

# Ascension of the Lord

## Spiritual Communion

Sunday, May 17, 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](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



*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: #255 (Common Praise) "Come Away to the Skies"

Led by Redeemer Music Team



1. Come a - way to the skies, my be - lov - ed, a -  
2. Now with sing - ing and praise, let us spend all the  
3. For the glo - ry we were first cre - a - ted, to  
4. We with thanks do ap - prove the de - sign of that  
5. Hal - le - lu - jah we sing, to the heav - en's high



rise and re - joice in the day thou wast born.  
days by our gra - cious Cre - a - tor be - stowed,  
share, both the na - ture and king - dom di - vine!  
love which has joined us to Je - sus' name;  
King, and our rap - tu - rous prais - es re - peat:



On this fes - ti - val day, come ex - ult - ing a -  
while by grace we re - ceive from God's boun - ty, we  
Now cre - a - ted a - gain that our lives may re -  
so u - ni - ted in heart, let us nev - er - more  
to the Lamb that was slain, hal - le - lu - jah a -



way, and with sing - ing to Zi - on re - turn.  
live to the hon - our and glo - ry of God.  
main, through-out time and e - ter - ni - ty thine.  
part, till we meet at the feast of the Lamb.  
gain, sing all heav - en, and fall at his feet.

Text: *The Southern Harmony*, New Haven, 1835, alt. Music: MIDDLEBURY. Melody *The Southern Harmony*, New Haven, 1835; harm. Jack W. Burnam (1946- ) ©.

## 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:* Holy God,  
send your promised Spirit of revelation and wisdom,  
so that, in the blessed freedom of hope,  
we may witness to the grace of forgiveness  
and sing with joy to the One who makes us one. **Amen.**

## ✠ Proclamation of the Word

### First Reading:

*Heather Bennett*

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

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

Acts 1.1-11

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

*A moment of silence is observed*

**Refrain**



Our God shall reign for ev - er and ev - er.

O God, you reign in glory;  
you are robed in majesty;  
you are robed,  
you are girded with strength. **Refrain**

You have made the whole world so sure  
that it cannot be moved.  
Ever since the world began, your throne has been established;  
you are from everlasting. **Refrain**

The waters have lifted up, O God,  
the waters have lifted up their voice;  
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.  
Mightier than the sound of many waters,  
mightier than the breakers of the sea,  
mightier is our God who dwells on high. **Refrain**

Your testimonies are very sure,  
and holiness adorns your house, O God, for ever and for evermore. **Refrain**

**Second Reading:**

*Heather Bennett*

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

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in

Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

Ephesians 1.15-23

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

*A moment of silence is observed*

## **Gospel Acclamation**

### **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 Luke.

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

Jesus said to the disciples, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you - that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

*Priest:* The Gospel of Christ.

Luke 24.44-53

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

**Homily:** Dan Norman

*A moment of silence is observed.*

## Prayers of the People

Laura Boast

*Leader:* With your ascension, we rejoice in your victory over death and sin. Renew in us the assurance that all your good purposes for this world will prevail.

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

*Leader:* In your mercy, Oh God

**All: Help the lonely find family, and set the prisoners free.**

*Leader:* For those enduring fiery trials in the war zones of this world, help them to see Christ with them in their struggles and in their efforts to find a lasting peace. In Ukraine, Gaza, Iran, Lebanon, Israel, Myanmar, DRC, Sudan and Yemen, we ask you risen Lord to quell the violence, and for your peace to prevail.

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

*Leader:* In your mercy, Oh God

**All: Help the lonely find family, and set the prisoners free.**

*Leader:* We pray for the church, here at Redeemer, the Anglican communion, and the church worldwide. Give us the courage to be light and salt in these dark and difficult days. Give us wisdom to know how to navigate the challenging situations and conversations in our lives and in our community. We are grateful to live in the safety and comfort of Canada. Make us ever mindful of those who do not have that same privilege.

