunday April 26 (Fourth Sunday after Easter)**

**9:00 AM** – Spiritual Communion (on Zoom only)

**9:00 AM** – Coffee Church (in the Church)

**10:30 AM** – Holy Eucharist (in the Church and through YouTube)

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

**8:00 PM** – Compline (on Zoom only)

# INTRODUCING



Starting **April 12**, this service at **9AM**  
is a meditative time of song and prayer rejoicing in the risen Christ.

**Come in to pray, join us in song,**  
pick up a cup of coffee and enjoy conversation before and after the service. Come and see.