

LARGE PRINT ORDER of SERVICE



LENT 4

Welcome on March 22, 2009

Worship & Celebration: 9:00am & 11:00am

Social Time: following Worship & Celebration

We are so pleased that you're able to join us in worship and celebration at MCC Toronto. We are a joyful, spiritual community of people committed to being an inclusive, affirmative, caring church.

If this is your first time visiting us and you like what is happening here and want to get involved, please fill in the orange welcome card found in the pew pocket. After service, please meet the presider at the back of the sanctuary who will share MCC Toronto information with you.

At the ❖ symbol, you are asked to rise in body or in spirit.

Phonic Ears for hearing assistance are available from the technical ministry volunteers at the sound booth.

We ask that you kindly turn your cell phone off during service. Our vision is to be a bridge. Whoever you are, wherever you are from, you are welcome! Even if today is your first time here, you are invited to participate fully in every part of the service as much or as little as you like. Here is a guide to our worship:

We are a house of prayer for all people. We affirm many paths to God. For non-Christ-centred Anointing or Communion blessings, please approach the anointer or server with your arms crossed over your chest.

Prayers of the People are when you are invited to name people or circumstances as prayer requests out loud, at the appropriate times, as you feel comfortable.

Lessons for Life are meant to inspire you in your spiritual journey and to challenge you to find ways to put your faith into action. CDs of the Lessons for Life are available at the Information Centre in the Social Hall and webcasts are available at www.MCCToronto.com

During the Time for Reconciliation and Healing you're invited to come forward alone or with a friend to receive an anointing for healing. An Anointer will anoint your forehead with oil and offer you a brief blessing. We all share God's love and celebrate God's unconditional gift of peace and freedom.

Building Bridges is possible because of the abundant giving of people just like you. Gathering our gifts, we celebrate the difference God makes in people's lives through our life as community.

We celebrate an open Communion. You do not need to be a member of this church or of any church to participate in Communion. If today is your first time in church, you are especially welcome to share in Communion. When you come forward, a

server will dip the wafer in the juice, place it in your mouth and offer you a brief blessing like: "Rejoice that God is love and this love is with you always." We serve only non-alcoholic wine and the wafers are 100% wheat. We celebrate a variety of understandings about communion and so we believe the bread and juice are transformed in community to be spiritual nourishment for all people.

Our Volunteers make it all possible! At times in our service, you may notice a number of people moving into position to serve. We extend a special thank you to all who make our celebrations possible through their gifts of time and talent today and every time we gather.

The Touch of the Holy: that's what our weekly celebrations are all about. We pray that God's presence will remain with you to bring you peace and joy.

Welcome / Life & Work of the Congregation

One Minute Celebrations

Hand of Friendship

Prelude

This Love Never Fails

The Choir

Call to Worship ❖

One: God of Mystery,

Many: **Grant us new life through you today.**

Processional Hymn ❖

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine all loves excelling, joy of heav'n to earth come down;
Fix in us your humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, you are all compassion, pure unbounded love you are;
Visit us with your salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast!

Let us all in you inherit, let us find the promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be;

End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all your life receive;

Suddenly return, and never, never more your temples leave:

You we would be always blessing, serve you as your hosts above,

Pray, and praise you without ceasing, glory in your perfect love.

Finish then your new creation, pure and spotless let us be;

Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in you:

Change from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,

Till we cast our crowns before you, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Opening Prayer ❖

Receiving of New Members (11:00am)

Anthem

Daniel, Daniel

Prayers of the People

During the Prayers of the People, you are encouraged to share aloud names of people who are brought into your thoughts for prayer.

One: Gracious God, your abundance surrounds us and sustains us. We thank you for gifts of friendship and new beginnings, for life as it unfolds and new opportunities for growth ... God of grace,

Many: We know you hear our prayers.

One: Spirit of hope, in our lives and in our world there are many troubled by concerns. Some face the uncertainty and pain of illness. Some wrestle with anxiety and fear, about work, about relationships and about themselves. We pray that your healing love may touch these lives ... God of hope,

Many: We know you hear our prayers.

One: Spirit of compassion, be with us as we face losses in our lives. Where there is disappointment, lead us to joy. Where there is grief, fill us with your peace. Where there is death, help us to say good-bye for now and not for ever. We pray for ... God of compassion,

Many: We know you hear our prayers.

