

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

The downtown church for a diverse city

For thousands of years this land has been the traditional home of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. It is still home to Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We are grateful to work, live and worship on this land.



Sunday, December 2, 2018

First Sunday in Advent/Sacrament of Communion

*We hope that you will find in the Worship Service food for faith and a doorway to God. Metropolitan is an **Affirming Congregation**. We welcome people of all sexual orientations to worship and minister among us.*

ORDER OF SERVICE

CARILLON PRELUDE (10:30 am outside)

Sleepers, Wake!

J.S. Bach, arranged for carillon by Scott A. Orr

ORGAN PRELUDE *Two Advent Chorales from the Orgelbüchlein*

J. S. Bach

Redeemer of the Nations, Come

settings by Paul Manz and J. S. Bach

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Paul Manz

CHORAL INTROIT: *Pour Down, O Heavens*

Plainchant

Pour down, O heavens, from above and let the skies rain down righteousness. Turn your fierce anger from us, O Lord, and remember not our sins forever....

♩ PROCESSIONAL HYMN #1 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Veni Emmanuel

♩ INVITATION TO WORSHIP (Opening liturgy is adapted from Psalm 25, selected verses)

One: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness for those who keep close the promise and adore the holy light.

All: To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls.

One: Good and upright is the Lord, leading humble worshippers to what is authentic and right.

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray. (all seated)

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

One: As cold winds blow and skies turn grey, the reverie of summer and the glories of autumn fade to winter white.

All: There is no denying that the hard crust of the year is upon us.

One: Mighty rulers still vex and tax us. Wise ones still take risks for deeper things.

All: Huddled as we are by the warmth of our small fires, we are mindful of the blazing stars above us and the promise of your worlds to come. You are near us, and merciful. Your love is steadfast from of old.

One: As you are good and upright, so lead us to clean lives of goodness and the joy and shared delights of upright living.

All: Our home is in you. We wait to welcome you. We shall not turn away.

SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

ADVENT KYRIE (ALL)



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: "Come, Almighty, to deliver. Let us, all, your grace receive." The promise of incarnation returns the child to its joy and the penitent to their peace. We are restored to God.

♩ (indicates a congregational response - please stand as you are able).

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: The Advent wreath is a circle representing eternal life. The light grows brighter as we draw nearer the birth of Christ.

All: **Today, we light the candle of Hope; for prayers heard, for love alive and for eternal life ahead.** *(The candle is lit by Heather, Joe, Malaya, and Eli Landon)*

Family: "Even so, come Lord Jesus."

SUNG ADVENT RESPONSE (ALL): Hymn #7

Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

CHORISTERS AND SPARKLERS *Prepare a Way for the Lord!*

Michael Bedford

Timothy Wisnicki, piano; Janice Andrews, handbells

READINGS

Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

ANTHEM

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. Hugo Distler

Text at Hymn #8

GOSPEL READING

Luke 21:25-36

ASCRPTION OF GLORY These are the tidings of God. If you would touch the sacred, touch it here. The truth is in the words, and the power in the inspiration.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE **Thanks be to God.**

ENCOUNTERING THE CHILD WITHIN

All children and youth are invited to make their way to Sunday School. Please follow the teachers.

♪HYMN # 2 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Stuttgart

SERMON

"RIVER OF PROMISE" The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair

♪PEACE GREETING

One: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

♪AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

OFFERTORY SOLO *Komm, Jesu, komm* from *Cantata #61*

J. S. Bach

Come, Jesus, come, Thy church awaits you, and give us a blessed new year. Promote the glory of Thy name and teachings, and bless the pulpit and altar.

Charles Davidson, tenor

COMMUNION HYMN #473 vs. 1, 2 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Picardy

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: Lift up your hearts.

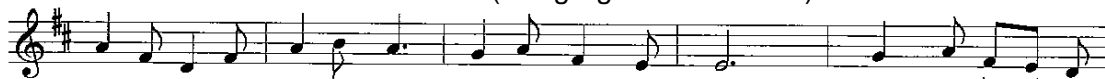
All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord God.

All: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: Let us pray. (all seated)

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT (Congregation and choir)



Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are



full of your glo-ry. Ho - san-na in the high-est! Bles-sed is the one who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high-est! Ho - san-na in the high-est!

LORD'S PRAYER (all) (*Voices United*, p. 921)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

AGNUS DEI (Congregation and choir)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world. Have mer-cy up - on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world. Have mer-cy up - on us,



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world. Grant us your peace.

DISTRIBUTION All are welcome to receive the sacrament of Communion at Metropolitan United Church. Communion will be offered at the front rails. Following the usher’s lead, please come by the centre aisle to the front of the church and kneel (or stand) to receive, then return by the side aisles. We ask that people in the balcony come down to the chancel steps. If you wish to remain in your pew, a server will bring the elements to you. A blessing can be received at the end of each rail.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *Creator of the Stars; Comfort Ye; Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

♪ **RECESSIONAL HYMN #25** *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending* Helmsley

♪ **COMMISSIONING**

♪ **BLESSING (All) #429 (Please turn toward the centre)** William Wright
May the blessing of God be upon you. May God’s love light all your way. May the grace of Christ enfold you and peace around you stay. May the Spirit of God dwell within you. May you live in joy each day.

