



"And there's a hand, my trusty friend,
And gie's a hand o' thine...
And we'll tak a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne."

- Robert Burns



It's been of a bit of a trying year, hasn't it? I know that many of us have had some challenges, some losses, some fears. As Rev. Jeff is fond of saying, there are times when "it's OK not to be OK".

But it's also OK to look towards the future with a sense of hope and confidence. In times like this, I'm reminded of a beautiful poem by the German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "Von guten Mächten wunderbar geborgen," loosely translated as "By gracious powers wonderfully surrounded." Bonhoeffer wrote this poem in late December of 1944, as a sort of year-end/New Year's greeting to his friends and family. In December of 1944, Bonhoeffer was in concentration camp, and was awaiting certain execution for his participation in armed resistance to the Nazi regime. He knew it was the last New Year he would see in this life. Talking about having a bad year!

And yet, what Bonhoeffer wrote was full of hope and comfort and confidence in a loving God.

"Surrounded by such true and gentle powers
so wondrously consoled and without fear
thus I will spend with you these final hours
and then together enter a new year

By gentle powers lovingly surrounded,
With patience will endure, let come what may
God is with us at night and in the morning
and certainly on every future day"

Bonhoeffer's poem has been set to music and has become a much-loved German hymn especially at this time of year, as we contemplate a somewhat uncertain future.

I'll be honest, like many of you, I had a tough year with a lot of losses. I am acutely aware of fears about the future. And yet I often play this hymn, over and over on a loop when I am working in my office. (You can listen to it [HERE](#), in German with helpful English subtitles.) I find peace in it, as well as great hope and courage.

As we "together enter a new year" I hope you will find peace and hope and courage, too, because we are indeed "by gentle powers lovingly surrounded... come what may."

Always.

Rev. Deana Dudley,
Assistant Pastor

In-Person Worship Service Reminder



Just a reminder that we are suspending in-person 9 and 11 AM Worship Services for the time being as a cautionary measure. Instead, please join us every Sunday at 11 AM for a special online Worship Service. For this week's Service, we are delighted to welcome JJ Viviers as guest preacher.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN US FOR THIS SERVICE ONLINE](#)

It's Not Too Late!



2021 might be coming to an end, but it is not too late to make your difference. Before midnight tonight, please consider making a gift in support of MCC Toronto's **Respond Restore Renew Campaign**. Your support now will help ensure that MCC Toronto is able to continue to its life saving and life transforming work.

[Click here to read more about our Year-End Appeal.](#)

MAKE A YEAR-END APPEAL GIFT (click on "Make a Gift to Respond Restore Renew Campaign")

Our Heartfelt Thanks!



Many thanks to our community for their understanding of why we needed to quickly pivot to one online Christmas Eve Service from four in-person Services. We were grateful for your messages of support and for the fact that so many of you chose to spend your Christmas Eve online with MCC Toronto! Special thanks to Cory Bertrand for his incredible work as Event Co-ordinator and for the dozens of volunteers who had signed up to serve as ushers, greeters and communion services for the Services. And, of course, many thanks to Jason Jestadt, The Choir of MCC Toronto and the special musical guests who had worked so hard in preparation for what would have been a tremendous Christmas Eve Service! While we weren't in the end able to be together, your commitment to MCC Toronto means so much to all of us. XO



MCC Toronto is enormously grateful for the support of over 300+ donors who contribute to our work and mission through our monthly giving program.

Interested in starting the year by joining our family of monthly donors? Contact giving@mcctoronto.com



Do you or a congregant you know need emotional support? Financial assistance? Someone to pray for them? A call from one of our Congregational Care Lay Ministers?

Please fill out a request form for yourself or for the individual you are requesting for.

[SUBMIT FORM HERE](#)

**Online Programming
January 2 - 8**

<div>JAN 2 - 8</div>	<div>SUNDAY02</div> <div>11 AM - Online Sunday Service</div> <div>12 PM - Digital Coffee Hour (ZOOM)</div>	<div>MONDAY03</div>	<div>TUESDAY04</div>	<div>WEDNESDAY05</div>
		<div>THURSDAY06</div> <div>10:30 AM - Ever Wonder Group Discussion (ZOOM)</div>	<div>FRIDAY07</div>	<div>SATURDAY08</div>

Sunday:
11 AM Online Sunday Service
12 PM - Digital Coffee Hour

Thursday:
10:30 AM - Ever Wonder Group Discussion
(Email: everwonder@mcctoronto.com)



Sunday Digital Coffee Hour
Sunday | 1:00 PM
[ZOOM Link](#)
Meeting ID: 828 3849 6709
Password: 797837



Sunday Service Worship
Online | 11 AM | MCC Toronto YouTube

Share Us Digitally!

If you know of anyone who might be interested in anything we're doing at MCC Toronto please invite them to join us digitally via the button below.

SHARE THE QUERY HERE



Questions? Comments? Inquires?
We'd love to hear from you!

Connect with us at
communications@mcctoronto.com



Sent with love

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