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“Christmas is a time when you get homesick – even when you're home.”

–Carol Nelson

Help Us Spread the Word | Christmas Eve Services 2022

With December already upon us, we are that much closer to Christmas and MCC Toronto's Christmas Eve Services.

Our Worship team is hard at work preparing for our four (4!) Christmas Eve Services – a Children & Family Service at **5 PM**, Celebration Services at **7 & 9 PM**, and a Candle Service at **11 PM**. Music Director Jason Jestadt and The Choir of MCC Toronto are deep in rehearsals, along with special musical guests Alana Bridgewater, Shannon McCracken, Julie Michels and Billy Newton Davis. (See all details about our Christmas Eve Services [here](#)). And special thanks to Richard Davidson and Jon Badder, our Sanctuary is beautifully decorated for the holidays.

As folks know, this is the first time MCC Toronto will be hosting Christmas Eve Services at our spiritual home – and we could not be more excited! After 31 years in our beloved Church at 115 Simpson Avenue we are finally returning the celebration of Jesus' birth to the home that ties us together in God's love week after week.

From today until Christmas Eve, MCC Toronto will be working hard to connect with our congregants and members with an invitation to join us, with a special reach-out to folks we haven't seen in awhile. Across our social media channels we will be reaching out to the broader community to share the news of MCC Toronto as a vibrant, inclusive and progressive Church where everybody is welcome on and everyone belongs.

And you can help!

As opposed to using our words in our promotion campaign, we'd rather use yours! We'd like you to tell us ***Why Christmas Eve Services with MCC Toronto are important to you OR Why should folks attend MCC Toronto's Christmas Eve Services.*** Is it the music? The

togetherness? Being with family, chosen or otherwise? We'll take your words (without identifying information) and turn them into tweets and posts so that our communities know that MCC Toronto is the place to be this Christmas Eve as we celebrate Jesus' birth, and God's love, together.

Thank you!

SHARE YOUR ANSWERS HERE

The Best is Yet to Come | Refugee Narrative



I recently had the chance of watching a movie on Netflix called *The Swimmers* which chronicles the remarkable true tale of sisters Yusra and Sara Mardini, who fled their home in war-torn Damascus to seek a new life in Europe and earn the chance to compete in the Olympics. Directed by Sally El Hosaini and written by Jack Thorne, *The Swimmers* is a moving story of two young women refugees, and their inspiring reach for a better life.

As I reflect on what the expression the best is yet to come means to me as the Director of MCC Toronto's LGBTQ+ Refugee Programs, I am reminded of the struggles encountered by many of our refugee members like that of Yusra and Sara Mardini as they go in quest for a better and safer life. Many of them have left their countries not knowing where they are going to sleep, what they are going to eat, whether they will be able to get a job and earn a decent enough living. These uncertainties have further been exacerbated by the pandemic which has created a pandemic in and of itself. I recently attended the national conference of the Canadian Council for Refugees and had the opportunity of talking to some key stakeholders including executives from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). They have reported that they are currently witnessing an unprecedented influx of refugees to Canada and as such, it has resulted in significant delays in processing claims and in conducting eligibility interviews for the refugees which remain a prerequisite for them to obtain their work permits and earn a living.

The best is yet to come are words of affirmation that help in times of uncertainty, in moments of grief, in times of delays. It represents a glimmer of hope that could make a huge difference in someone's life such as one of our members whose words are reflected below following a positive hearing:

"I want to say a very big thank you to this group. You guys are amazing! I love you all

thank you for your love, support, and everything. My hearing was successful yesterday and you all made it possible because of your support. I am grateful."

Let us therefore continue to welcome our refugees with open arms and provide support to advance the work of the refugee programs as we seek to transform lives. **The Best is Yet to Come Year-End Appeal**, will help provide the much needed funds to continue the life-transforming work that we do here at MCC Toronto.

-Dave Kerr
Director, LGBTQ+ Refugee Programs

MAKE A GIFT TO THE BEST IS YET TO COME CAMPAIGN TODAY

MCC Toronto would be grateful for your support of our The Best is Yet to Come Campaign. Questions? Need assistance? Contact giving@mcctoronto.com

Musical Guest



Abraham Millington is our Offertory Performer this Sunday!

Abraham began singing and harmonizing at age 6, to the surprise of his family and infant school teachers in Barbados.

He attended the International Music Camp in North Dakota in 1999 as a high school trombonist in the Barbados National Youth Orchestra, which he credits as the catalyst for

cementing his drive for and comfort with performing virtuosic pieces for trombone by Arthur Pryor and Alexander Guilmant, among others.

Abraham was on the Dean's List at York University in Toronto, completing an Honours BA in Law and Society and a Master of Arts in Music, supervised by Dr. Lesley Jacobs and Dr. Mark Chambers, respectively. It was at York that he took his first classical voice lessons with Prof. Stephanie Bogle.

