

LARGE PRINT ORDER of SERVICE



LENT 1

Welcome on March 1, 2009

Worship & Celebration: 9:00am & 11:00am

Social Time: following Worship & Celebration

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 and you like what is happening here and want to get involved, please fill in the orange welcome card found in the pew pocket. After service, please meet the presider at the back of the sanctuary who will share MCC Toronto information with you.

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 at the sound booth.

We ask that you kindly turn your cell phone off during service. 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 wafer 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 wafers 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 / Life & Work of the Congregation

One Minute Celebrations

Blessing of Families

Hand of Friendship

Prelude

This is the Day

The Choir

Call to Worship ❖

One: God of Mystery,

Many: **Grant us new life through you today.**

Processional Hymn ❖

God of Grace

God of grace and God of glory,
On your people pour your power.
Crown your ancient church's story,
Bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us
Scorn your Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

Set our feet on lofty places;
Gird our lives, that they may be
Armoured with all Christ-like graces
In the fight to set us free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not you our God!
That we fail not you our God!

Opening Prayer ❖

Anthem

Stayed on Jesus

Prayers of the People

During the Prayers of the People, you are encouraged to share aloud names of people who are brought into your thoughts for prayer.

One: Gracious God, your abundance surrounds us and sustains us. We thank you for gifts of friendship and new beginnings, for life as it unfolds and new opportunities for growth ... God of grace,

Many: We know you hear our prayers.

One: Spirit of hope, in our lives and in our world there are many troubled by concerns. Some face the uncertainty and pain of illness. Some wrestle with anxiety and fear, about work, about relationships and about themselves. We pray that your healing love may touch these lives ... God of hope,

Many: We know you hear our prayers.

One: Spirit of compassion, be with us as we face losses in our lives. Where there is disappointment, lead us to joy. Where there is grief, fill us with your peace. Where there is death, help us to say good-bye for now and not for ever. We pray for ... God of compassion,

Many: We know you hear our prayers.

One: Breath of the Universe, you have created us for joy. Open our minds to the gracious promptings of your Spirit, increase our trust and guide our hearts in the ways of the truth.

Many: God of many Names, you transform us by grace and renew us in peace.

Amen, Amen, Amen!

Sacred Readings

Luke 9: 59-62

One: Glory to you, O Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Many: Glory to you, O Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

One: Anyone who chooses, can be with me, says our God, and where I am, there shall you also be.

Many: Glory to you, O Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

John 9: 1-3

One: These are sacred readings.
May they comfort us, inspire us, and challenge us.

Many: Thanks be to God.

**Many: Open our eyes, God, we want to see Jesus.
To reach out and touch him and say that we love him.
Open our ears, God, and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, God, we want to see Jesus.**

Lessons for Life

8 Life Changing Messages from Jesus:

From Blame to Lesson

Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M.

Time of Reconciliation & Healing

I'll Say Yes

I'll say yes, God yes
To your will and to your way
I'll say yes, God yes
I will trust you and obey
When your spirit speaks to me
With my whole heart I'll agree
And my answer will be yes, God yes

Prayer of Reconciliation

One: Jesus showed us a way to a new relationship with
God, freeing us from whatever binds us, reconciling
us with God, with each other, and with ourselves.

And so we pray:

**Many: God, your grace
liberates us from the past,
frees us from sadness,
releases us from guilt.**

**Your love inspires us to sing a new song,
as we embrace the beauty within us,
in others and in you.
We open our hearts again
to the renewal, the forgiveness,
and the freedom you offer ...**

A time is provided for silent reflection or confession.

Affirmation of Freedom & Invitation to Healing

One: Hear the good news, God saying to us, "Behold, I make all things new!" In every moment, you are loved, and so you are forgiven, free in the name of God who created you, who dwells within you, and who goes with you always. Amen.

As we sing together please come forward freely and receive anointing for healing so that God's love might transform us in body and spirit.

I Will Pledge This Song to You

You are holy, you are holy, and my life is in your hands
You are worthy, you are worthy, take my life and all I am

Ev'ry dream I've known, ev'ry heartache, too,
They have all been shared with you
All the times I've failed been untrue to you
I have known your mercy, too.

