

November 12, 2017

Sunday News

Morning Edition

VIBRANT

INCLUSIVE

PROGRESSIVE



I feel fortunate to have been raised in a Catholic home where my parents lived the values we were taught in school and every Sunday in church. Growing up, my identity became even more integrated with my faith when I became an altar girl and participated in the mass.

As a somewhat naive 20 year old, I enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces, knowing I must keep my sexuality secret and under wraps. I

was proud to serve my country, but, sadly, it didn't last long. I was purged after 18 months, along with many others, for being LGBTQ.

I was lucky: my faith and my sense of humour saw me through those difficult times.

For those of us who experienced the purge, our stories are an important history lesson that has recently been compiled in a TVO funded documentary called The Fruit Machine, with an expected release date in 2018. @TFMfilm

I started coming to MCC Toronto about 9 years ago. It was the music that brought me here. I have enjoyed singing on Christmas Eve at **Roy Thomson Hall**, and I've found a home and extended family here, first in the choir loft, and then in the Social Hall sharing conversation and friendship with many of you.

Patti Gray - MCC Toronto

Lest we forget.

Offertory

Kevin Forestell is an actor and singer originally from Rothesay, New Brunswick. He is currently appearing in Romeo & Juliet and Macbeth with the Classical Theatre Project in Toronto. Kevin has appeared in various theatres and concert halls around Toronto and Canada, favourites include Howard Cable & Alan Lund's *SWING!* for the Muskoka Summer Theatre Festival; *The Little Prince*, *The Musical* for Theatre Calgary; *London Imports* at the Richmond Hill Centre; the *Songs of Sinatra* for Drayton Entertainment and the Victoria Playhouse Petrolia; *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* in Niagara Falls; *The Producers!* In Concert and *The Pirates of Penzance* at the Jane Mallett. It is truly an honour and a privilege to have been asked back to sing at the MCC Toronto.

Music Director: Diane Leah
Associate Director: Jeannie Wyse

Order of Service

At the ❖ symbol, please rise as you are able.

Welcome

Prelude

Ooh Child

Call To Worship

Last Post

Rouse - Bugler, PO2

Delia Sinclair Frigault,
(Ret.)

❖ *Processional*

A Channel Of Your
Peace

Children's Moment

❖ *Opening Prayer*

Anthem

In Flanders Fields

Prayers of the

People

Sacred Readings

Lessons for Life

Peace For Our Time

Rev. Deana Dudley

Time of

Reconciliation

I'll Say Yes

Prayer of

Reconciliation

Affirmation of

Freedom

Invitation to

Anointing

Like A River Of Tears

Return To God

❖ ***Jesus' Prayer***

Offertory

One Tin Soldier

performed by Kevin
Forestell

Gathering Our Gifts

Our Journey of Faith

Blessing of Gifts

Installation to the

Board (10:50am)

Lori Boyce, Andrew

Fleming, Bev Wybrow

Holy Communion

Give Us This Day

When Peace Like A

River

On Eagle's Wings

Hallelujah (Cohen)

❖ *Because You Live*

❖ *Benediction*

❖ *Closing Words*

Closing Song

This Little Light Of

Mine

First Reading

Isaiah 40 Excerpts

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and
cry to her that her warfare has
ended, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from God's
hand double for all her sins.

Get you up to a high mountain, O
Zion, herald of good tidings; lift
up your voice with strength, O
Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear; say to the
cities of Judah, "Here is your
God!"

See, the Lord God comes with
might, and God's arm rules for her;
her reward is with her, and her
recompense before her. God will
feed her flock like a shepherd; she
will gather the lambs in her arms,
and carry them in her bosom, and
gently lead the mother sheep.

Second Reading

Matthew 26: 47-52

While Jesus was still speaking to the
disciples at Gethsemane, Judas, one
of the twelve, arrived; with him was
a large crowd with swords and
clubs, from the chief priests and
the elders of the people. Now the
betrayal had given them a sign,
saying, "The one I will kiss is the
man; arrest him." At once he came
up to Jesus and said, "Greetings,
Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus said
to him, "Friend, do what you are
here to do." Then they came and
laid hands on Jesus and arrested
him. Suddenly, one of those with
Jesus put his hand on his sword,
drew it, and struck the slave of the
high priest, cutting off his ear.
Then Jesus said to him, "Put your
sword back into its place; for all
who take the sword will perish by
the sword.



Happening Today

Children & Family Ministry
11:00 a.m. | Rm 109 & Triangle A

Thrift Shop
All morning | Upstairs Social Hall

Town Hall Meeting
12:45 p.m. | Social Hall

Evening Elevation Service
7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

For Your Smiling Spirit

My partner invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to our six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

I wouldn't know what to say," she replied.

"Just say what you hear Mommy say," my partner said.