One: Breath of the Universe, you have created us for joy. Open our minds to the gracious promptings of your Spirit, increase our trust and guide our hearts in the ways of the truth.

Many: God of many Names, you transform us by grace and renew us in peace.

Amen, Amen, Amen!

Sacred Readings

Matthew 7: 1-5

One: Glory to you, O Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Many: Glory to you, O Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

One: Anyone who chooses, can be with me, says our God,
and where I am, there shall you also be.

Many: Glory to you, O Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

John 8: 3-7

One: These are sacred readings.

May they comfort us, inspire us, and challenge us.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Many: Open our eyes, God, we want to see Jesus.

To reach out and touch him and say that we love him.

Open our ears, God, and help us to listen.

Open our eyes, God, we want to see Jesus.

Lessons for Life

8 Life Changing Messages from Jesus:

From Judgement to Forgiveness

Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M.

Time of Reconciliation & Healing

Surely the Presence

Surely the presence of our God is in this place;

I can feel your mighty power and your grace.

I can hear the brush of angels' wings,

I see glory on each face;

Surely the presence of our God is in this place.

Prayer of Reconciliation

One: Jesus showed us a way to a new relationship with
God, freeing us from whatever binds us, reconciling
us with God, with each other, and with ourselves.

And so we pray:

Many: God, we recognize those times

**when we have separated ourselves
from you and each other.
We have not always cared for, respected and loved
our world, our neighbour, or ourselves.
We have sinned
by things we have done,
and by things we have left undone.
We open our hearts again to the renewal,
the forgiveness and the freedom you offer...**

A time is provided for silent reflection or confession.

Affirmation of Freedom & Invitation to Healing

One: Hear the good news, God saying to us, "Behold, I make all things new!" In every moment, you are loved, and so you are forgiven, free in the name of God who created you, who dwells within you, and who goes with you always. Amen.

As we sing together please come forward freely and receive anointing for healing so that God's love might transform us in body and spirit.

We Come to Thee

In the moments of days, in the hours of the night,
We come to Thee, we come to Thee.
In the twilight's soft glow, or the dawn's gleaming light
We come to Thee, we come to Thee.
In the winter's dark chill, or in warm summer air,
There is never a season when you are not there and
We come to Thee, we come to Thee we come to Thee.

With a smile filled with joy or eyes filled with tears
We come to Thee, we come to Thee.
When our hearts are at peace or in sadness or fear
We come to Thee, we come to Thee.

In our happiest times, or when sorrows arise,
We lift up our hearts and we close our eyes and
We come to Thee we come to Thee we come to Thee.

In the seconds we count, or the years that fly by
We come to Thee, we come to Thee.
In good times or bad, all the days of our lives
We come to Thee, we come to Thee.
From the start of our lives to the end we shall see
You have always been there and forever will be and
We come to Thee, we come to Thee, we come to Thee.

Wind of the Spirit

Wind of the Spirit, flow through my soul
Move in my being, I surrender control
Teach me to walk with your guiding hand
Wind of the spirit, move in me

Wind of the Spirit, flow through my mind
Through your soft touch renewal I find
Replace every fear with your calming peace
Wind of the Spirit, flow through me

Wind of the Spirit, guide my wayward feet
Tenderly until my journey is complete
Awaken my fervor to serve and obey
Wind of the spirit, flow through me

Jesus' Prayer ❖

**Many: Our creator, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy dominion come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;
for thine is dominion,
and the power and the glory,
for ever. Amen.**

Offertory

George Meanwell

Read about George on page 3 of Connections.

Building Bridges

One: ...the ushers will come forward to receive our tithes,
and offerings.

Gathering of our Gifts

Our Journey of Faith

**Many: Take a look around you, what do you see?
A world in need of comfort and peace.
We have a vision, we have a way.
Come walk beside us on our journey of faith.
Build a bridge of hope.
Make a path of understanding.
Plant a seed of truth.
Watch it grow. Help it grow.
We're building bridges together
On our journey of faith.**

Blessing of Gifts

One: God, we offer these gifts out of our abundance to your
work in this community. Your love frees us to be generous
with each other and inspires us to action as we build
bridges in this place and from this place to a world hungry

for hope, for justice, and for peace. And so we
commission these gifts to your service in the world.

