

LARGE PRINT ORDER of SERVICE



EASTER 3: 9:00am and 11:00am

Welcome on April 26, 2009

**Social time with coffee and refreshments follow
our Worship Service in the Social Hall**

We are a house of prayer for all people and are pleased that you're able to join us in worship and celebration at MCC Toronto. Whoever you are, wherever you are from, you are welcome! Even if this 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.

**We are a joyful, spiritual community of people committed to being an inclusive, affirmative, caring church.
Our vision is to be a bridge.**

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.

Welcome / Life & Work of the Congregation

One Minute Celebrations

Anniversary Blessing (9:00am)

Hand of Friendship

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

Prelude

Mourning to Dancing

Call to Worship ❖

One: Come, let us sing for joy to our God,

Many: **Let us praise God with music and song.**

Processional Hymn ❖

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.
Loving One, to you we bring
All our lives, with joy we sing.

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light.
Loving One, to you we bring
All our lives, with joy we sing.

For the joy of human love,
Sister, brother, parent, child,
Friends on Earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild.
Loving One, to you we bring
All our lives, with joy we sing.

Opening Prayer ❖

Anthem

Higher Love

Julie Michels and The Choir

Prayers of the People

During this time you are invited to name people or circumstances as prayer requests out loud, at the appropriate times (✠), as you feel comfortable.

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

The Guest House by Rumi

One: Alleluia!

Many: Alleluia!

One: Jesus said to the people,
"Love each other as God loves you."

Many: Alleluia!

2 Timothy 1: 6-7

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

**Many: Glory to God all around us,
And to all creation peace!
O God all loving, we thank you
And give praise to you for your glory.
Jesus Christ, one with God,
Guide us, and show us the way.
For you O God are the holy one,
You O God are most high.
To Jesus Christ our trusted friend
And Holy Spirit evermore,
Be blessing and honour and glory,
Be all blessing and honour and glory,
Amen, Amen, Amen!**

Sharing of Stories

Staying Open

Melee Hutton & Marysia Czarski

In many traditions these are called sermons. 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 and webcasts (8 week archive) are available at www.MCCToronto.com.

Time of Reconciliation

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, we recognize those times when we have separated ourselves from you and each other. We have not always cared for, respected and loved our world, our neighbour, or ourselves. We have sinned by things we have done, and by things we have left undone. 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

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.

Invitation to Time of Anointing

As we sing together please come forward freely alone or with a friend to receive an anointing for healing so that God's love might transform us in body and spirit. A volunteer will anoint your forehead with oil and offer you a brief blessing.

Though I May Speak

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love; my words are vain;
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be giv'n by love within.
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
By this we worship, and are freed.

Holy Ground Medley

We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now;
for we are standing in God's presence on holy ground.

This is holy ground.
We're standing on holy ground.
For the Lord is present,
and where God is, is holy.

This is holy ground.
We're standing on holy ground.
For the Lord is present,
and where God is, is holy.

These are holy hands.
God's given us holy hands.
God works through these hands,
And so these hands are holy.

These are holy hands.
God's given us holy hands.
God works through these hands,
And so these hands are holy.

We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now;
for we are standing in God's presence on holy ground.

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

Julie Michels (bio on page 2 of Sunday News)

Building Bridges

As we gather our gifts, we celebrate the difference God makes in people's lives through our life as community.

It is only with your generosity that MCC Toronto continues to be a thriving spiritual home. Gifts can be made via credit card, cheque or automatic withdrawal. Other options include publicly traded securities, such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds. MCC Toronto is a registered charity, so we are able to issue tax receipts for the gifts we receive. For more information please visit www.cra.gc.ca/donors, and see your financial advisor to help you make the decision that is right for you.

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

We celebrate an open Communion. When you come forward, a volunteer will dip the wafer in the juice, place it in your mouth and offer you a brief blessing. 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. As another way of respecting our Bedrock Belief that there are many paths to God, if you would like a non-Christ centered blessing, simply approach the volunteer with your arms crossed over your chest.

Self-Administered Communion *Separate communion tables are set up at the centre back of the Sanctuary on the ground floor and under our DNA banners upstairs. Instructions are at each table.*

One: God is with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

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

One: Let us give thanks to God.

Many: **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, loving God, 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.

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

One: On the night you were betrayed, you took the bread,
After giving thanks you broke it and said,
"This is my body, broken for you,
And as you do this, remember me."

**Many: "This is my body, broken for you,
And as you do this, remember me."**

One: On the night you were betrayed you held the cup.
After giving thanks, you lifted it up.

"This is my life, poured out for you,
And as you do this, remember me."

**Many: "This is my life, poured out for you,
And as you do this, remember me."**

One: So we thank you for the cup and for the bread,
For we see the love you gave and the life you led.
And we remember your wondrous love,
You gave your body, you showed your love.

**Many: And we remember your wondrous love,
You gave your body, you showed your love.**

One: Let us now proclaim the Mystery of our Faith:

Many: **Christ has died!**

Christ is risen!

Christ will come again!

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.

A Wonderful Saviour

A wonderful saviour is Jesus my lord,

A wonderful saviour to me;

He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,

Where rivers of pleasure I see.

(chorus)

He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock

That shadows a dry, thirsty land;

He hideth my life in the depths of his love,

And covers me there with his hand,

And covers me there with his hand.

A wonderful saviour is Jesus my lord,
He taketh my burden away;
He holdeth me up, and I shall not be moved,
He giveth me strength as my day. **(chorus)**

With numberless blessings each moment he crowns,
And, filled with his fullness divine,
I sing in my rapture, O glory to God
For such a redeemer as mine! **(chorus)**

When clothed in his brightness, transported I rise
To meet him in clouds of the sky,
His perfect salvation, his wonderful love,
I'll shout with the millions on high. **(chorus)**

Softly and Tenderly

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me;
See at the portals he's waiting and watching,
Watching for you and for me.

(chorus)

Come home, come home,
All who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling
Calling, "O people, come home!"

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
Pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not God's mercies,
Mercies for you and for me? **(chorus)**
Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,
Passing from you and from me;
Shadows are gathering, death's night is coming,
Coming for you and for me. **(chorus)**

O for the wonderful love he has promised,
Promised for you and for me;
Though we have sinned he has mercy and pardon,
Pardon for you and for me. (*chorus*)

Alleluia

Because You Live ❖

Benediction ❖

Many: Amen, Amen, Amen!

Closing Words ❖

Closing Song ❖

Seize the Day

Choir: Now is the time to seize the day
Congregation: Now is the time to seize the day
Choir: Stand up tall and join the fray
Congregation: Stand up tall and join the fray
**All: Wrongs will be righted if we're united,
let us seize the day**

Choir: Friends of the friendless seize the day
Congregation: Friends of the friendless seize the day
Choir: Raise up the torch and light the way
Congregation: Raise up the torch and light the way
**All: Loud and defiant, we'll slay the giant,
let us seize the day**

Neighbour to neighbour, mother to son, one for all and all for one

Choir: Open the gates and seize the day
Congregation: Open the gates and seize the day
Choir: Don't be afraid and don't delay

Congregation: Don't be afraid and don't delay
All: Nothing can break us, no one can make us,
give our rights away

Neighbour to neighbour, mother to son, one for all and all for one

For one
For one
For one!

Please join us in the Social Hall

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

If you have any questions about this service, ask a Deacon.

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** located 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

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