Our daughter bowed her head and said:

"Dear God, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"



Happening This Week

Grace & Gratitude (AA)
Monday | 7:30 p.m. | Triangle B

Expansive Spiritual Encounter
Thursday | 11:00 a.m. | Rm 109

Choir Rehearsal
Thursday | 7:00 p.m. | Social Hall

Life Long Learning (LLL)

The Queer and Holy Spirit: A
Queer Look at the Book of Acts
Monday | 7:00 p.m. | Room 109

Meditation Practices for Spiritual
Growth
Tuesday | 7:00 p.m. | Room 109

Living the Questions: An
Introduction to Progressive
Christianity
Wednesday | 7:00 p.m. | Room 109

Dancing With the Folks: Ballroom
Dancing
Wednesday | 7:00 p.m. | Social Hall

Building Your Love Muscle
Through Meditation
Wednesday | 7:00 p.m. | Chapel

Beginning Meditation Practices for
Families' Spiritual Growth
Saturday | 10:00 a.m. | Room 109

Healing Racism in Church

Where does racism hide within our community? How does it manifest itself without us even noticing it?

One of the first places to look for racism is in the systems that underpin our society. Systemic racism is built on assumptions that were made by the generations that preceded us. We perpetuate the racism by holding on to systems that we've grown up with, systems that we've always known.

In this church, we use a white altar cloth. The message perpetuated by that symbol is that white is pure, divine, and heavenly.

We hold up a cross as the symbol of our faith. Contained within that symbol is our mind's image of a white man who died to absolve us of our sins.

We celebrate Christmas with stories and pictures of Santa Claus, a jolly white man who leaves gifts for us if we are good.

How would those symbols be received if we changed them? Would you be uncomfortable if the altar cloth was black? If the man on the cross was Asian? If Santa Claus was portrayed by a woman of African heritage?

Would that make you uncomfortable?

Christmas Eve Volunteers Needed

Christmas Eve Service Communion Servers/Offertory Collectors

We are seeking volunteers for our Christmas Eve Worship Service at Roy Thomson Hall. The event starts at 10:30 p.m. The start time for most volunteers will be 8:30 p.m. on Sunday December 24th and the duties will wrap up after midnight at approximately 12:30 a.m. We encourage all volunteers to participate as both Communion Servers and Offertory Collectors. Serving communion involves offering the elements to congregants and sharing a short blessing. Full training will be provided. Volunteers who are not interested/able to serve communion will be asked to usher congregants during communion. You can register at volunteer.mcctoronto.com or contact Cory at cbertrand@mcctoronto.com.

SJN Movie Night

Join us on Friday, December 1st at 6:30 p.m. for our Social movie night. As always, a suggested donation of \$10.00 is appreciated, but the screenings are always PWYC (Pay-What-You-Can), and even if you cannot afford anything, please come join us anyway.

Thrift Shop Advent Sale

We've been gathering all your Christmas donations for several months in anticipation of our annual Advent Sale starting November 26th. Come take advantage of the amazing selection and prices as our Thrift Shop takes over the Social Hall with tables full of toys, decorations, and holiday knick-knacks!



Peace & Justice Seminar

Trans Resilience & Well Being
Please join us in this important conversation: This session occurs just a few days prior to *International Trans Day of Remembrance* which commemorates the trans lives shorted by brutal violence, directly and indirectly, resulting in a shortened life expectancy. This is an ongoing struggle of grief, depression, suicidality, homelessness, poor housing, lack of employment, lack of health care access, social exclusion and stigma for trans and non-binary people in Toronto and around the world. This discussion will be opened by TREAT (Trans Resource Educational Advocacy Team) at MCC Toronto followed by a brief presentation by local organizations including the Toronto Trans Coalition Project. How can we be allies and advocates for trans lives? What would make MCCT a more trans-positive and gender-diverse space? What more can we be doing, locally and globally?

Date: Friday, November 17th

Time: 7:00 -9:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10 or PWYC

Tel: 416-406-6228 Fax: 416-466-5207 Email: info@mcctoronto.com

Congregational Questions

Please complete the following sentences on the back of your connection card. If you've already answered the questions, thank you!

1. **I am here because...** 2. **When I'm here I feel...**

Christmas Eve Tickets on sale now!

Great News! Christmas Eve tickets are now available in the Social Hall starting today after the morning services. You will also be able to purchase your tickets on November 12th, 19th and 26th. Additionally, you can also purchase your tickets through the Roy Thomson Hall website, box office or calling 416-872-4255. Buy in person and SAVE!

Christmas Jazz Vespers

The next performance in our popular Jazz Vespers series will be our Christmas Vespers on December 3, 2017, at 4:00 p.m., featuring Heather Bambrick, Colleen Allen, Michael Shand (piano) and Ross McIntyre (bass). The best jazz in the city with no admission fee! Toronto's best jazz musicians have been performing in our Jazz Vespers series since 2016. www.mcctoronto.com/vespers.