You are holy, you are holy, and my life is in your hands
You are worthy, you are worthy, take my life and all I am

Now the way shines clear and your presence here
Gives me strength to carry through
Lord, you are my way
And so ev'ry day I will pledge this song to you

You are holy, you are holy, and my life is in your hands
You are worthy, you are worthy, take my life and all I am

Here I Am Lord

I the Lord of sea and sky.
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in shadows now
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their shadows bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

(chorus)

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone.
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my Word to them.
Whom shall I send? ***(chorus)***

I the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? (*chorus*)

Jesus' Prayer ❖

Many: Our creator, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy dominion come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;
for thine is dominion,
and the power and the glory,
for ever. Amen.

Offertory

Heather Bambrick

Read about Heather on page 3 of Connections.

Building Bridges

One: ...the ushers will come forward to receive our tithes,
and offerings.

Gathering of our Gifts

Our Journey of Faith

Many: Take a look around you, what do you see?
A world in need of comfort and peace.
We have a vision, we have a way.
Come walk beside us on our journey of faith.
Build a bridge of hope.
Make a path of understanding.
Plant a seed of truth.

**Watch it grow. Help it grow.
We're building bridges together
On our journey of faith.**

Blessing of Gifts

One: God, we offer these gifts out of our abundance to your work in this community. Your love frees us to be generous with each other and inspires us to action as we build bridges in this place and from this place to a world hungry for hope, for justice, and for peace. And so we commission these gifts to your service in the world.

Many: **We're building bridges together
On our journey of faith.**

Celebration of Holy Communion

One: God is with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to our God.

All: **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

One: It is a right and good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with all the company of heaven who forever sing to proclaim the glory of your Name.

All: **Holy, holy, holy one; my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart knows how to say to you, holy are you Lord!
Saint, Saint, Saint Très-Haut, mon coeur te donne louange,
Mon Dieu, mon coeur proclame avec joie,
Tu es le seul Éternel.**

**Let us be bread, blessed by our God,
Broken and shared, life for the world.
Let us rejoice, in love freely poured,
Let us be one in our God.**

Choir: I am the bread of life, broken for all.
Eat now and hunger no more.

Let us be love, blessed by our God,
Spoken and shared, life for the world.
Let us rejoice, in love freely poured,
Let us be one in our God.

One faith, one hope, one symbol of love
Given to us in this one bread, one cup.
O let us be one in our God.
Let us be one in our God.

Invitation to God's Table

As others receive, please maintain an atmosphere of calm reflection, and join in singing the communion hymns.

Give Us This Day

Give us this day our daily bread;
You said you would supply all my needs, according to your riches.
I have but to ask, and I shall receive.
To go from here and share this love you've given me,
To show the ones who're lost and help them find the way,
The way to truth and love, so they can be free.
O God, we need your love!
O God, we need your peace!
O God, we need your joy, so we can be free!
Give us this day our daily bread.

There's a Sweet Sweet Spirit

There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet holy spirit, sweet heavenly dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with your love,
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
When we shall leave this place.

There are blessings you cannot receive
Till you know the saviour's fullness, and believe.
You're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."

Sweet holy spirit, sweet heavenly dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with your love,
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
When we shall leave this place.

When Peace Like a River Attendeth

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."
It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin -- O the bliss of this glorious thought,

My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more:
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Breathe

This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe
Your holy presence, living in me
This is my daily bread
This is my daily bread
Your very word, spoken to me

******please rise as you are able**

And I
I'm reaching for you
And I
I'm walking to you
And I
I'll walk beside you
I want to be with you.

Benediction ❖

Many: Amen, Amen, Amen!

Closing Words ❖

Closing Song ❖

Higher

Your love keeps lifting me higher
than I've ever been lifted before.
So keep it up, quench my desire,
and I'll be at your side forever more.

Now once I was down-hearted,
disappointment was my closest friend.
But then you came, and he soon departed.
and he never showed his face again!

(chorus)

Your love keeps lifting me,
keeps on lifting me.
Lifting me higher and higher, higher
Your love keeps lifting me, keeps on lifting me.
lifting me higher and higher, higher.

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 114,**
3. Send an e-mail to: **care@mcctoronto.com,** or

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