

# National Indigenous Day of Prayer

Spiritual Communion

Sunday, June 21, 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



## WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER!

We are in the heart of downtown Toronto, and we gather to celebrate on the traditional lands of the Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinaabe Nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. 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.

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>.

### Welcome

### The Gathering

*We are grateful to Sandra Campbell for gathering us in worship this morning through drumming and smudging. To learn more about smudging and drumming, see the service notes at the end of the bulletin.*

### Collect of the Day

*Steven Mackison*

*Priest:* Creator God, from you every family in heaven and earth takes its name. You have rooted and grounded us in your covenant love, and empowered us by your Spirit to speak the truth in love, and to walk in your way towards justice and wholeness. Mercifully grant that your people, journeying together in partnership, may be strengthened and guided to help one another to grow into the full stature of Christ, who is our light and our life. **Amen.**

## ✠ Proclamation of the Word

### First Reading:

*Heather Bennett*

*Reader:* A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God”? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Isaiah 40.25-31

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

*A moment of silence is observed*

### Psalm: #19 (SANC) “Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory”

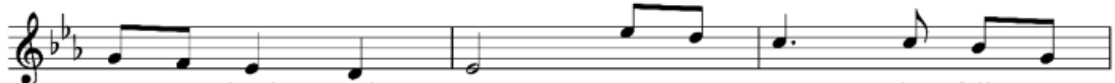
*Led by Redeemer Music Team*



1. Joy - ous light of heavenly glo - ry, lov - ing glow of God's own  
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of  
3. You who made the heav - en's splen - dour, ev - ery danc - ing star of



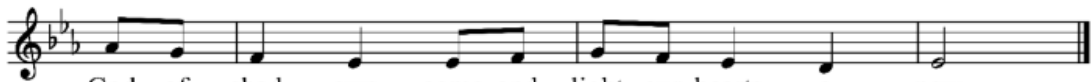
face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on  
dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom we can  
night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us



ev - ery land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -  
hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with  
each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -



round us we shall raise our songs to you. God of day - break,  
won - der, love that warms the wear - y soul, love that bursts all  
a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing Spir - it



God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.  
chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.  
of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

Text: Greek hymn, 3<sup>rd</sup> cent.; para. Marty Haugen, 1987. Music: JOYOUS LIGHT. Marty Haugen, 1987. Text and music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.

## Second Reading:

Heather Bennett

*Reader:* A Reading from Small Man to the Sacred Family in Village Of Horses.

Always dance with joy before our Honored Chief! I will say it again: dance with joy! Let everyone see how kind and thoughtful you are. Our Honored Chief is close at hand. Do not let your hearts be weighed down with anything. Instead, with every step you take, send your voice to the Great Spirit, asking him for the things you need. And in all your prayers remember to give him thanks. Then the peace and harmony of the Great Spirit, which goes far beyond our small and weak ways of thinking, will watch over your hearts and minds through the Chosen One, Creator Sets Free (Jesus).

Last of all, my sacred family members, if anything can be seen as good and honorable, think deeply about these things. Things that are true and noble, upright and pure, full of beauty and worthy of respect. Follow the way of life you have seen in me, the things you have learned from me, heard from me, and received from me. Keep walking in the traditions I have passed on to you. Then the Great Spirit of Peace will continue to walk with you on this road.

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.*

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Philippians 4.4-9

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*A moment of silence is observed*

**Sequence Song: “Take It Up”** (*Karl Wallinger*)

*Led by Redeemer Music Team*

I got an extra glimpse of the truth today  
Staring at my breakfast when I thought I heard it say  
Fighting is no good, success an empty lie  
The treasure hunt is lonely until you realize

**We came to take it up, we came to take it up, we came to take it up**  
**We came to raise it up, we came to take it up, we came to move it up**

I promise you Miss, I will do my best today  
But somebody keep trying to make me, trying to make me lose my way  
But I believe, oh, my darling, I believe in you  
And I hope when you hear this, you'll remember what we were sent to do

**We came to take it up, we came to take it up, we came to take it up**  
**We came to move it up, we came to raise it up, we came to praise it up**  
**I came to take you up, you came to take me up, we came to take us up**  
**Take me up, take me up**

Speeding out of the town, I thought I'd lost my way  
'Til I saw the green and ebony come a-wondering about their pay  
Well, I've got the money if you've still got the friends  
We can really put this world to right or sit and watch the end, you know  
**We gonna take it up, we gonna move it up**  
**We gonna take it up, we gonna take it up**  
To the very, very top...

