

Proper 19A
Spiritual Communion
Sunday, August 9, 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)

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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: #547 (Common Praise) “I Sought You God”

Led by Redeemer Music Team



1. I sought you God, and af - ter - ward I knew my soul was
2. Thou didst reach forth thy hand and mine en - fold; I walked and
3. I find, I walk, I love; but, oh, the whole of love is
moved to seek you, seek - ing me. It was not I that
sank not on the storm-vexed sea. 'Twas not so much that
but my an - swer, God, to thee! For thou wert long be -
found, O Sav - iour true; no, I was found of thee.
I on thee took hold as thou, dear God, on me.
fore - hand with my soul; al - ways thou lov - est me.

Text: *Holy Songs, Carols, and Sacred Ballads*, Boston, 1880, alt. Music: FAITH. J. Harold Moyer (1927-2012), © 1969 Faith and Life Press/Mennonite Publishing House.

✠ The Gathering of the Community

Liska Stefko

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

The Collect of the Day

Liska Stefko

Priest: Through the storms of life, O God,
you walk with your people
in the person of Jesus your Son.
Calm our fears and strengthen our faith
so that we may never doubt his presence among us
but proclaim that he is your Son,
risen from the dead, living forever.

All: **Amen.**

✠ Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Catherine Emerson

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. These are the descendants of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him an ornamented robe. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him. Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.' " So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the ornamented robe that he wore, and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat, and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed.

When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

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

Genesis 37.1-4, 12-28

All: Thanks be to God.

A moment of silence is observed

Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b (George Black)

Led by Redeemer Music Team

Refrain

O You have al - ways been mind-ful of your co - ve - nant.

Give thanks to our God and call upon the holy Name;
make known God's deeds among the peoples.
Sing to God, sing praises to the Holy One,
and speak of all God's marvellous works. **Refrain**

Glory in the holy Name;
let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice.
Let us search for you and your strength, Ö God,
Let us continually seek your face. **Refrain**

Let us remember the marvels you have done,
your wonders and the judgements of your mouth,
O offspring of Abraham yöur servant,
O children of Jacob your chosen. **Refrain**

Then you called for a famine in the land
and destroyed the supply of bread.
You sent a man before them,
Joseph, who was sold as a slave. **Refrain**

They bruised his feet in fetters;
his neck they put in an iron collar.
Until his prediction came to pass,
The word of God tested him. **Refrain**

The king sent and released him;
the ruler of the people set him free.
He set him as master over his household,
as a ruler over all his possessions,
To instruct his princes according to his will
and to teach his elders wisdom.
Hallelujah! Refrain

Gospel Acclamation

Led by Redeemer Music Team

The Gospel

Bianca Mathews

Reader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

Matthew 14.22-33

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

Homily: Bianca Mathews

A moment of silence is observed.

Prayers of the People

Sylvia Keesmaat

Leader: O Lord, in these early days of harvest, plentiful with peaches, corn and other fruits and vegetables, we thank you for the sun, the rain and those who work the fields, many of whom are migrants. Open our hearts to welcome those whose labour means that we are fed, making room for them the way Jacob and his family were as foreigners, when they worked in the fields of Canaan.

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

Leader: For you O Lord are Lord of the whole earth
All: **and generous to all who call on you.**

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

Leader: We pray for the refugees in Spain and elsewhere, battered by the waves, far from their homeland, enduring the cold winds of closed borders and a deepening unwillingness among nations to help them. We pray that you open our hearts to make room for all who seek safety and home.

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

Leader: For you O Lord are Lord of the whole earth
All: **and generous to all who call on you.**

Leader: We pray that the ‘on’ and ‘off’ ceasefires in the Middle East lead to a permanent and just peace, making room for a homeland for Palestinians. We pray the same for Ukraine, for Sudan, for Iran and for the many other nations torn apart by war. Raise up leaders skilled in peacemaking to help rescue those who have experienced the loss of friends and family, and who have seen their homes and communities destroyed. We pray for aid workers, doctors, nurses and relief agencies who work tirelessly in life threatening situations. We pray for the firefighters and volunteers valiantly fighting the wildfires. May they succeed in their efforts. Help us as a nation take meaningful steps to better manage these precious resources of trees, wildlife, water and communities.

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

Leader: For you O Lord are Lord of the whole earth
All: **and generous to all who call on you.**

Leader: We pray for your Church. Help us to truthfully confess you as Lord by putting your words into action. Open our eyes to see you at work not only within these

walls but in every place we are engaged. Bless the ministry of the Common Table, our youth and children's ministries, the weekly Peace Vigil and various services that take place here and elsewhere through the week. As we share the same turbulent seas as do our neighbours and friends, help us not to fear but to take hold of your hand, the hand settles the sea no matter how turbulent things get.

