



MCC TORONTO'S

CHURCH
on
CHURCH

AT CHURCH

Pride Celebration Service
Sunday, June 25, 2023
10:30 AM

About Us

Celebrating its golden 50th Anniversary in 2023, MCC Toronto was established in 1973 as part of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches – a denomination and global LGBTQ+ Christian movement. Throughout its history, MCC Toronto has been a place of worship – and a place of action. Our weekly Worship Services are attended by over 600 congregants both in-person and online. We count a broader congregant community of over 2,000 members drawn from many different religious backgrounds and beliefs, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientations, racial and cultural backgrounds, countries of origin, socioeconomic realities, and abilities. We are a proud vibrant, inclusive, and progressive faith community – at MCC Toronto everyone matters and everyone belongs.

Rooted in the 2SLGBTQ+ community, MCC Toronto has long been at the centre of community activism. We have been home to the Triangle Program, Canada's first 2SLGBTQ+ High School since 1995. We were national leaders in the fight for same sex marriage. Our LGBTQ+ Refugee Programs have served over 8,000 refugees and through our status as the exclusive Sponsorship Agreement Holder for LGBTQ+ refugees to Canada, we have brought 75 refugees to safety in Canada since 2007. In 2022, MCC Toronto announced that it had raised a record-setting \$5 million through a major gift campaign to help support an elevation of our human rights work through expanded programming, new partnerships, and an emphasis on creating impact and change.

MCC Toronto's vision is to be a growing, inclusive, spiritual community that creates a just, kind and loving world for all. We work every day to live our core values of Advocacy, Diversity and Spirituality.

MCC Toronto

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Watch our weekly webcast seen around the world

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Greetings from our Senior Pastor



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for joining us for MCC Toronto's **31st Annual Church on Church Pride Celebration** Service. This year, we're having **Church on Church AT Church**, in our beloved church home. Although we have had to "pivot" a couple of times to our sanctuary because of rain, this is the first time we've actually been here on purpose!

This year's theme for Pride Toronto is "Here, There, Everywhere!" and I think that's a great theme for us, too! And not just because MCC Toronto is celebrating its golden 50th anniversary this year! MCC as a denomination is a global presence, with 177 (or more) churches in 37 countries. And MCC Toronto's reach is also world-wide, as our weekly webcasts have been viewed from over 75 countries in the past year, and as our Refugee Program assists LGBTQ+ newcomers from around the world, and as our Human Rights Program works for global rights for 2SLGBTQ+ people. More importantly, those of us here in church this morning, take the spirit of MCC out with us wherever we go!

Many thanks to our Music Director Jason Jestadt, our many special musical guests and to The Choir of MCC Toronto for the incredible work they've done in preparing for today's Service. And special thanks to the donors who helped make all our Pride 2023 celebrations possible and to the many volunteers who are giving so much of themselves this Pride to support our work and mission.

Please be sure to visit our community booth in the StreetFair (on Church Street between Gould and Dundas Streets) and watch for us in the parade if you're not marching with us. Most of all have a safe and happy Pride and be proud of who God has created you to be!

Peace & blessings,

Rev. Deana Dudley
Acting Senior Pastor

Order of Service

At the ⑤ symbol, you are asked to rise as you are able.

Prelude: **Higher Ground** (written by Stevie Wonder)
Performed by Alana Bridgewater, Gavin Hope and The Choir of MCC Toronto

Welcome / Life & Work of the Congregation:
Rev. Deana Dudley, Acting Senior Pastor

Land Acknowledgement

⑤ Hand of Friendship

Opening Song: **The Times They Are A-Changin'** (written by Bob Dylan)
Performed by Alana Bridgewater

⑤ Opening Prayer

Bridge Over Troubled Water (written by Paul Simon)
Performed by The Choir of MCC Toronto

Scripture Reading – Matthew 7: 7-12

Heroes (written by David Bowie)
Performed by Shannon McCracken

Lesson for Life: "Here, There, and Everywhere!"
Rev. Deana Dudley, Acting Senior Pastor

