

**Our vision is to be a bridge. Whoever you are, wherever you are from, you are welcome!**

Even if today is your first time here, you are invited to participate fully in every part of the service as much or as little as you like. Here is a guide to our worship:

**We are a house of prayer for all people.**

We affirm many paths to God. For non-Christ-centred Anointing or Communion blessings, please approach the anointer or server with your arms crossed over your chest.

**Prayers of the People** are when you are invited to name people or

circumstances as prayer requests out loud, at the appropriate times,

as you feel comfortable.

**Lessons for Life** are meant to inspire you in your spiritual journey and to

challenge you to find ways to put your faith into action. CDs of the Lessons

for Life are available at The Information Centre in the Social Hall and

transcripts are available at [www.MCCToronto.com](http://www.MCCToronto.com)

During the Time for **Reconciliation and Healing** you're invited to come

forward alone or with a friend to receive an anointing for healing. An Anointer

will anoint your forehead with oil and offer you a brief blessing. We all share

God's love and celebrate God's unconditional gift of peace and freedom.

**Building Bridges** is possible because of the abundant giving of people

just like you. Gathering our gifts, we celebrate the difference God makes

in people's lives through our life as community.

**We celebrate an open Communion.** You do not need to be a member of this church or of any church to participate in Communion. If today is your first time in church, you are especially welcome to share in Communion. When you come forward, a server will dip the water in the juice, place it in your mouth and offer you a brief blessing like: "Rejoice that God is love and this love is with you always." We serve only non-alcoholic wine and the waters are 100% wheat. We celebrate a variety of understandings about Communion and so we believe the bread and juice are transformed in community to be spiritual nourishment for all people.

**Our Volunteers** make it all possible! At times in our service, you may notice a number of people moving into position to serve. We extend a special thank you to all who make our celebrations possible through their gifts of time and talent today and every time we gather.

**The Touch of the Holy:** that's what our weekly celebrations are all about. We pray that God's presence will remain with you to bring you peace and joy.



ADVENT 4

# Welcome Home

**Sunday, December 21, 2008**

**Worship & Celebration**

9:00am, 11:00am

**Social Hour**

following worship

We are so pleased that you're able to join us today in worship and celebration at MCC Toronto. We are a joyful, spiritual community of people committed to being an inclusive, affirmative, caring church.

If today is your first time visiting us, or if you'd like to update your contact information in our database, please complete one of the Welcome Cards located in the pew pocket and place it in the offering plate as it goes by.

At the ❖ symbol, you are asked to rise in body or in spirit.

Phonic Ears for hearing assistance are available from the technical ministry volunteers in the sound booth.

We ask that you kindly turn your cell phone off during service.

*Welcome / Life & Work of the Congregation*

*One Minute Celebrations*

*Anniversary Blessing*

*Hand Of Friendship*

*Prelude*

*Come Now and Worship*

❖ *The Light of Advent*

❖ *Processional Hymn*

○ Come All Ye Faithful

❖ *Opening Prayer*

*Year End Challenge*

*Anthem*

*Herself A Rose Who Bore The Rose*

*Prayers of the People*

*Sacred Readings*

2 Samuel 7: 8 & 9

Luke 1 26 – 31, 37 & 38

*Lessons for Life:*

Advent 4: Preparing for New Life

Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M.

*Time of Reconciliation & Healing*

Come to the Water

*Prayer of Reconciliation*

*Affirmation of Freedom & Invitation to Healing*

What Child is This?

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

❖ *Jesus' Prayer*

*Offertory*

Dan Ruitzen

Read about Dan on page 3 of Sunday News.

*Building Bridges*

*Gathering Our Gifts*

Our Journey of Faith

*Blessing of Gifts*

*Celebration of Holy Communion*

**AS OTHERS RECEIVE, PLEASE MAINTAIN AN ATMOSPHERE OF CALM REFLECTION, AND JOIN IN SINGING THE COMMUNION HYMNS.**

Give Us This Day

○ Come, ○ Come Emmanuel

○ Little Town of Bethlehem

*Alleluia*

❖ *Because You Live*

❖ *Benediction*

❖ *Closing Words*

❖ *Closing Song*

Angels We Have Heard On High

*Please join us in the Social Hall*

Following our service, please join us for refreshments, find out about events at the Information Centre, and more!

*We care, and we're here to listen*

If you would like to pray with someone following today's

service please approach the deacon who will be at the front of the sanctuary near the Communion table on the main floor.

*We're with you in prayer*

You can send in a prayer request in any one of four ways:

1. Through the **prayer book** in the Chapel,

2. Call (416) 406-6228 x 171,

3. Send an e-mail to: [care@mctoronto.com](mailto:care@mctoronto.com), or

4. Through the link on the front page of our website at:

[www.mctoronto.com](http://www.mctoronto.com)