**Many: We're building bridges together
On our journey of faith.**

Celebration of Holy Communion

One: God is with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to our God.

Many: It is right to give thanks and praise.

One: It is a right and good and joyful thing, always and
everywhere, to give thanks to you, God Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth. Therefore, we praise you,
joining our voices with all the company of heaven
who forever sing to proclaim the glory of your Name.

**Many: Holy, holy, holy one; my heart, my heart adores you!
My heart knows how to say to you, holy are you Lord!
¡Santo, santo, santo, mi corazón te adora!
¡Mi corazón te sabe decir, Santo eres mi Dios!**

**Let us be bread, blessed by our God,
Broken and shared, life for the world.
Let us rejoice, in love freely poured,
Let us be one in our God.**

Choir: I am the bread of life, broken for all.
Eat now and hunger no more.

**Many: Let us be love, blessed by our God,
Spoken and shared, life for the world.
Let us rejoice, in love freely poured,**

Let us be one in our God.

**One faith, one hope, one symbol of love
Given to us in this one bread, one cup.**

O let us be one in our God.

Let us be one in our God.

Invitation to God's Table

As others receive, please maintain an atmosphere of calm reflection, and join in singing the communion hymns.

Give Us This Day

Give us this day our daily bread;

You said you would supply all my needs, according to your riches.

I have but to ask, and I shall receive.

To go from here and share this love you've given me,

To show the ones who're lost and help them find the way,

The way to truth and love, so they can be free.

O God, we need your love!

O God, we need your peace!

O God, we need your joy, so we can be free!

Give us this day our daily bread.

Be Still My Soul

Be still, my soul, for God is on your side;

Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.

Trust in your God, your saviour and your guide,

Who through all changes faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul, your best, your heavenly friend

Through stormy ways leads to a peaceful end.

Be still, my soul, your God will undertake

To guide the future surely as the past.

Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;

All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul, life's tempests still obey
The voice that once the waves' wild fury stayed.

Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever in God's peace;
When disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
Love's joys restored our strivings all shall cease.
Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Come Touch Our Hearts

Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion
from failing embers build a blazing fire.
Love strong enough to overturn injustice, to
seek a life more gracious, come touch and bless our hearts

Come touch our souls that we may know and love you
your quiet presence all our fears dispel.
Create a space for spirit to grow in us, let
life and beauty fill us, come touch and bless our souls

Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason set free
our thoughts to wonder and to dream
Help us to open doors of understanding, to welcome truth and
wisdom, come touch and bless our minds

Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,
your quiet presence all our fears dispel
That we may rise to follow and to serve steady now our nerve,
come touch and bless our wills

Come touch us now, this people that are gathered,

to break the bread and share the cup of peace
That we may love you with our heart, our soul, our mind,
our strength, our all, come touch us with your grace.

Breathe

This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe
Your holy presence, living in me
This is my daily bread
This is my daily bread
Your very word, spoken to me

******please rise as you are able**

And I
I'm reaching for you
And I
I'm walking to you
And I
I'll walk beside you
I want to be with you.

Benediction ❖

Many: Amen, Amen, Amen!

Closing Words ❖

Closing Song ❖

Higher

Your love keeps lifting me higher
than I've ever been lifted before.
So keep it up, quench my desire,
and I'll be at your side forever more.

Now once I was down-hearted,
disappointment was my closest friend.
But then you came, and he soon departed.
and he never showed his face again!

(chorus)

Your love keeps lifting me,
keeps on lifting me.
Lifting me higher and higher, higher
Your love keeps lifting me, keeps on lifting me.
lifting me higher and higher, higher.

Please join us in the Social Hall

Following our service, please join us for refreshments, find out about events at the Information Centre, and more!

We care, and we're here to listen. If you would like to pray with someone following today's service please approach the deacon who will be at the front of the sanctuary near the Communion table on the main floor.

We're with you in prayer.

You can send in a prayer request in any one of four ways:

1. Through the **prayer book in the Chapel,**
2. Call **(416) 406-6228 x 114,**
3. Send an e-mail to: **care@mcctoronto.com,** or
4. Through the link on the front page of our website at:
www.mcctoronto.com

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