A silence is observed. Please add your prayers silently or aloud.

Leader: For you O Lord are Lord of the whole earth

All: **and generous to all who call on you.**

Leader: We pray that those who are ill - whether in body, mind or spirit - find comfort, strength and healing from those around them. Nourish and encourage those who care for the hurting whether family, caregiver or friend. To both patient and caregiver, be present Lord, to those without food or a home, open our lives to include them. To those without family or friends, open our homes and our hearts to welcome them. We pray for those who are dying to feel your gentle presence and find deep comfort and peace in their loss.

A silence is observed. Please add your prayers silently or aloud.

Leader: For you O Lord are Lord of the whole earth

All: **and generous to all who call on you. Amen.**

The Peace

Liska Stefko

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

All: **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: #567 (Common Praise) “O God, Protector, Strong to Save”

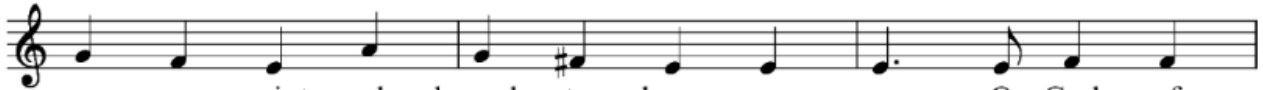
Led by Redeemer Music Team



1. O God, pro - tec - tor, strong to save, whose arm re - strains the
2. O Christ, whose voice the wa - ters heard and hushed their rag - ing
3. Cre - a - tor Spir - it, by whose breath were fash - ioned sea and
4. O Trin - i - ty of love and power, pre - serve their lives in



rest - less wave, who bids the might - y o - cean deep its
at your word, who walked a - cross the sur - ging deep and
sky and earth; who made the storm - y cha - os cease and
dan - ger's hour; from rock and tem - pest, flood and flame, pro -



own ap - point - ed bounds to keep: we cry, O God of
in the storm lay calm in sleep: we cry, O Lord of
gave us life and light and peace: we cry, O Spir - it
tect them by your ho - ly name, and to your glo - ry



maj - es - ty, for those in per - il on the sea.
Gal - il - ee, for those in per - il on the sea.
strong and free, for those in per - il on the sea.
let there be glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Text: William Whiting (1825-1878), rev. *Hymns for Today's Church*, alt. © 1982 Hope Publishing Co. Music: MELITA. John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876).

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: #564 (Common Praise) “Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us”

Led by Redeemer Music Team

1. Lead us God of heav - en lead us o'er the world's tem -
2. Sav - iour breathe for - give - ness o'er us; all our weak - ness
3. Spir - it of our God, de - scend - ing, fill our hearts with

pes - tuous sea; guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
thou dost know; thou didst tread this earth be - fore us,
heaven - ly joy, love with ev - ery pas - sion blend - ing,

for we have no help but thee; yet pos - sess - ing
thou didst feel its keen - est woe; lone and drea - ry,
plea - sure that can nev - er cloy; thus pro - vid - ed,

ev - ery bless - ing if our God our Sav - iour be.
faint and wear - y, through the des - ert thou didst go.
par - doned, guid - ed, noth - ing can our peace de - stroy.

Text: James Edmeston (1791-1867). Music: MANNHEIM. Melody Friedrich Filitz (1804-1876); adapt. Thomas Binney (1798-1874); harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt.

Dismissal

Bianca Mathews

Leader: Go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

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WORSHIP WITH US

August 9 (Proper 19A)

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

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)

Wednesday August 12

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

Sunday August 16 (Proper 20A)

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)

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)

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

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 Ebdon, Louise Greig, Deb Hinton, Scott MacLeod, Dawn Lee, Alanna Zоргdrager, Salome Pinto

Redeemer Ministry Leads

Accessibility Advocate: Carol Scovil
Archives: Nancy Luno
Catechesis: Georgi Georgievski
Creation Matters: Grant Jahnke, Andrew Scorer
Hospitality: Tony Crosbie
Human Resources: Tim Hadwen
Indigenous Solidarity Working Group: Stephen Allen
Liturgy Animator: Ann Cope
Martha League: Richard Van Delft
Meditation Group: Lilian Junkin
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Property: Susan Graham Walker
Redeemer Explorers: David Townsend, Deb Deacon
Redeemer Pilgrims: Susan Haig
Refugee Settlement: Alison Colvin, Henry Krol
Stewardship: Ron Waldie
Trans Ministry: Margaret Rodrigues
Young Adults: Shirley Park
Zoom Moderators: Anne Lee

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