

Season of Creation: *Nurturing Waters*

Spiritual Communion

Sunday, September 20, 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



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)

Presider: Susan Haig

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 Song: “Watch the Sunrise” (*Alex Chilton / Chris Bell*)

Led by Redeemer Music Team

I can feel it, now it's time
Open your eyes
Fears be gone it won't be long
There's a light in the sky
It's okay to look outside
The day it will abide
And watch the sunrise

Sun, it shines on all of us
We are one in its hands
Come inside and light my room
Like the heart of every man
It's okay to look outside
The day it will abide
And watch the sunrise

I can feel it now it's time
Open your eyes
Fears be gone it won't be long
There's a light in the sky
It's okay to look outside
The day it will abide
And watch the sunrise

✠ The Gathering of the Community

Susan Haig

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

Susan Haig

Priest: O God, because in our ignorance and selfishness
we so often fail to care rightly for your Creation,
mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit
may soften and unite our hearts
with all living beings who suffer;
through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

✠ Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Catherine Emerson

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Jonah.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.” But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

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

Jonah 3.10-4.11

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence is observed

Psalm 145.1-8 (George Black)

Led by Redeemer Music Team

Refrain

Great is our God, high - ly to be praised, great be-yond our reach.

I will exalt you, O sovereign God,
and bless your Name for ever and ever.
Every day will I bless you
and praise your Name for ever and ever. **Refrain**

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised;
there is no end to your greatness.
One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power. **Refrain**

I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.
They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will tell of your greatness. **Refrain**

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
God is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and of great kindness. **Refrain**

Second Reading: An Excerpt from *A Slower Urgency* (Báyò Akómalàfè)

Catherine Emerson

Everywhere I was invited to speak, I offered an invitation to ‘slow down’, which seems like the wrong thing to do when there’s fire on the mountain. But here’s the point: in ‘hurrying up’ all the time, we often lose sight of the abundance of resources that might help us meet today’s most challenging crises. We rush through into the same patterns we are used to. Of course, there isn’t a single way to respond to crisis; there is no universally

correct way. However the call to slow down works to bring us face to face with the invisible, the hidden, the unremarked, the yet-to-be-resolved. Sometimes, what is the appropriate thing to do is not the effective thing to do. Slowing down is thus about lingering in the places we are not used to. Seeking out new questions. Becoming accountable to more than what rests on the surface. Seeking roots. Slowing down is taking care of ghosts, hugging monsters, sharing silence, embracing the weird.

Sequence Hymn: #663 (Gather) “As a Fire is Meant for Burning”

Led by Redeemer Music Team

The image displays a musical score for a hymn. It features a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. Below the staff, the lyrics are written in three parts: 1. As a fire is meant for burn - ing With a; 2. We are learn - ers; we are teach - ers; We are; 3. As a green bud in the spring - time Is a. The lyrics continue on subsequent lines: bright and warm - ing flame. So the church is meant for; pil - grims on the way. We are seek - ers; we are; sign of life re - newed, So may we be signs of; mis - sion, Giv - ing glo - ry to God's name. Not to; giv - ers; We are ves - sels made of clay. By our; one - ness 'Mid earth's peo - ples, man - y hues. As a; preach our creeds or cust - oms, But to build a bridge of; gen - tle, lov - ing ac - tions, We would show that Christ is; rain - bow lights the heav - ens When a storm is past and; care, We join hands a - cross the na - tions, Find - ing; light. In a hum - ble, lis - t'ning Spir - it, We would; gone, May our lives re - flect the ra - diance Of God's; neigh - bours ev - 'ry - where. live to God's de - light. new and glor - ious dawn.

1. As a fire is meant for burn - ing With a
2. We are learn - ers; we are teach - ers; We are
3. As a green bud in the spring - time Is a
bright and warm - ing flame. So the church is meant for
pil - grims on the way. We are seek - ers; we are
sign of life re - newed, So may we be signs of
mis - sion, Giv - ing glo - ry to God's name. Not to
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one - ness 'Mid earth's peo - ples, man - y hues. As a
preach our creeds or cust - oms, But to build a bridge of
gen - tle, lov - ing ac - tions, We would show that Christ is
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care, We join hands a - cross the na - tions, Find - ing
light. In a hum - ble, lis - t'ning Spir - it, We would
gone, May our lives re - flect the ra - diance Of God's
neigh - bours ev - 'ry - where.
live to God's de - light.
new and glor - ious dawn.

