

# LARGE PRINT ORDER of SERVICE



**CHRISTMAS 2**

**Welcome on January 4, 2008**

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

**Social Time: following Worship & Celebration**

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

**If today is your first time visiting us, or if you'd like to update your contact information in our database, please complete one of the Welcome Cards located in the pew pocket and place it in the offering plate as it goes by.**

**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 transcripts are available at [www.MCCToronto.com](http://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.

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**Welcome / Life & Work of the Congregation**

**One Minute Celebrations**

**Blessing of Families**

**Hand of Friendship**

## **Prelude**

### **Come Now and Worship**

The Choir

## **Call to Worship ❖**

**One:** God of all Gifts, help us to receive the gifts you offer us.

**All:** **And Give us the courage to open and fully experience them.**

## **Processional Hymn ❖**

### **Another Year Is Dawning**

Another year is dawning! We pray, God, let it be,  
In working or in waiting, Another year with Thee;  
Another year of progress, Another year of praise,  
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.

Another year of mercies, Of faithfulness and grace,  
Another year of gladness, In the shining of Thy face;  
Another year of leaning Upon Thy loving breast,  
Another year of trusting, Of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of service, Of witness for Thy love,  
Another year of training For holier work above;  
Another year is dawning! We pray, God, let it be,  
On earth, or else in heaven, Another year for Thee.

## **Opening Prayer ❖**

### **Anthem**

Pride & Joy

## 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

2 Corinthians 5: 16-17

One: Alleluia!

**Many: Alleluia!**

One: Holy Spirit, come dwell in us,  
light our path with word and song.

**Many: Alleluia!**

Mark 2: 21-22

One: These are sacred readings.  
May they comfort us, inspire us, and challenge us.

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

**Many: Glory to God all around us,  
And to all creation peace!  
O God all loving, we thank you  
And give praise to you for your glory.  
Jesus Christ, one with God,  
Guide us, and show us the way.  
For you O God are the holy one,  
You O God are most high.  
To Jesus Christ our trusted friend  
And Holy Spirit evermore,  
Be blessing and honour and glory,  
Be all blessing and honour and glory,  
Amen, Amen, Amen!**

## **Lessons For Life**

### **Taking Flight, Part I: The Butterfly**

Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M.

## **Time of Reconciliation & Healing**

### **I'll Say Yes**

I'll say yes, God yes  
To your will and to your way  
I'll say yes, God yes  
I will trust you and obey  
When your spirit speaks to me  
With my whole heart I'll agree  
And my answer will be yes, God yes

## **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.

## **Though I May Speak**

Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
And have the gift to all inspire,  
And have not love; my words are vain;  
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,  
And striving so my love profess,  
But not be giv'n by love within.  
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
Our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
By this we worship, and are freed.

### **Holy Ground Medley**

We are standing on holy ground,  
and I know that there are angels all around.  
Let us praise Jesus now;  
for we are standing in God's presence on holy ground.

This is holy ground.  
We're standing on holy ground.  
For the Lord is present,  
and where God is, is holy.

This is holy ground.  
We're standing on holy ground.  
For the Lord is present,  
and where God is, is holy.

These are holy hands.  
God's given us holy hands.  
God works through these hands,  
And so these hands are holy.

These are holy hands.  
God's given us holy hands.  
God works through these hands,  
And so these hands are holy.

We are standing on holy ground,  
and I know that there are angels all around.  
Let us praise Jesus now;  
for we are standing in God's presence on holy ground.

### **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**

Pride & Joy

Read about Pride & Joy on page 3 of Connections.

### **Building Bridges**

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

### **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 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, loving God, 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 God!  
Saint, Saint, Saint Très-Haut, mon coeur te donne louange,  
Mon Dieu, mon coeur proclame avec joie,  
Tu es le seul Éternel.**

One: On the night you were betrayed, you took the bread,  
After giving thanks you broke it and said,  
"This is my body, broken for you,  
And as you do this, remember me."

**Many: "This is my body, broken for you,  
And as you do this, remember me."**

One: On the night you were betrayed you held the cup.  
After giving thanks, you lifted it up.  
"This is my life, poured out for you,  
And as you do this, remember me."

**Many: "This is my life, poured out for you,  
And as you do this, remember me."**

One: So we thank you for the cup and for the bread,  
For we see the love you gave and the life you led.  
And we remember your wondrous love,  
You gave your body, you showed your love.

**Many: And we remember your wondrous love,  
You gave your body, you showed your love.**

One: Let us now proclaim the Mystery of our Faith:

**Many: Christ has died!  
Christ is risen!  
Christ will come again!**

### **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.

### **There's a Sweet Sweet Spirit**

There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place,  
And I know that it's the spirit of the Lord;  
There are sweet expressions on each face,  
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet holy spirit, sweet heavenly dove,  
Stay right here with us, filling us with your love,  
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;  
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived  
When we shall leave this place.

There are blessings you cannot receive  
Till you know the saviour's fullness, and believe.  
You're the one to profit when you say,  
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."

Sweet holy spirit, sweet heavenly dove,  
Stay right here with us, filling us with your love,  
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;  
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived  
When we shall leave this place.

### **When Peace Like a River Attendeth**

When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,

“It is well, it is well with my soul.”

It is well with my soul,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin -- O the bliss of this glorious thought,  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more:  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
It is well with my soul,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,  
Even so, it is well with my soul.  
It is well with my soul,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

## **Alleluia**

### **Because You Live ❖**

Because you live, I can face tomorrow;  
Because you live, all fear is gone;  
Because I know you hold the future,  
And life is worth the living, Just because you live.

### **Benediction ❖**

**Many: Amen, Amen, Amen!**

### **Closing Words ❖**

## **Closing Song ❖**

### **Seize the Day**

Choir: Now is the time to seize the day  
Congregation: Now is the time to seize the day  
Choir: Stand up tall and join the fray  
Congregation: Stand up tall and join the fray  
All: Wrongs will be righted if we're united,  
let us seize the day

Choir: Friends of the friendless seize the day  
Congregation: Friends of the friendless seize the day  
Choir: Raise up the torch and light the way  
Congregation: Raise up the torch and light the way  
All: Loud and defiant, we'll slay the giant,  
let us seize the day

Neighbour to neighbour, mother to son, one for all and all for one

Choir: Open the gates and seize the day  
Congregation: Open the gates and seize the day  
Choir: Don't be afraid and don't delay  
Congregation: Don't be afraid and don't delay  
All: Nothing can break us, no one can make us,  
give our rights away

Neighbour to neighbour, mother to son, one for all and all for one

For one  
For one  
For one!

## **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 171,**
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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