

LARGE PRINT ORDER of SERVICE



EPIPHANY 6

Welcome on February 15, 2009

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 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 transcripts 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

Let the Walls Fall Down

The Choir

Call to Worship ❖

One: God, in this season of Epiphany,

All: **We ask you to help us live boldly and generously.**

Processional Hymn ❖

You Are the Voice

(chorus)

You are the voice of the living God,
Calling us now to live in your love,
To be people of God once again!

Praise for the light that shines through the night,
From darkness to light, from death to new life,
And praise to the morning that brings forth the sun,
To open our eyes to your love!

To open our eyes to your love! *(chorus)*

Praise for the water that springs from the sea,
The seed that gives life to all who receive.
God's love overflowing, our hearts know the joy
To be daughters and sons of our God,
To be daughters and sons of our God. *(chorus)*

Praise for the singing and praise for the dance,
With new heart and voice, all raise the song
Of praise to creation; all heaven and earth,
Come sing of the glory of God!
Come sing of the glory of God! *(chorus)*

Opening Prayer ❖

Anthem

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Featuring Marcus Nance

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

Isaiah 58: 6-8, 11-12

One: Alleluia!

Many: Alleluia!

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

Many: Alleluia!

Matthew 25: 34-40

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!**

Sharing of Stories

Black and White to Rainbow: A Faith Journey Still Unfolding

Jim Marshall

Time of Reconciliation & Healing

Anointing, Flow Through Me

Anointing, flow through me

Anointing, flow through me

Let the power of your healing spirit, flow through me

Anointing, flow through me

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, your grace
liberates us from the past,
frees us from sadness,
releases us from guilt.
Your love inspires us to sing a new song,
as we embrace the beauty within us,
in others and in you.
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.

I've Got Peace Like a River

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in my soul.
I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

Shepherd of My Heart

My Shepherd is the Lord, for nothing shall I want;
Green are the pastures where I'm, led to repose.
Near waters still and deep God will re-fresh my soul.
I am led onward in ways true to thy Name.

(chorus)

Guide me, O shepherd of my heart;
Lead me homeward through the dark,
Into everlasting day.
Show me the way of truth and light;
Keep me always in your sight.
May my life never part from the shepherd of my heart

If I should walk one day into the vale of darkness,
No evil shall I fear with God at my side.
There with your crook and staff you give me strength and comfort;
You spread a banquet in the sight of my foes. ***(chorus)***

You anoint my head with oil;
My cup is over flowing;
Goodness and kindness crown the days of my life.
Within the Lord's own house I dwell in peace for ever;
Within the house of God my soul is at rest. ***(chorus)***

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

Marcus Nance

Read about Marcus 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.

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.

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.

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 ❖

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge - take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee, you will find a solace there.

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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