The Gospel

Susan Haig

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Priest: Gift from Creator Tells the Good Story.

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

To help them to better understand what he was saying, Creator Sets Free (Jesus) told them another story about Creator's good road.

“Creator’s good road from above is like this tribal member who managed a large vineyard. He went out early in the morning to find people to harvest the grapes. After they agreed with him on the amount for a full day’s pay, he sent them to work. A few hours later he went to the trading post and saw people there doing nothing. He told them, ‘If you will join the workers in my field, I will pay you well.’ So they went to work. Then, about midday, and again at midafternoon, he went out and found others and did the same. Finally, when the day was nearly done, he found a few more people doing nothing.

‘Why are you not working?’ he asked them. ‘No one has hired us,’ they answered. He agreed to pay them fairly and sent them to work. At the end of the day, the headman said to his manager, ‘Bring the workers in from the field and pay them, beginning from last to first.’ He paid the workers hired at the end of the day a full day’s wage. When the workers who were hired at the start of the day were paid, they expected to receive more but were paid the same amount. ‘We have worked all day in the scorching heat,’ they complained to the manager. ‘Why should we be paid the same as the ones who worked only one hour?’

‘I am not being unfair with you, my friend,’ he said to one of them. ‘Did we not agree on the amount of a full day’s wages? Take your pay and go in peace. If I want to pay these men the same, what is that to you? Am I not permitted to be generous with what is mine? Or are you jealous because I have done a good thing?’ That is why I told you before,” he reminded them, “the last will be first and the first will be last.”

Priest: The Gospel of Christ.

Matthew 20.1-16

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

Homily: Sylvia Keesmaat

A moment of silence is observed.

