

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Spiritual Communion

Sunday, April 26, 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

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

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

President: Liska Stefko

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 Hymn: #451 (Gather) "Christ has Risen"

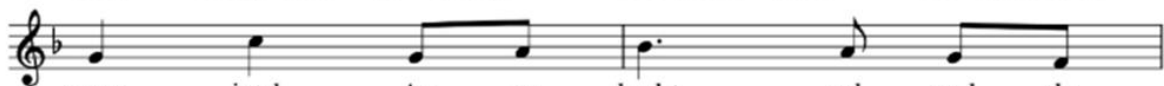
Led by Redeemer Music Team



1. Christ has ris - en while earth slum - bers, Christ has
2. Christ has ris - en for the peo - ple Whom he
3. Christ has ris - en to com - pan - ion For - mer
4. Christ has ris - en and for ev - er Lives to



ris - en where hope died, As he said and as he
died to love and save; Christ has ris - en for the
friends who fear the night, Sens - ing loss and lim - i -
chal - lenge and to change All whose lives are messed or



prom - ised, As we doubt - ed and de -
wom - en Bring - ing flowers to grace his
ta - tion Where their faith had once burned
man - gled. All who find re - li - gion



nied. Let the moon em - brace the bless - ing; Let the
grave. Christ has ris - en for dis - ci - ples Hud - dled
bright. They be - moan what is no long - er, They ex -
strange. Christ is ris - en, Christ is pres - ent Mak - ing



sun sus - tain the cheer; Let the world con - firm the
in an up - stairs room. He whose word in - spired cre -
pect no hope - ful sign Till Christ ends their con - ver -
us what he has been— Ev - i - dence of trans - for -



ru - mour: Christ is ris - en, God is here!
a - tion Can't be si - lenced by the tomb.
sa - tion, Break - ing bread and shar - ing wine.
ma - tion In which God is known and seen.

The Easter Greeting

Liska Stefko

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

Liska Stefko

Priest: O God, whose Son is the good shepherd, send us out as shepherds to seek the lost, to heal the injured and to nurture all with grace and compassion; through Jesus, who calls each by name and lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

✠ Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Henry Krol

Reader: A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Acts 2.42-47

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence is observed

Psalm 23 (George Black)

Led by Redeemer Music Team

Refrain

O God is 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**

Second Reading:

Henry Krol

Reader: A Reading from the First Letter of Peter.

For it is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

1 Peter 2.19-25

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence is observed

Gospel Acclamation

Led by Redeemer Music Team

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.**

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

Priest: The Gospel of Christ.

John 10.1-10

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

Homily: Liska Stefko

A moment of silence is observed.

Prayers of the People

Deb Hinton

Leader: Shepherd God, we pray for your church around the world, that like the first disciples we might share all that we have, distribute our goods to all that are in need, and invite our enemies to the table that you have prepared for us all. May we bear witness to your life-giving Word.

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

Leader: Help us to hear your voice.

All: **For even in the darkest valley, you comfort us.**

Leader: Shepherd of many flocks, we pray for all people of faith around the world who suffer for their faith: Muslims banned from mosques during Ramadan, Christians barred from churches during Easter celebrations, and the synagogues far and near suffering vandalism and destruction. May we be a people of welcome and generosity.

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

Leader: Help us to hear your voice.

All: **For even in the darkest valley, you comfort us.**

Leader: Suffering and wounded Shepherd, pray for those who are being driven out of their homes by bombs and shooting, those whose villages are being destroyed, those whose land is being taken, and those who are being unjustly thrown in prison. We pray especially for Ukraine, the Sudan, Gaza, Iran, Lebanon, the West Bank, and those who have been detained and deported by ICE. May we be a people who work for peace.

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

Leader: Help us to hear your voice.

All: **For even in the darkest valley, you comfort us.**

Leader: Healing Shepherd, we pray for all of those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit. Those who have no green pastures in which to find rest, because they struggle to find a place to sleep each night. Those who can find no still waters because anxiety and depression provide no escape. Those who are suffering from illness or pain, and who long for the comfort of your healing hands. May we be a people of comfort and compassion.

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

Leader: Help us to hear your voice.

All: **For even in the darkest valley, you comfort us.**

Leader: Comforting Shepherd, we pray for those walking through the valley of the shadow of death. Comfort those who are dying, hold those who are grieving, and welcome those who have died into the goodness and mercy of your home.

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

Leader: Help us to hear your voice.

All: **For even in the darkest valley, you comfort us. Amen.**

The Peace

Liska Stefko

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

All: **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: #630 (Common Praise) "You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd"

Led by Redeemer Music Team



1. You, Lord, are both lamb and shep - herd, You, Lord, are both
2. Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain, stripped of might up -
3. You, who walk each day be - side us, sit in pow - er
4. Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus! Wor - thy is our



prince and slave. You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
on the cross, shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
at God's side. You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
cos - mic Christ! Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - tory.



of the way you took and gave. You, the ev - er -
beg - gared by a sold - ier's toss, you, the ev - er -
have a love that reach - es wide. You, the ev - er -
Wor - thy still your peace and strife. You, the ev - er -



last - ing in - stant; you, whom we both scorn and crave.
last - ing in - stant; you, who are both gift and cost.
last - ing in - stant; you, who are our pil - grim guide.
last - ing in - stant; you, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993), alt. © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: CHRISTUS PARADOX. John R. Van Maanen (1958-) ©.

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: 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

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: #214 (Common Praise) “The Lamb’s High Banquet Called to Share”
Led by Redeemer Music Team



1. The Lamb's high ban - quet called to share,
2. Up - on the al - tar of the cross,
3. Pro - tect - ed in the pas - chal night
4. Now Christ our pass - o - ver is slain,
6. We hymn thee ris - ing from the grave,



ar - rayed in gar - ments white and fair,
his bod - y hath re - deemed our loss;
from the de - stroy - ing an - gel's might,
the Lamb of God with - out a stain;
from death re - turn - ing strong to save;



the Red Sea past, we long to sing
and, tast - ing of his pre - cious blood,
in tri - umph went the ran - somed free
his flesh, the true un - leav - ened bread,
thine own right hand the ty - rant chains,



to Je - sus our tri - um - phant king.
our life is hid with him in God.
from Phar - aoh's cru - el tyr - an - ny.
is free - ly of - fered in our stead.
and par - a - dise for us re - gains.

Text: Latin (*Aid cenam Agni*, 6th cent.); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: ST. VENANTIUS. Melody *Antiphoner*, Rouen, 1728; harm. Michael Fleming (1928-2006). Harm. © Hope Publishing Co.

Dismissal

Liska Stefko

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 26 (Fourth Sunday after Easter)

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

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)

Wednesday April 29

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

Sunday May 3 (Fifth 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.

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)

If you spot any errors or omissions, or to find out more about our ministry areas, please contact us: office@theredeemer.ca

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 Crumme

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

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Archives: Nancy Luno
Catechesis: Georgi Georgievski
Creation Matters: Grant Jahnke, Andrew Scorer
Hospitality: Tony Crosbie
Human Resources: Tim Hadwen
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Martha League: Richard Van Delft
Meditation Group: Lilian Junkin
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Trans Ministry: Margaret Rodrigues
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