Abraham has a passion for entertainment, whether vocal or instrumental, and delights in using his gifts to bring joy to all.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE SERVICE ONLINE](#)

Hark! | It's a Wrap!



MCC Toronto extends a big thanks to the over 400 guests who joined us for the two performances of **Hark! A Christmas Concert with The Choir of MCC Toronto & Special Guests** on Saturday, November 26.

Congratulations to Music Director Jason Jestadt, The Choir of MCC Toronto, Pride & Joy and all our special musical guests, for a spectacular music program that definitely put us in the Christmas spirit. Thanks as always to the many volunteers who helped make our event a success and to photographer Jim Woodbridge for providing us with so many beautiful photos from the event, including the photo above.

Special thanks to Walter Donovan for his gift in loving memory of Lee Hill that helped make the Concerts possible.

Upcoming Advent Programs



Advent Schedule of Special Services

Sun, Dec 4 | 12:30 PM

Seniors' Programming Meeting | Triangle Program Room at MCC Toronto

Are you interested in helping MCC Toronto develop new robust congregational programming for seniors? Following this week's Sunday Service, all seniors are invited to join us for an organizational meeting to discuss seniors programming in 2023. Christmas treats to be provided.

Tues, Dec 13 | 7 PM

MCC Toronto Young Adults | The Distillery Historic District

Are you between the ages of 18 and 40(ish)? If so, please feel free to join other Young Adults of MCC Toronto (YAMs) for an evening at the beautiful Christmas marketplace at the Distillery District. Interested in learning more/signing up? Click [here](#).

Sun, Dec 18 | 12:30 PM

Seniors' Christmas Luncheon | Location tbd

Following the Sunday Service, MCC Toronto seniors are invited to attend a special Christmas luncheon taking place at an off-site restaurant. If you are interested in joining please RSVP here by **Friday, December 9** (please include Senior's Christmas Luncheon in the subject heading). We have limited spots so please RSVP ASAP? Need more info? Contact [Sandra Millar](#).

See all our Advent Calendar events and programs by clicking the link below.

MCC TORONTO ADVENT CALENDAR

Santa Boxes | Return Undelivered Presents | Sun, Dec 4



Santa and the Mrs. want to thank all the dedicated elves who worked so hard in delivering presents over the past week!

A reminder that if there were families to whom you could not deliver their boxes, please return those presents to MCC Toronto on **Sunday, December 4 at anytime between 9 AM and 1 PM**. Please note the drop-off area is **different than the pickup point**. Please enter the building via the ramp on Simpson Ave, turn left, and leave the presents in the office space on the other side of the elevator. Boxes must be returned on this date. Thank you!



It is always a pleasure to acknowledge and celebrate members and congregants enrolled in our weekly and monthly giving program! The on-going support of our 300+ sustaining donors is so critical to the work MCC Toronto does everyday, and we are extremely grateful for your gifts. However, like a lot of churches, MCC Toronto has seen our weekly and monthly contributions decline over the past two years. Today, we invite you to consider joining our family of weekly or monthly donors. Whether your gift is \$5 a week, or \$25 a month, every bit helps support our operations. You can sign up on our [website](https://www.mccutoronto.com/giving) or contact giving@mcctoronto.com for more information.



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.

Right now we urgently need volunteers familiar with **webcasting, sound operation multimedia and information desk.**

To sign up for these or other opportunities, please click the link below.

[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](#)

Every Gift is a Blessing. Please consider making a gift to MCC Toronto today.

[DONATE](#)

Online and In-Person Programming December 4-10



DECEMBER 4-10

SUNDAY 04

11 AM - Online and In-Person Sunday Service

12:30 PM - Seniors Programming Meeting

MONDAY 05

TUESDAY 06

7 PM - Bible Study

WEDNESDAY 07

THURSDAY 07

10:30 AM - Ever Wonder Group Discussion (ZOOM)

3 PM - Digital Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY 09

SATURDAY 10

Sunday:

11 AM - Online and In-Person Sunday Service

12:30 PM - Seniors Programming Meeting

Tuesday:

7 PM - Advent [Bible Study](#)

Thursday:

10:30 AM - Ever Wonder Group Discussion

(Email: everwonder@mcctoronto.com)

3 PM - [Digital Fellowship Hall](#)



Bible Study

[Bible Study](#)

Tuesday | 7 PM

[ZOOM Link](#)

Meeting ID: 840 3113 2013

Passcode: 493156



Digital Fellowship Hall

[Digital Fellowship Hall](#)

Thursdays | 3 PM

[ZOOM Link](#)

Meeting ID: 889 7843 8853

Passcode: 560461



Sunday Service Worship

Online | 11 AM | In-person | 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 