Season of Creation: *Cleansing Waters*

Spiritual Communion

Sunday, September 27, 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
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Presider: 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: #502 (Gather) "Come to the Water" *Led by Redeemer Music Team*

Text: Isaiah 55.1,2, Matthew 11.28-30; John Foley, SJ (1939-). Tune: John Foley, SJ (1939-) © 1978, John B. Foley, SJ, and New Dawn Music.

✠ The Gathering of the Community *Liska Stefko*

Priest: In the beginning, the Spirit of God hovered over the waters.
And God called them good.

All: **Come Holy Spirit and cleanse the waters.**

Priest: The prophet saw a river flowing from the Temple,
and wherever the river flowed, everything lived.

All: **Come Holy Spirit and renew the face of the Earth.**

Priest: Jesus cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me...
Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."
All: **Come, Holy Spirit and heal your people.**

The Collect of the Day *Liska Stefko*

Priest: Creator God, from you every family in heaven and on 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.
All: **Amen.**

✠ Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: *Laura Boast*

Reader: A Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Hear, everyone who thirsts;
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Isaiah 55.1, 10-13
All: **Thanks be to God.** *A moment of silence is observed*

Psalm 121 *(George Black)* *Led by Redeemer Music Team*

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from God,
the maker of heaven and earth. **Refrain**

Who will not let your foot be moved
who watches over you and will not fall asleep.
Behold, God keeps watch over Israel
and will not slumber nor sleep; **Refrain**

God watches over you;
a shade at your right hand,
So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night. **Refrain**

Our God shall preserve you from all evil;
and shall keep you safe.
God shall watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore. **Refrain**

Second Reading: Nothing is Lost from *Ladder to the Light* *(Steven Charleston)* *Laura Boast*

In the days of conquest, when darkness covered the land, the hoop of many nations was broken, the story of many people lost—and lost forever. The number who perished will never be counted, but their graves are still here. Their testimony is written into the earth. The wisdom of the ancestors is a mist over the valley, a cloud passing before the moon.

The teachings of the elders can be heard in the rain, the message of the poets seen in the first stars that put the sun to bed. Nothing is finally lost. The ancient visions are within us. The old dreams are part of us. The steady rhythm of hope was never silenced. It beats today for all who would hear it. It beats within me. It beats within you. Life is still growing beneath the concrete. The sound of the earth is breathing beneath the glass and steel.

Sequence Song: "Every Grain of Sand" *(Bob Dylan)* *Led by Redeemer Music Team*

In the time of my confession, in the hour of my deepest need
When the pool of tears beneath my feet flood every newborn seed
There's a dyin' voice within me reaching out somewhere
Toiling in the danger and in the morals of despair
Don't have the inclination to look back on any mistake
Like Cain, I now behold this chain of events that I must break
In the fury of the moment I can see the Master's hand
In every leaf that trembles, in every grain of sand

Oh, the flowers of indulgence and the weeds of yesteryear
Like criminals, they have choked the breath of conscience and good cheer
The sun beat down upon the steps of time to light the way
To ease the pain of idleness and the memory of decay
I gaze into the doorway of temptation's angry flame
And every time I pass that way I always hear my name
Then onward in my journey I come to understand
That every hair is numbered like every grain of sand

I have gone from rags to riches in the sorrow of the night
In the violence of a summer's dream, in the chill of a wintry light
In the bitter dance of loneliness fading into space
In the broken mirror of innocence on each forgotten face
I hear the ancient footsteps like the motion of the sea
Sometimes I turn, there's someone there, other times it's only me
I am hanging in the balance of a perfect finished plan
Like every sparrow falling, like every grain of sand

The Gospel *Liska Stefko*

Priest: The Lord be with you.
All: **And also with you.**

Priest: Shining Light Tells the Good Story.
All: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Note: The First Nation Version of the New Testament using the following terms: Creator Sets Free (Jesus), Village of Peace (Jerusalem), Moon Village (Jericho), and High Place as (Samaria).

A scroll keeper, one who was skilled in his knowledge of tribal law, came to Creator Sets Free to test him and trap him in his words. “Wisdomkeeper,” he said. “What path must I walk to have the life of the world to come that never fades away, full of beauty and harmony?” He answered him, “What is written in our tribal law about this? Tell me, how do you see it?” The scroll keeper spoke from the words of the law, “You must love the Great Spirit from deep within, with the strength of your arms, the thoughts of your mind, and the courage of your heart, and you must love your fellow human beings in the same way you love yourselves.” “You have answered well,” Creator Sets Free said back to him. “If you walk this path you will live.” But the scroll keeper, wanting to look good to others, asked him, “Who are my fellow human beings?”