ORGAN POSTLUDE AND CANDLE EXTINGUISHING *Redeemer of the Nations, Come* J. S. Bach



LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning are **The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair** and **The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea**. Reading the lessons is **Stephanie Parkin**. The ministry of music is offered by Carillonneur **Roy Lee**, the **Metropolitan Choir** and **Choristers** conducted by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, the **Metropolitan Sparklers** conducted by **Dr. Jennifer Martyn**, and by the Junior Organ Scholar **Timothy Wisnicki**.

CARRYING THE ADVENT TORCH is **Ian Mahaffy**.
GREETERS are **Jean Robison** and **Chris Hoover**.
USHERS are **Terry Kelly**, **Greg McMaster**, **Shari McMaster** and **Wilbert Ward**.

CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING – held today after the service in the Sanctuary. This meeting is to present and endorse the church budget for 2019. That is the only item on the agenda. Light snacks and refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome.

HOME AND HEALTH envelopes will be in your bulletin today. This fund enables us to support our own people in times of need. Please be generous.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, December 3		
10:00 a.m.	Art Program	Metropolitan Centre
Tuesday, December 4		
6:30 p.m.	Open Studio Night	Metropolitan Centre
7:00 p.m.	Silver Band rehearsal	Sanctuary
Wednesday, December 5		
7:00 a.m.	OOTC Chop Chop Group	Met Kitchen
12:15 p.m.	Advent Adorations	Founders’ Chapel
6:00 p.m.	Taizé Labyrinth Service	Chancel
Thursday, December 6		
7:30 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast	Fran’s Restaurant

11:00 a.m. OOTC Met Luncheon
6:00 p.m. Peace & Social Justice
6:30 p.m. Metropolitan Handbells
7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Choir

Metropolitan Centre
Flanders' Library
Nursery
Chancel Room

Friday, December 7

9:00 a.m. Christmas lunch prep
10:00 a.m. Art Program

Met kitchen
Metropolitan Centre

Saturday, December 8

8:30 a.m. Breakfast Bible Study
9:00 a.m. Christmas lunch prep
10:00 a.m. Pageant rehearsal

Nursery
Met kitchen
Sanctuary

NEXT SUNDAY: December 9 *Second Sunday in Advent*

9:30 a.m. Communion Service in the Founders' Chapel
"Garment of Sorrow"

The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea

9:45 a.m. Metropolitan Sparklers, Choristers, *Great Heart* Met Centre, Chancel Room and Morley Punshon

10:00 a.m. Library Open (re-opens 12:15 p.m.)

10:00 a.m. One Question Bible Study

Board Room (Northeast corner)

11:00 a.m. Morning Service and Church School

"Cauldron of Cleansing" The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair

Malachi 3:1-4; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

12:15 p.m. Christmas Lunch - Please bring dessert

Metropolitan Centre

1:30 p.m. Deck the Halls

Sanctuary

MINISTRY OF INTEGRATED ARTS

VISUAL AND CREATIVE ARTS FALL HAPPENINGS: **Open Studio Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** in the **Metropolitan Centre**, (acrylics, pencil, pastels, some supplies provided!) all levels welcome! A friendly encouraging space facilitated by local artist Luis Estores.

DONATIONS NEEDED: The Visual and Creative Arts Committee is accepting donations of wool and yarn, knitting needles, patterns or other supplies. If you should find yourself with extra, please consider dropping it off in the church office. *Thank you.*

THE METROPOLITAN SILVER BAND: Silver Band has a new CD! Get your copy of the band's much anticipated new recording today - *Sacred Brass !!* This recording includes all the gorgeous sacred standards for brass band that you have enjoyed over the years at our services. Contact Michele for your copy or let the main office know.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

MET VOLUNTEERS: You can help bring Christmas Joy to a Metropolitan member who is shut-in or has difficulty attending service. Do you live within driving distance of one of these areas? **Met Care** would appreciate your assistance in delivering the plants. They will be at the back of the church on **Sunday, December 9th**. (Christie Gardens - **600 Melita Cres.**; Providence Villa - **3276 St. Clair Ave. East**; Davenhill **877 Yonge Street** - three plants to be delivered there; **1381 Everall Road, Mississauga**; Main St. Terrace, **77 Main St.** between Gerrard and Kingston Rd.; **1 Lomond Dr.** - Bloor & Islington; **38 Medalist Road** - south of 401 off Bayview; **921 Millwood Road** - north of Moore).