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

*Leader:* In your mercy, Oh God

**All: Help the lonely find family, and set the prisoners free.**

*Leader:* We pray for the leaders of our world, for politicians, for leaders of industry and media, for the leaders of health care, policing and correctional services. Inspire them to lead with honesty and integrity. Give them hearts that are ever mindful of vulnerable people and help them initiate policies that lessen the hardships vulnerable people face.

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

*Leader:* In your mercy, Oh God

**All: Help the lonely find family, and set the prisoners free.**

*Leader:* Help us to be more inclusive of others, welcoming the stranger in our midst. We pray for the Common Table, Sanctuary, All Saints, St. Stephen's in the field and other agencies of care giving voice and dignity to the people they serve. Protect and make space for homeless people who are being forcibly displaced by the upcoming FIFA World Cup. Help us to stand alongside those who are sadly too acquainted with the alienation of standing alone. We pray for those who are unemployed or in dead-end jobs, that they soon find meaningful employment.

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

*Leader:* In your mercy, Oh God

*All:* **Help the lonely find family, and set the prisoners free.**

*Leader:* We pray for people who are ill that you would restore and heal them. We pray for those pressed to the limit in caring for others, personally or professionally, that you would give them strength. Be near to those who are dying, and reassure them of your love through our presence and our prayers. Give comfort to those mourning the loss of people they love. Enable us to comfort them in their grief.

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

*Leader:* In your mercy, Oh God

*All:* **Help the lonely find family, and set the prisoners free.**

**The Peace**

*Liska Stefko*

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

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

# Offertory Hymn: "Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

Led by Redeemer Music Team



1. Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and  
2. Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -  
3. Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,  
4. Lord, you show us love's true meas - ure: "Fa - ther, what they  
5. Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the Church ne - glect its mis - sion  
tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,  
this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,  
do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate treas - ure  
to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



And the Gos - pel go un - heard, Help us wit - ness  
Life a - bun - dant meant for each, Give us all new  
Dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, Ask - ing that the  
All that you so free - ly give. May your care and  
May we serve as you in - tend, And, a - mid the



to your pur - pose With re - newed in - teg - ri - ty;  
fer - vour, draw us Clos - er in com - mun - i - ty;  
world a - round us Share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty;  
mer - cy lead us To a just so - ci - e - ty;  
cares that claim us, Hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty;



With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us For the work of min - is - try.

## 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: #598 (Common Praise) "Go To the World"** *Led by Redeemer Music Team*



1. Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth. Go preach the  
2. Go to the world! go in - to ev - ery place. Go live the  
3. Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless and pray; the nights of  
4. Go to the world! Go as the ones I send, for I am



cross where Christ re - news life's worth, bap - tiz - ing  
word of God's re - deem - ing grace. Go seek God's  
tears give way to joy - ous day. As ser - vant  
with you till the age shall end, when all the



as the sign of our re - birth. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
pres - ence in each time and space.  
church, you fol - low Christ's own way.  
hosts of glo - ry cry, "A - men!"

*Led by Redeemer Music Team*

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993). © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924).

**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**

### **Sunday May 17 (Ascension of the Lord)**

**4:00 PM** – Rock Vespers ~ featuring the music of Tears for Fears (in the Church)

**8:00 PM** – Compline (on Zoom only)

### **Wednesday May 20**

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

### **Sunday May 24 (The Day of Pentecost)**

**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)

**8:00 PM** – Compline (on Zoom only)

# 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](mailto: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 Crummey

## Advisory Board

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**Vice-Chair:** Susanne Hunter  
**Board of Management Chair:** Carol Scovil  
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**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  
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**Human Resources:** Tim Hadwen  
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**Martha League:** Richard Van Delft  
**Meditation Group:** Lilian Junkin  
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**Young Adults:** Shirley Park  
**Zoom Moderators:** Anne Lee