Creator Sets Free answered him with a story. “There was a man walking the road from Village of Peace to Moon Village. On the way he was attacked by thieves, who beat him, stripped him of his clothes, and left him bleeding to death. Now it happened that a holy man was on the same road, not far behind. When he saw the man, he went around him on the other side of the road. Not far behind him was another man, also from the tribe holy men are chosen from. When he saw the wounded man, he did the same thing as the holy man. Then a man from High Place, who was also walking the road, saw the wounded man. Even though he was not a Tribal Member but a mixed blood despised by the tribal people, he felt pity for the man. He helped him by pouring good medicine on his wounds and wrapping them in a cloth. He put the man on his own animal and took him to a lodging house to care for him. The next day, when the man of High Place was leaving, he gave from his own money pouch to the keeper of the lodging house. ‘Use this to care for him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will give you anything more that is needed.’” Creator Sets Free then looked at the scroll keeper and said, “Which one of these three acted as a fellow human being to the man who was attacked by the thieves?” The scroll keeper answered, “The one who had pity on him.” “Go,” Creator Sets Free said, “and walk in the same way.”

Priest: The Gospel of Christ. Luke 10.25-37
All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily: Paige Souter

A moment of silence is observed.

Prayers of the People *Deb Hinton*

Leader: Let us pray to God our creator.
Eternal God, we thank you for your light and your truth.
We praise you for your care in creating a universe
which proclaims your glory.
Inspire us to worship you, the creator of all,
and let your light shine upon our world.

Please add your prayers either silently or in the chat.

Leader: God of life:
All: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: We thank you for the beauty of the earth,
for the diversity of land and sea,
the mysteries of space, and for the resources of the earth.
Give us the will to cherish this planet
and to use its riches for the good and welfare of all.

Please add your prayers either silently or in the chat.

Leader: God of life:
All: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: We thank you for the warmth of the sun,
the light of the moon, the glory of the stars.
We praise you for the formations of clouds,
the radiance of dawn and sunset.
Save us from wasting or abusing the energy
on which all life depends.
Open our eyes to behold your beauty,
and our lips to praise your name.

Please add your prayers either silently or in the chat.

Leader: God of life:
All: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: We thank you for the teeming life of the seas and rivers,
and the flight of the birds.
Help us to protect the environment,
to protect endangered species
and to preserve the variety of habitats
so that in honouring the delicate balance of nature
all life may flourish.

Please add your prayers either silently or in the chat.

Leader: God of life:
All: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for the human family.
We pray for the places where war and civil unrest
lead to death, destruction and displacement
and that our calls for peace may be heard.
We remember the unhoused,
the refugee and the lonely
that we may offer shelter,
welcome and sustenance.
Confirm us in the truth
that every human being is known and loved by you.

Please add your prayers either silently or in the chat.

Leader: God of life:
All: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Creator of all, you have filled the world with beauty:
open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works;
that, rejoicing in your whole creation,
we may learn to serve you with gladness;
for the sake of him through whom all things were made,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace *Liska Stefko*

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

Offertory Hymn: #583 (Common Praise) "When God Restored Our Common Life"

Led by Redeemer Music Team

Text: Psalm 126; para. Ruth Duck (1947-). © *1992 GIA Publications, Inc.* Music: RESIGNATION. Melody *The Southern Harmony*, New Haven, 1835; harm. Dale Grotenhuis (1931-2012) ©.

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: 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 *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: #662 (Common Praise) **"**The Trees of the Field"

Led by Redeemer Music Team

Text: Isaiah 55.12; para. Steffi Geiser Rubin (1950-). Music: THE TREES OF THE FIELD. Melody Stuart Dauermann (1944-); harm. Patrick Wedd (1948-2019) ©.
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Dismissal *Liska Stefko*

Priest: Tend the earth,
care for God's good Creation;
as you have received freely, so give freely.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

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Covenanting is from the Church in Wales. Collect of the Day: Episcopal Church Season of Creation – A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes 2025. First Reading: New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition
Second Reading: Episcopal Church Season of Creation – A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes 2025.
Gospel Reading: First Nations Version
Prayer over the Gifts: Feast of the Creator, Trial Use, Anglican Church of Canada
Eucharistic Prayer: Feast of the Creator, Trial Use, Anglican Church of Canada (Cedar + Salal, adapted)
Breaking of the Bread: Episcopal Church Season of Creation – A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes 2025.
Prayer after Communion: Feast of the Creator, Trial Use, Anglican Church of Canada
Prayers of the People: Church of the England: Times & Seasons- Creation (Adapted)
Dismissal: Episcopal Church Season of Creation – A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes 2025.
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WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday September 27 (Cleansing Waters)

4:00 PM – Be Still (Choral Edition); Meditative music at 3:30pm, Taizé chanting and choral music at 4pm
8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)

Wednesday September 30

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

Sunday October 4 (Living Waters)

9:00 AM – Spiritual Communion (on Zoom only)
9:00 AM – Simple Gifts (in the Church)
10:30 AM – Holy Eucharist (in the Church and through YouTube)
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

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 Crummey

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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 Zorgdrager, Salome Pinto

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