Anti-Poverty Action Plan

The PJST (Peace and Justice Strategy Team) of MCC Toronto invites you to take part in our Anti-Poverty Action Plan. We are working with Social Planning Toronto, a non-profit, charitable community organization aimed at improving equity, social justice, and quality of life in Toronto, in order to influence the upcoming city budget.

The City of Toronto has developed a well thought out Poverty Reduction Strategy. With a strong city budget to support this strategy, more programs can be funded that were created for the purpose of assisting people all over Toronto, from children and youth, sickly, elderly, and low-income.

Social Planning Toronto has identified a number of wards where constituents may be able to influence the councillor's voting behaviour, these wards are: 6 (Etobicoke-Lakeshore), 16 (Eglinton-Lawrence), 17 (Davenport), 18 (Davenport), 23 (Willowdale), 26 (Don Valley West), 35 (Scarborough Southwest), 43 (Scarborough East), and 44 (Scarborough East)

Do you live in one of these wards? Your opinion matters and will be taken seriously by your city councillor. There are 3 ways that you can take action:

1. Phone/Walk in and speak with your councillor.
2. Send a personalized letter to your councillor.
3. Sign a petition that will be presented to city council along with a deputation by MCC Toronto in December.

If you agree to take one or more of these steps, we will support you in the process. Please respond to pjst@mcctoronto.com by November 30, or sooner, if you can participate.

Sweet Treats

Each Sunday morning in November, the Drag 'N Angels Dragon Boat Racing Team will be selling fruit cakes, cherry pound cakes and shortbread cookies in the Social Hall. The cakes are \$20 each and come in seasonal tins, the cookies are \$8 each and come in a box.



Young Adults Night

Rev. Jeff Rock hosts a fun social evening for young adults: "Things you wanted to ask a pastor but never dared." at the Riddle Room Café.

Friday, November 17th

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: 579 Yonge St., 2nd Floor
Riddle Room was built by a bunch of nerds passionate about puzzles, games, and good coffee. Located in the core of the city, they offer over 200 board games, a multitude of video games (including the classics), as well as escape rooms!



Life Long Learning

Mind, Body, Soul and Heart: A Spiritual Path for Life Long Learning



Building Your Love Muscle
Wednesdays - Oct 25th to Nov 15th
7:00 p.m - 8:30 p.m.
Location: Chapel
Facilitator: Valerie De Souza



Living the Questions
Wednesdays - Oct 25th to Nov 22nd
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Location: Room 109
Facilitator: Andrew Holmes

Register online: learning.mcctoronto.com

'Tis the Season
**CHRISTMAS
WITH THE CHOIR**



A FUNDRAISER CONCERT
FOR MCC TORONTO

WITH MARK CASSIUS, PRIDE + JOY
AND SPECIAL GUEST
MARY M^CCANDLESS

FRIDAY 24 AND SATURDAY 25 AT 7:30 PM | ADMISSION \$25⁰⁰
NOVEMBER 24 AND NOVEMBER 25 AT 7:30 PM | DOORS OPEN AT 7:00

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF TORONTO

115 SIMPSON AVENUE | CASH BAR

FOR TICKETS, VISIT MCCTORONTO.COM/CONCERT



REV. DR. BRENT HAWKES' FINAL SERMON: THE GIFT
CHRISTMAS EVE

ROY THOMSON HALL | 10:30PM | MCCTORONTO.COM/CHRISTMAS



Christmas

is almost here!
...and over
1500 Santa Claus
Fund Gift Boxes
ARE ARRIVING!!!

This is your friendly reminder from the North Pole

BOX PICK-UP DAY WILL BE:

Sunday, November 19, 2017

(you have 1 week to deliver the boxes,
even though you'd pick them up on November 19th)

Any Undeliverable boxes are returned on Sunday,
November 26th to Room 109

We NEED about 60-65 elves
to deliver gift boxes!

**PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE BY
NOVEMBER 14th**

Ho! Ho! Ho! ~ Mrs. & Mrs. Claus
(aka Romelda & Heather)



REGISTER ONLINE: STARBOXSANTA.MCCTORONTO.COM

Poinsettia Dedications



Purchase a poinsettia to decorate the Roy Thomson Hall stage for our Christmas Eve Service and/or take one home to enjoy over the holiday season.

Dedicate your poinsettia purchase in honour, memory or in celebration.

Your dedications will appear in the **Christmas Eve Programme** and our **website**.

- I/we would like to purchase _____ poinsettia (\$30 each) to contribute to the décor at our Christmas Eve Service at Roy Thomson Hall.
- I/we would like purchase _____ poinsettia(s) (\$30 each) to take home.

(Order deadline is Sunday, December 10. Poinsettias will be available to pick up in the Social Hall after services on December 17.)

Proceeds from all purchases will help fund our Christmas Eve Service.

Your name(s), dedicated by

Dedication text listed below will appear under your name exactly as submitted:

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Payment Options: Cash Cheque Visa MC AMEX

Card #: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____