

LARGE PRINT ORDER of SERVICE



EPIPHANY 7

Welcome on February 22, 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

Hand of Friendship

Prelude

Mourning to Dancing

The Choir

Call to Worship ❖

One: God, in this season of Epiphany,

All: **We ask you to help us live boldly and generously.**

Processional Hymn ❖

Great is Your Faithfulness

Great is your faithfulness, God, my companion,
Through all the days, you have been close to me.
You never change; your compassion is steadfast;
As you have been, you forever will be.

(chorus)

Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed your hand has provided,
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To your great faithfulness, mercy and love. ***(chorus)***

Loving compassion and peace everlasting,
Your own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! ***(chorus)***

Opening Prayer ❖

Black History Month Presentation Here Comes the Bus

Anthem Groundless Ground

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

Ezekiel 34: 11-13

One: Alleluia!

Many: Alleluia!

One: Holy Spirit, come dwell in us,
light our path with word and song.

Many: Alleluia!

Matthew 25: 34-40

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!**

Lessons for Life

The Business of God

Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M.

Time of Reconciliation & Healing

Surely the Presence

Surely the presence of our God is in this place;

I can feel your mighty power and your grace.

I can hear the brush of angels' wings,

I see glory on each face;

Surely the presence of our God is in this place.

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 & 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.

Wind of the Spirit

Wind of the Spirit, flow through my soul
Move in my being, I surrender control
Teach me to walk with your guiding hand
Wind of the spirit, move in me

Wind of the Spirit, flow through my mind
Through your soft touch renewal I find
Replace every fear with your calming peace
Wind of the Spirit, flow through me

Wind of the Spirit, guide my wayward feet
Gently until my journey's complete
Awaken my fervor to serve and obey
Wind of the spirit, flow through me

We Come to Thee

In the moments of days, in the hours of the night,
We come to Thee, we come to Thee.
In the twilight's soft glow, or the dawn's gleaming light
We come to Thee, we come to Thee.
In the winter's dark chill, or in warm summer air,
There is never a season when you are not there and
We come to Thee, we come to Thee we come to Thee.

With a smile filled with joy or eyes filled with tears
We come to Thee, we come to Thee.
When our hearts are at peace or in sadness or fear
We come to Thee, we come to Thee.
In our happiest times, or when sorrows arise,
We lift up our hearts and we close our eyes and
We come to Thee we come to Thee we come to Thee.

In the seconds we count, or the years that fly by
We come to Thee, we come to Thee.
In good times or bad, all the days of our lives
We come to Thee, we come to Thee.
From the start of our lives to the end we shall see
You have always been there and forever will be and
We come to Thee, we come to Thee, we come to Thee.

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

Billy Newton-Davis

Read about Billy 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.

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!
¡Santo, santo, santo, mi corazón te adora!
¡Mi corazón te sabe decir, Santo eres mi Dios!**

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.

All That We Have

(chorus)

All that we have and all that we offer
Comes from a heart both frightened and free.
Take what we bring now and give what we need.
All done in God's name.

Some would rely on their power,
Others put trust in their gold.
Some have only their saviour,
Whose faithfulness never grows old. ***(chorus)***

Sometimes the road may be lonesome,
Often we may lose our way;
Take courage and always remember
Love isn't just for a day. ***(chorus)***

Sometimes when troubles are many,
Life can seem empty, it's true,
But look at the life of the Master,
Who lovingly suffered for you. ***(chorus)***

The Summons

Will you come and follow me, if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind, if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind, and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r, in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide, if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true, when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Alleluia

Because You Live ❖

Because you live, I can face tomorrow;
Because you live, all fear is gone;
Because I know you hold the future,
And life is worth the living, Just because you live.

Benediction ❖

Many: Amen, Amen, Amen!

Closing Words ❖

Closing Song ❖

Life Every Voice and Sing

Lift every voice and sing,
'Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmony of Liberty,
Let our rejoicing rise,
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.

Facing the rising sun
Of our new day begun,
Let us march on 'til victory is won.

Stoney the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died.
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our people sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come treading our path through the blood of the
slaughtered.

Out from the gloomy past,
'til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
God who has brought us thus far on the way.
God who by your might led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met You.
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget You.
Shadowed beneath Your hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

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.

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