CHRISTMAS LUNCH - On **Sunday, December 9**. You are invited to join the preparation team! We prepare Friday, December 7 and Saturday, December 8 from 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.. **RSVP The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea.**

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – On Sunday, December 16. You are invited to join the Nativity Pageant team! Rehearsals are Saturdays, December 8 and 15 from 10:00 a.m.-noon. **RSVP The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea.**

CHRISTMAS AT QUEEN – On Monday, December 24. You are invited to join the Outdoor Nativity Pageant team! Rehearsals are Saturdays, December 15 and 22, 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. **RSVP The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea.**

BOB MOODIE – We are saddened to learn of the death of Bob Moodie. He died on Tuesday evening. He and his late wife Norma were keen and active members of the congregation over many years.

OUTREACH

OUT OF THE COLD VOLUNTEERS: We're asking for volunteers to help with early morning food preparation on Wednesdays and also on Thursdays at noon to help with clean-up, dishes, etc. Please contact **Kathy Priestman** at **416-691-5808**.

CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY AT OUT OF THE COLD: To celebrate Christmas with our guests, for December 20 we are planning a special menu, music and, with your help, a gift for everyone. Please consider leaving a gift in the OOTC GIFTS boxes in the Narthex on Sundays (Dec, 2, 9, 16). Suggested items: gift cards (dollar or grocery stores), toiletries, towels, hats, gloves/mittens, scarves, socks, t-shirts, underwear, reusable water bottles, coffee mugs, backpacks.

COOKIE BAKERS make possible a much-loved addition to the Thursday Out of the Cold meals. Tins will be left in the Narthex Sunday mornings; cookie donations may be left there.

SPIRITUAL LEARNING FOR LIFE

FLANDERS LIBRARY: "Egerton Ryerson and His Times" edited by Neil McDonald and Alf Chaiton is a collection of 13 essays exploring the social, political, institutional and economic changes which took place in mid-nineteenth-century Ontario and how Egerton Ryerson, Ontario's first superintendent of schools, influenced these developments. Come to our library and take this book to read at home. The Library is open from 10:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:15-1:00 p.m. every Sunday.

FAITH IN ACTION

RENEW! RESTORE! REJOICE! OUR THIRD CENTURY CAMPAIGN: Metropolitan's magnificent sanctuary is in need of painting and restoration, something that has not been done in almost 60 years. Gifts to our Third Century Campaign will ensure our heritage building is renewed for future generations. Please pray for the enthusiastic support from every household when our campaign launches next year. To God be the Glory, great things God has done!

PLEASE CONSIDER PAR: Please consider Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) as your personal means of giving to Metropolitan Church. You determine the amount that comes from your bank account monthly. In this way, your gifts continue regularly, even if you are away. You may change the amount you give at any time. Please call Elena in the church office at (416) 363-0331, ext. 29 or email elenap@metunited.org. Thanks for considering this!

LOYALTY: Many of our members have shown their loyalty to our great church by remembering Metropolitan with a gift in their estate plans. Our congregation has a vibrant future and is so worthy of our loyal support — past, present and future. Thank you for remembering our church with your own legacy gift. For information contact Doug Flanders (416) 769-2746; email dougflanders@sympatico.ca **A legacy — It's ours to leave.**

Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others. — Barbara Bush

Scented Products can aggravate health problems for some people. Please avoid the use of perfume or other scented products. Thank you for your cooperation.

DIRECTORY

Minister of the Congregation: The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair, ext. 27

Minister of Congregational Care and Development: The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea, ext. 24

Teachers: Karlos Griffith (karlosgriffith@rogers.com), Johnavac Abrahams (johnavac.abraham@tcdsb.org)

Library: Marion Lick (library@metunited.ca) and Maureen Maguire (vigrass78@gmail.com)

Community Outreach Ministry

Outreach and Housing Worker: Megan Carver, ext. 21 (housingworker@metunited.ca)

Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Dr. Patricia Wright, ext. 26 (patw@metunited.ca)

Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar: Michael Oldaker

Junior Organ Scholar: Timothy Wisnicki

Metropolitan Choir Lead Singers: Gisele Kulak, Chelsea Van Pelt, Valeria Kondrashov, Chris Taeyoung Kim,

Charles Davidson, Benjamin Stein, Nicholas Higgs, John Schneider

Director, *Great Heart* Youth Ensemble: Benjamin Stein

Conductor, *Metropolitan Sparklers*: Dr. Jennifer Martyn

Carillonneur: Roy Lee

Carillonneur Emeritus: James Slater

Director, Metropolitan Silver Band: Fran Harvey

Administrative Ministry

Director of Administration: Jane Tuomi, ext. 35 (janelt@metunited.ca)

Office Administrator: Jaclyn Kumer, ext. 10 (jacik@metunited.ca)

Financial/Membership Administrator: Elena Pejcinovska, ext. 29 (elenap@metunited.ca)

Property Manager: Frank Cairns, ext. 31

Custodians: Nadan Kandiah, Puvi Kanagalingam, ext. 39/40

Metropolitan United Church

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