

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

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.

Welcome Home

Sunday, December 21, 2008

Worship & Celebration

7:00pm

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, you like what is happening here and want to get involved, please fill in the orange welcome card found in the pew pocket and meet with a H.O.M.E. Team volunteer after service on the north side of the sanctuary. They will share MCC Toronto information with you.

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

Phonic Cars 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.



ADVENT 4

We Gather with Music

Welcome / Life & Work of the Congregation

One Minute Celebrations

Hand of Friendship

❖ *Worship & Praise*

Breathe

When the Wind of Winter Blows

I Will Lift My Eyes

Prayer of Invocation

Christmas Must Be Tonight

Lessons for Life

Blue Christmas ... *With a Quantum Physics Spin*

Rev. Jo Bell

Special Music

The Blue Guide

Building Bridges

Gathering Our Gifts

Our Journey of Faith

Intercessory Prayer

❖ *Jesus' Prayer*

We Celebrate Connection & Transformation

Communion (in front of the altar), Anointing for Healing (against the north west wall), and Personal Intercessory Prayer (in the chapel) are offered simultaneously at this time.

simultaneously at this time.

Please come for any or all as you are moved to and please join in singing:

Come Just As You are

You Are

In the Bleak Mid Winter

Away in a Manger

What Child is This?

Blessing

Closing Words

❖ *Closing Song*

Bright Side/Amen Medley

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'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 114,

3. Send an e-mail to: **care@mctoronto.com**, or

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

www.mctoronto.com