

This coming week begins the sacred Season of Lent and the lead up to Easter. The beginning of Lent is an interesting time with Mardi Gras (also known as Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Tuesday), as a day of revelry and feasting, and Ash Wednesday, a day of contemplation and traditionally the start of fasting. Sometimes people like to point out that Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday are a contradiction, but that's not the language we use at MCC Toronto. Rather, we say that they are a paradox - two ideas that seemingly don't go together, but gosh darn it they do!

Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday are a reminder that we are all naughty and nice, selfish and selfless, kind and mean, often all at the same time. Life isn't black and white, right and wrong, but a messy mix we meander through and to be a person of faith is to acknowledge we aren't perfect, and we should expect ourselves to be.

On Mardi Gras (**Tuesday, March 1**) at 7 PM on Zoom, MCC Toronto begins a new 5-week Bible Study series to accompany our Lenten Sermon Series "Fights for Human Rights".

### JOIN BIBLE STUDY

Meeting ID: **860 7974 3149**  
Passcode: **337101**

On Ash Wednesday (**March 2**) at 7 PM on Zoom, MCC Toronto will hold a special Ash Wednesday reflection. If you would like to anoint yourself with ashes as part of the service you can make your own, or pick up a set at the Triangle Program doors at 115 Simpson Avenue from Monday to Wednesday 9 AM - 3 PM.

### JOIN ASH WEDNESDAY REFLECTION

Meeting ID: **848 4760 7950**  
Passcode: **199081**

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## Sunday Service Musical Guest

**Alana Bridgewater** is our Offertory Performer this Sunday!

Alana is a singer/songwriter who discovered her love of performing at a very early age. Alana is best known for her performance as Killer Queen in the Mirvish production of *We Will Rock You*. She was also featured in *Hannibal* (NBC) as Denise, the feisty orderly.

Her most recent credits include *Spoon River* (Soulpepper); *Shrek: The Musical* (The Grand Theatre, London); *Hairspray* (Charlottetown Festival); *Smokey Joe's Café* (StageWest Mississauga and Calgary); *In a Jam* (CBC Television); Women's Blues Revue, Toronto; CBC Gospel Christmas Special (CBC Television / National Arts Centre); *Menopause Out Loud* (Toronto).

She has sung backup vocals for Carvin Winans and Johnny Reid and The Arkells, was a featured performer on the MCC Toronto choir's CD "Connected: Songs for the Heart," and has recorded two solo albums, "A Beautiful Christmas" and "Horizon."

February 27 | 11 AM | MCC Toronto's YouTube Channel

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

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## Join Us! Congregational Update on Feb 27

Following this Sunday's Worship Service (and in lieu of the usual Digital Coffee hour), MCC Toronto invites you to join us for a special on-line Congregational Update on Zoom at noon.

We will provide update on finances, staffing, and the easing of the COVID-19 crisis.

[JOIN THE MEETING HERE](#)

Meeting ID: **899 7634 5264**  
Passcode: **678922**

## **In-Person Services Resume Mar 6 - Reminder**

A reminder that 11 AM in-person Worship Services will resume on **Sunday, March 6** with the service livestreamed simultaneously on our Youtube Channel. We will continue with a hybrid approach of online and in-person with digital coffee hour at a new time of 1 PM starting March 6. For the time being, we are asking folks (aged 5 and up!) attending in-person worship services to bring their vaccine passport or proof of double vaccination. We will also be maintaining social distancing protocols and will require a mask to be worn at all times.

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## **LGBTQ+ Afghan Refugee Response Program**

A big thank you to those who attended our recent Afghan LGBTQ+ Refugee Response Program Information Session. We hope that you found value in the information that was shared and that you are now ready to take the next step towards establishing your team and saving lives!

As of today, we have 50 Afghan LGBTQ+ refugees on our waiting listing who are desperately in need of our help.

If you missed the presentation but are interested in learning more, you can listen to an audio file of the session [here](#).

Please feel free to reach out directly to Dave Kerr, our Director for our LGBTQ+ Refugee Programs and let him know that you are ready to get involved! He can be reached at [dkerr@mcctoronto.com](mailto:dkerr@mcctoronto.com).

Volunteers have always been at the heart of MCC Toronto. We would not be the strong, inclusive and welcoming community we are, without the support and dedication of volunteers who help support our Worship Services and our other public programs. Please click below to review current opportunities at MCC Toronto.

[SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER HERE](#)

Taking care of each other is more important than ever these days, and if you are in need of some care we are here for you. Just hop on the link below and fill out the form to let one of our pastors know about your needs.

Want to learn more? [Watch this video by Rev. Junia Joplin!](#)

[REQUEST CONGREGATIONAL CARE HERE](#)

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 joining our family of monthly donors? Contact [giving@mcctoronto.com](mailto:giving@mcctoronto.com)

[OR SIGN UP TO BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR HERE](#)

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## **Online Programming February 27 - March 5**

Sunday:

Wednesday:

11 AM Online Sunday Service  
12 PM - Congregational Update

**Tuesday:**  
7 PM - Bible Study

7 PM - Ash Wednesday

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

Sunday Digital Coffee Hour  
Sunday | 11:45 AM  
[ZOOM Link](#)  
Meeting ID: 828 3849 6709  
Password: 797837

Bible Study  
Tuesday | 7 PM  
[ZOOM Link](#)  
Meeting ID: 860 7974 3149  
Password: 337101

Sunday Service Worship  
Online | 11 AM | MCC Toronto YouTube

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## 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](#)

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

Connect with us at  
[communications@mcctoronto.com](mailto:communications@mcctoronto.com)



on behalf of MCC Toronto | 115 Simpson Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4K 1A1 Canada

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