**The Gospel**

*Steven Mackison*

*Priest:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Priest:* He Shows Goodwill tells the Good Story of Creator Sets Free.

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

Long ago, in the time before all days, before the creation of all things, the one who is known as the Word was there face to face with the Great Spirit. This Word fully represents Creator and shows us who he is and what he is like. He has always been there from the beginning, for the Word and Creator are one and the same.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.*

Through the Word all things came into being, and not one thing exists that he did not create. Creator's life shined out from the Word, giving light to all human beings. This is the true Light that comes to all the peoples of the world and shines on everyone. The Light shines into the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it or put it out. Into the wilderness of the Land of Promise (Judea) came a man named Gift of Goodwill (John). He was sent by the Great Spirit to tell what he knew about the Light so everyone could believe. He was not the Light but came to speak the truth about the Light. The true Light that shines on all people was coming into the darkness of this world. He came down into this world, and even though he made all things, the world did not recognize him. Even his own tribe did not welcome or honour him.

But all who welcome and trust him receive their birthright as children of the Great Spirit. They are born in a new way, not from a human father's plans or desires, but born from above—by the Great Spirit.

Creator's Word became a flesh-and-blood human being and pitched his sacred tent among us, living as one of us. We looked upon his great beauty and saw how honourable he was, the kind of honour held only by this one Son who fully represents his Father—full of his great kindness and truth. Gift of Goodwill (John) told what he knew about him and cried out with a loud voice, "The one I have told you about is here! He comes after me, but is much greater—my elder! He has more honour, for even though he is thought to be younger, he existed before I was born." From the fullness of his being we have all had many gifts of kindness poured out on us.

*What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.*

*But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.*

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

Drawn from the Water (Moses) gave us our tribal laws, but the gift of great kindness and truth came from Creator Sets Free (Jesus), the Chosen One. No one has ever seen the Great Spirit, but the one Son, who is himself the Great Spirit and closest to the Father's heart, has shown us what he is like.

*No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.*

*Priest:* The Gospel of Christ.

John 1.1-18

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

## Homily

*We pause for music and meditation.*

## Prayers of the People

*Laura Boast*

*Leader:* For the gift of life, the wellbeing of Mother Earth, the waters that sustain us, and for all creation. For all land and water protectors, for all children and new lifebeing born, for a spirit of respect to grow within us, Creator of all

*All:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.*

*Leader:* For the gifts of all cultures and languages, for the flourishing of Indigenous Nations on whose Territory our Church gathers to worship, for the Chippewas of Rama First Nation, Alderville First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation. With gratitude for their governance and leadership on these lands and waters since time immemorial, Creator of all

*All:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.*

*Leader:* For the responsibility to honour our sacred obligations as Treaty People. For us to embody the teachings of gratitude, respect, humility, of not taking more than we need, of living in balance and right relationship with one another and all life, Creator of all

*All:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.*

*Leader:* For our continued renewal, for true repentance when we have acted in domination and violence, for restitution, healing, and your Church to truly follow your selfless servant, Creator of all

*All:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.*

*Leader:* For the courageous witness of Elders and Residential School legacy Survivors, whose truths broke through the sin of genocide denial and call us all to participate in paths of healing and reconciliation. For all whose precious lives have been taken by colonial and Church violence. For our commitment to remember, learn, speak out, and practice solidarity, Creator of all

*All:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.*

*Leader:* For all who are sick or suffering in body, mind, or spirit. For the incarcerated, the hungry, the persecuted, the missing, and the oppressed. For all we name now either silent or aloud. For justice and the living waters of your Spirit to flow through this land, Creator of all

*All:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Please add your prayers silently or in the chat.*

*Leader:* Turn us from selfishness to mutuality, from arrogance to openness, from domination to relationships of respectful reciprocity. Help us to live into your hope and vision for us held in our sacred obligations, our covenants, commitments spoken, and our Treaties. Fill us with your love and lead us to paths of harmony and respect. Creator of all

*All:* **Hear our prayer. Amen.**

## **The Peace**

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

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

# Offertory Hymn: "You are Called to Tell the Story"

Redeemer Music Team



1. You are called to tell the sto - ry, Pass - ing  
2. You are called to teach the rhy - thm Of the  
3. You are called to set the ta - ble, Bless - ing  
4. May the One whose love is broad - er Than the