Prayers of the People

Elli Howard

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

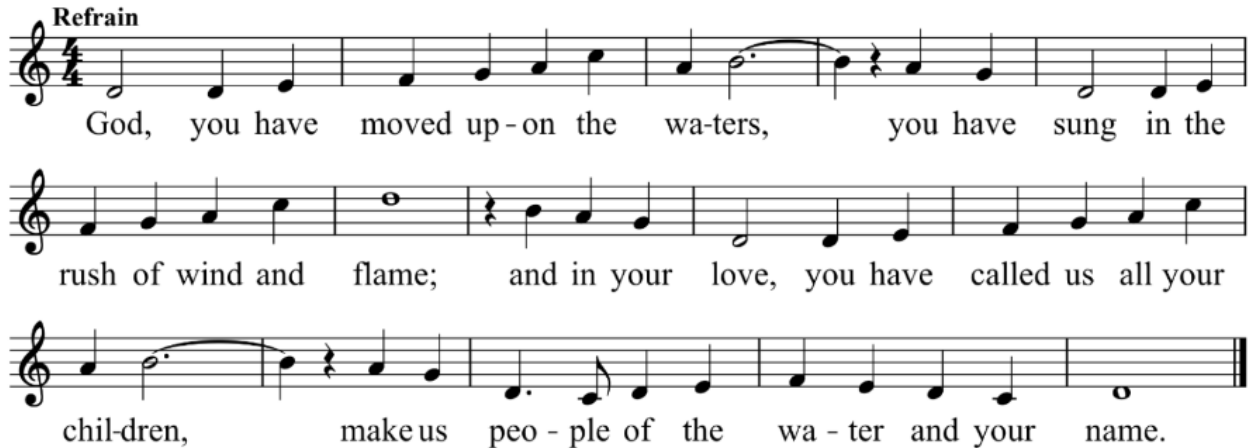
Susan Haig

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

Offertory Hymn: #585 (Gather) “Song over the Waters

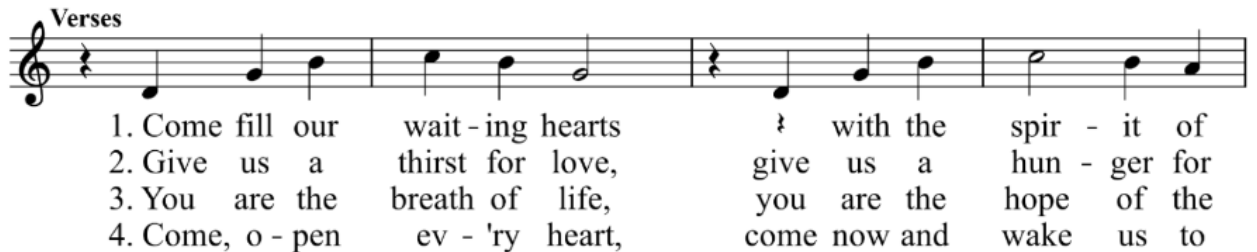
Led by Redeemer Music Team

Refrain



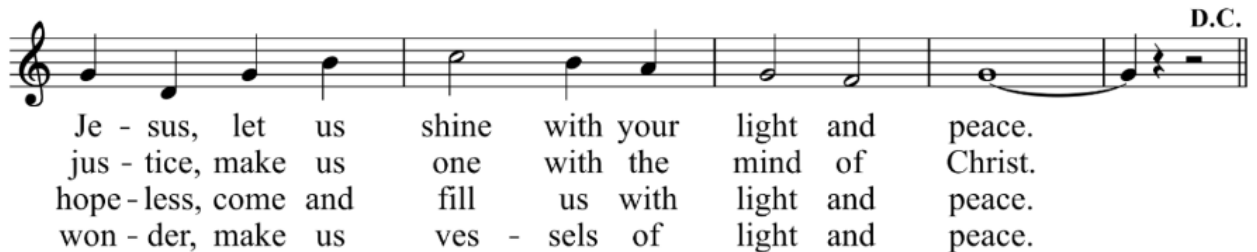
God, you have moved up-on the wa-ters, you have sung in the
rush of wind and flame; and in your love, you have called us all your
chil-dren, make us peo-ple of the wa-ter and your name.

Verses



1. Come fill our wait-ing hearts with the spir-it of
2. Give us a thirst for love, give us a hun-ger for
3. You are the breath of life, you are the hope of the
4. Come, o-pen ev-'ry heart, come now and wake us to

D.C.



Je-sus, let us shine with your light and peace.
jus-tice, make us one with the mind of Christ.
hope-less, come and fill us with light and peace.
won-der, make us ves-sels of light and peace.

Text: Marty Haugen (1950-). Tune: Marty Haugen (1950-) © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Lord's Prayer

Susan Haig

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

Susan Haig

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

Susan Haig

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: #565 (Common Praise) “Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer”

Led by Redeemer Music Team

1. Guide me, O thou great Re-deem-er, pil - grim through this
2. Op - en now the crys - tal foun-tain whence the heal - ing
3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y;
stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side; death of death, and hell's des - truc - tion,

hold me with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer,
land me safe on Ca - naan's side: songs of prais - es,

bread of heav - en, feed me till I want no more,
strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and shield,
songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to thee,

feed me till I want no more.
be thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to thee.

Text: William Williams (1717-1791); tr. Peter Williams (1723-1796), alt. Music: CWM RHONDDA. John Hughes (1873-1932) ©. Reprinted by permission of Ms. C.A. Webb.

Dismissal

Susan Haig

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: Church of England, Common Worship Creation (adapted)

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.

The cover image “Season of Creation” is by Dawn Lee.

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WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday September 20 (Nurturing Waters)

4:00 PM – The Cosmic Walk (in the Church and through YouTube)

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)

Wednesday September 23

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

Sunday September 27 (Cleansing 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)

4:00 PM – Be Still (Choral Edition); Meditative music at 3:30pm,
Taize chanting and choral music at 4pm

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)

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, Louise Grieg
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, Louise Grieg, Susanna Jacob
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
Pastoral Care: Tony Crosbie
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