Strong Enough (written by Mark Taylor & Paul Barry)
Performed by Cher/"Messy Margaret"

Roar (written By Katy Perry, Bonnie McKee, Dr. Luke, Max Martin, & Cirkut)
Featuring The Choir of MCC Toronto

Order of Service

Prayers of the People

① Jesus' Prayer

Call for Offering

Offertory Song: **The Climb** (*written by Jessica Alexander & John Shanks*)
Performed by Genevieve Trudel

① Benediction

① Amen, Amen, Amen!

① Announcements

① Closing Song: **Happy** (*written by Pharell Williams*)
Performed by Gavin Hope and The MCC Toronto Choir

① Postlude: **We Are Family** (*written by Bernard Edwards & Nile Rodgers*)
Performed by The Choir of MCC Toronto

Artist Bios

Jason Jestadt, Music Director

Jason is a Dora nominated music director who has worked on many musical theatre productions and concerts in Toronto, from the Queen musical *We Will Rock You*, to conducting the Toronto production of *Come From Away*, to accompanying acclaimed singer Colm Wilkinson on a tour to Japan. In October 2019, Jason took on the role of Music Director at MCC Toronto.



As well as music directing, Jason also composes choral music that has been performed across Canada by such acclaimed choirs as the Elmer Iseler Singers, and Vancouver Chamber Choir, and The Choir of MCC Toronto. Since 2020, Jason has also served as musician-in-residence at Holy Blossom Temple.



Alana Bridgewater

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."

Artist Bios

Gavin Hope

Gavin Hope is a three-time Juno Award nominee, both as a solo vocalist and as a member of the iconic Canadian a cappella group The Nylons. He has sung with Natalie Cole, Deborah Cox, James Brown, and Aretha Franklin, among others.

Gavin has been a featured vocalist with Jeans 'n Classics for more than a decade, performing the music of Earth, Wind and Fire, Michael Jackson, Prince, Stevie Wonder, and various Broadway hits on the symphonic stage.

His musical theatre highlights include *The Lion King* (Simba) and *RENT* (Collins).

From the studio to the stage, Gavin just loves to perform, and when he's not on the road, he loves to share his gifts with fans in his current hometown of Toronto.



Messy Margaret

Messy Margaret is Toronto's premiere dragtress and comedy queen. She has appeared on stage and on screen, but, most importantly, she has become one of TikTok's most ignored stars!

She has racked up nearly 90K followers through her silly sketches revolving around the restaurant industry. In 2021, she won Toronto Sketch Comedy's spring sketchcompetition for her original solo sketch, *The Penne Barn*. Messy loves to perform on stage and especially enjoys channeling your drunk aunt at a wedding.

Follow her on Instagram and TikTok [@messymargaretqueen.](#)

Artist Bios

Shannon McCracken

Shannon McCracken is a singer, actor, voice-over artist and teacher.

Some of Shannon's oratorio work includes *Handel's Messiah*, *Vivaldi's Gloria*, and *Bach's Magnificat in D Major*. As well as frequenting as a guest soloist for choirs and orchestras. Shannon has been featured in cabarets at the *Banff Centre*, with *New Stages*, and at the inaugural *Women of Musical Theatre Festival* in Toronto, and her recital and concert work have taken her across Canada.



On the stage, some of Shannon's favourite credits include: Esme in the world premiere of *Buying the Farm* (Port Stanley Festival Theatre); Galinda in *Wicked*; Amalia in *She Love Me* (CMTP); *Oklahoma!* and *The Sound of Music* (Port Hope Festival Theatre); and *Barbarina* in *The Marriage of Figaro* (Opera Laurier).

Shannon teaches voice from her home studio in Peterborough, loves going for walks with her dog, and is always excited to perform at MCC Toronto.