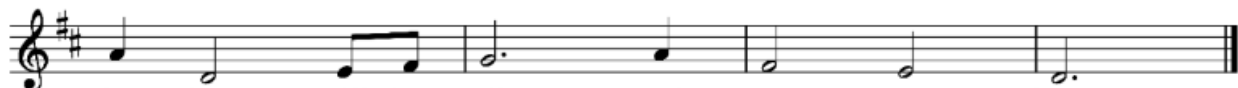
words of life a - long, Then to  
dance that nev - er ends, Then to  
bread as Je - sus blessed, Then to  
meas - ure of all space Give to



blend your voice with oth - ers As you  
move with - in the cir - cle, Hand in  
come with thirst and hun - ger, Need - ing  
words to sing the sto - ry, Move a -



sing the sa - cred song. Christ be known in all our  
hand with stran - gers, friends. Christ be known in all our  
care like all the rest. Christ be known in all our  
mong us in this place. Christ be known in all our



sing - ing, Fill - ing all with songs of love.  
danc - ing, Touch - ing all with hands of love.  
shar - ing, Feed - ing all with signs of love.  
liv - ing, Fill - ing all with gifts of love.

## 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.**

## Announcements

### Concluding Hymn: #583 (Common Praise) “When God Restored Our Common Life”

*Led by Redeemer Music Team*



1. When God re - stored our com - mon life, our hope, our  
2. We went forth weep - ing, sow - ing seeds in hard, un -  
3. Great lib - er - at - ing God, we pray for all who



lib - er - ty, at first it seemed a pass - ing dream, a  
yield - ing soil. With laugh - ing hearts we car - ry home the  
are op - pressed. May those who long for what is right with



wak - ing fan - ta - sy. A shock of joy swept o - ver  
fruit of all our toil. We praise the one who gave the  
jus - tice now be blessed. We pray for those who mourn this



us, for we had wept so long; the seeds we wa - tered  
growth, with voic - es full and strong. The seeds we wa - tered  
day, and all who suf - fer wrong; may seeds they wa - ter



once with tears, sprang up in - to a song.  
once with tears, sprang up in - to a song.  
now with tears, spring up in - to a song.

## The Dismissal

Steven Mackison

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

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

### Service Notes

#### *Smudging:*

This is the ceremonial process of burning sage in an abalone shell or container. The smoke that comes up from the burning medicines is called “smudge” where we draw the smoke over our bodies in sacred reverence and gratitude. It sets our intention while connecting to the Creator while visiting within the Creator’s creation

May your hands be cleansed, that they can create beautiful things. May your eyes be cleansed, that you might see the signs and great wonders of God’s world. May your ears be cleansed, that you bravely hear the truth. May your throat be cleansed, that you might speak rightly when words are needed. May your feet be cleansed, that they might take you where you are most needed to be. May your heart be cleansed, that you might hear its messages clearly. May the people and this holy worship space be washed clean by the fragrance smoke of this sage. May that same smoke, when spiralling to the heavens, carry our petitions to our Creator.

#### *The Drum:*

The drum is significant to many First Nations. The gift of the drum is our connection to the Creator. There are various teachings about the drum, but the main teaching is to give the community the opportunity to come together in prayer and song of thanksgiving. The first drum was given to a girl during her vision quest for peace during the time when there was grave hardship during wartime. It was the responsibility of the drummer or drummers to be the channel (s) of peace for the community.

The drum carrier has a responsibility of taking care and feasting the drums every season. The drum is alive because our connection with the Creator is alive. Depending on the song, it is customary to stand when an honour song is sung to show a sign of respect to the covenant with the Creator that the drum is the connector and bringer of peace.

When a drum starts drumming with four honour beats, the purpose is to request that the Creator stop and bend an ear for the beginning of the prayer song. During this period, the Creator will listen and send the Spirit (Spirit helpers) to give visions, answers, or messages to all of Creation.

Usually the songs throughout the ceremony (service) is to give thanks for peace and prosperity by giving thanks and praises for the bountiful gifts that Creator gave while traveling in a peaceful loving way of life. At the end of the service the drum song is given to thank the Creator for providing the community the opportunity to share and move in our lives in a good way.

## **FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN**

The Collect, Prayer over the Gifts and Prayer after Communion are from the Propers for the BAS Calendar of Memorials and Commemorations

New Testament readings are from Terry M. Wildman, First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament.

Prayers of the People Prayers of the People are from

the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, the Bishop's Collaborative for Right Relations

Cover image is from Image by Fabian Cho for Getty Images, Canva Teams

All music, not in the public domain, is reproduced under OneLicense.net #A-707061

## **WORSHIP WITH US**

### **Sunday June 21 (National Indigenous Day of Prayer)**

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

**8:00 PM** – Compline (on Zoom only)

### **Wednesday June 24**

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

### **Sunday June 28 (Pride Sunday)**

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

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

**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)