Geneviève Trudel

Geneviève (she/they) is a young and passionate musician, born and raised in Toronto, Ontario. From the moment she could talk, she wanted to sing. She was always drawn to the stage, which led her to perform in musicals and sing in an adult church choir at the age of 10. Now, working as a soloist, she has a well-rounded repertoire and wants to share her love of music and performing with the world.

Artist Bios

The Choir of MCC Toronto

The Choir of MCC Toronto has long been celebrated as one of the leading church choral groups in the country. The Choir boasts an eclectic and electric combination of talented singers whose love of music brings them together every week for rehearsals and Services and for annual special events including Pride, Christmas with the Choir and Christmas Eve Service. Under the leadership of current Music Director Jason Jestadt, The Choir is an integral part of Sunday Services at MCC Toronto and a popular community mainstay. The Choir have been featured performers at The Olympic Torch Relay, World Pride Opening Ceremony and the Celebration of Life for Jack Layton, among many others. The Choir has recorded 3 CDs: *House of Love* (featuring Louise Pitre); *The Choir: Connected* (with Thom Allison, Alana Bridgewater and Julie Michels) and *These Old Walls* (featuring Stephanie Martin). All are available to stream on Spotify.

Credits and Thanks

MCC Toronto extends a huge thanks to the many volunteers who are helping with today's Pride Celebration Service, and our 2023 Pride activities.

Music Director/pianist - Jason Jestadt

Conductor - Shelley Hanson

Band:

Keys - Scott Christian

Bass - Russ Boswell

Drums - Steve Heathcote

Guitars - Bob McAlpine

Percussion - Jamie Drake

The Choir of MCC Toronto:

James Beattie

Brian Black

Ivan Canete

CJ Chinapen

Roy Dean

Janice Gladstone

Llewellyn Goddard

Lori Honeycombe

Karen Hoyland

Devon Hubka

Andrus Klikunou

Louis Landry

Shannon Halliwell-MacDonald

Jen McIntyre

Abraham Millington

Valerie Mills

Andrew Newbery

Timothy Oakes

Sylvie Pelletier

Judy Righton

Dawn Sinclair

Mark Stephenson

Rachel Stewart

Pat Tatlock

John K. Wright

Sound:

Wayne Deering

Just Prince

2023 Pride Planning Committee:

Rev. Deana Dudley, Acting Senior Pastor & CEO

Shannon Malloch, Executive Director & Acting COO

JJ Viviers, Office Manager

John R. Farrell, Senior Director of Development & Communications

Jason Jestadt, Music Director

Rev. Junia Joplin, Associate Pastor

Elle Behnia, Communications Manager

Sheryl Pollock, Worship Logistics Co-ordinator

Annual Donors

MCC Toronto extends heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the following donors for their gifts in support of our work and mission in 2022.

\$25,000+

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Our Pride Donors

MCC Toronto is grateful to our 2023 Pride donors. Thank you for your support in helping us share our message of love and hope this Pride!

\$250+

Ron Beben

Brad Berg & Brian Rolfes in memory of Merrelyn and Deanie, proud mothers

Lisa Jane Bone In Honour of Patti Gray

Anne Brayley & Nanette Sanson

Cathy Brown & Patti Gray

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Gideon Kuhordu Okagwu

Emmanuel Bamidele Okorie

John Ershell Plumadore & Brian Henry

Sheryl Pollock

David Rodrigues

Michael Sinclair

Ona Vincent-Efewia

Debra Williams

Questions? Contact [**giving@mcctoronto.com**](mailto:giving@mcctoronto.com)

You're Invited!

MCC Toronto 50th Anniversary Celebration Service

July 16 | 11 AM | 115 Simpson Ave.



MCC Toronto 50th Anniversary Community Picnic

July 16 | 1 - 4 PM | Riverdale Park East



Join MCC Toronto on July 16 as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary with a special Celebration Service at 11 AM followed by a free Community Picnic with food, games and activities in Riverdale Park East. Rain or shine!

mccutoronto.com/50th-Anniversary-Service