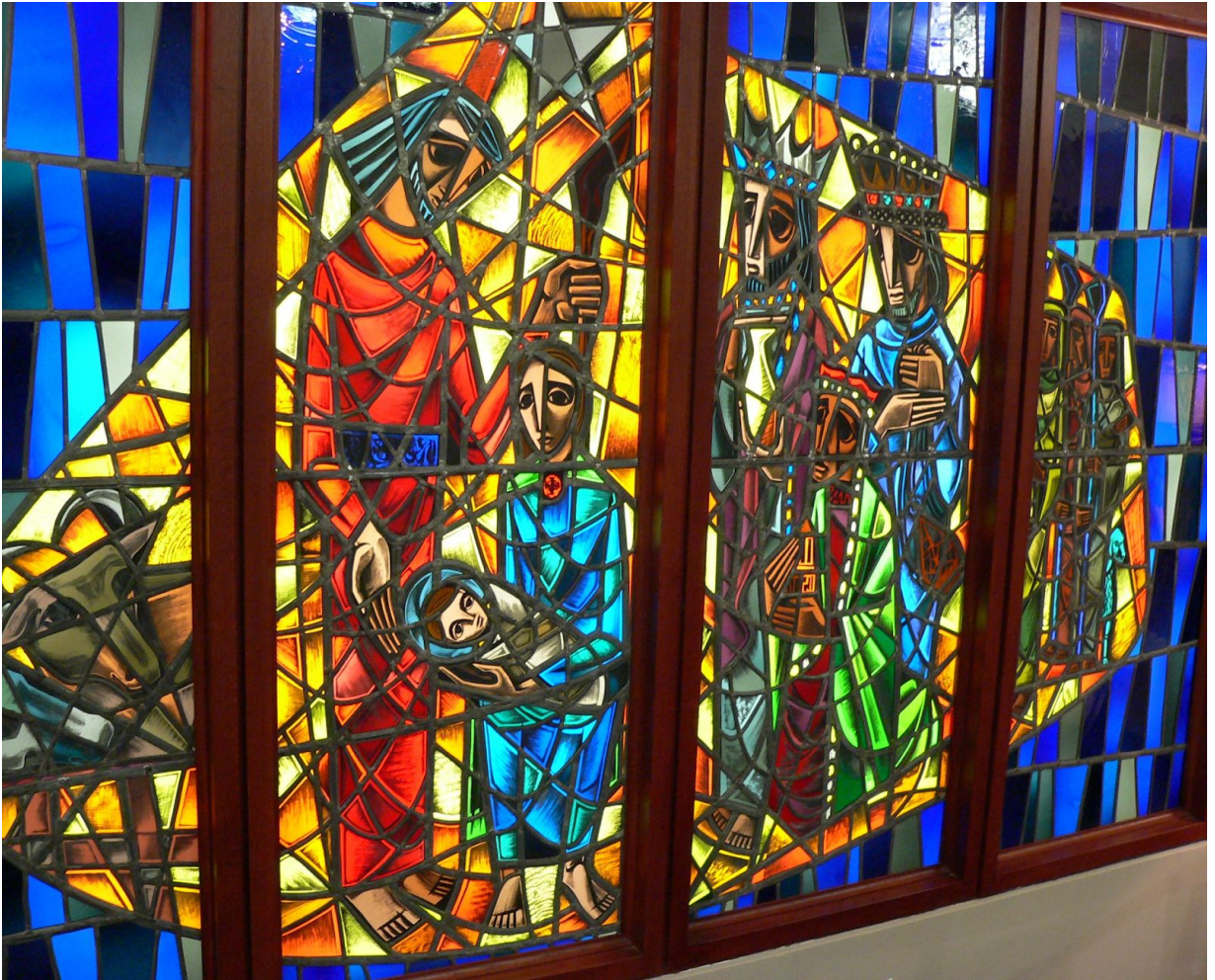


Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



Flanders Library window - Artist, Gerald Tooke

Sunday, January 5, 2020 Epiphany Sunday

We are an Affirming Congregation, offering welcome and companionship to all, regardless of orientation or designation.

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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

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

CARILLON PRELUDE (outside)

ORGAN PRELUDE	<i>How Brightly Shines the Morning Star</i> "Les Mages" from <i>La Nativité du Seigneur</i> <i>The Three Kings</i>	Dieterich Buxtehude Olivier Messiaen Paul Manz
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♪PROCESSIONAL HYMN #93 *When Heaven's Bright with Mystery* Sussex Carol

♪INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

All: and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

One: Arise, shine, for God's love fills this house of prayer.

All: Arise, shine, for God's love flows through us and knows us by name.

One: Arise, shine, for truly the Lord is in this place and in this space.

All: Arise, shine, for we are the people of God.

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray. (all seated)

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

KYRIE ELEISON (ALL) #69 *MORE VOICES* *Kyrie eleison (God have mercy)* Kervin

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

♪ACT OF PRAISE (All) p. 895 *Voices United*

Glory, glory, glory, glory be to God on high! Glory, glory, glory, glory be to God on high!

And on earth peace to the people in whom God is well pleased.

And on earth peace to the people in whom God is well pleased.

READINGS Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12

ANTHEM *Cold December's Winds* Trad. Catalan carol
Cold December's winds were stilled in the month of snowing. Though the world with dark was filled, springtime's hope was growing. Then a rosetree blossomed new: one sweet flower upon it grew; on the tree once bare grew a rose so fair, Ah! The rosetree blooming, sweet the air perfuming. When the darkness fell that night, bringing sweet reposing, all the world was hid from sight, sleep men's eyes was

closing. All at once there came a gleam from the sky: a wondrous beam of a heavenly star giving light afar. Ah! The starbeam glowing, brightness evergrowing.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 2:1-12

ONE: This is the witness of the good news of Jesus Christ.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God.**

♪ **HYMN #96** *Will You Come and See the Light?*

Kelvingrove

SERMON **THE THREE CS**

REV. KAREN BOWLES

Anthem *Behold a Star*

Felix Mendelssohn

Behold a star from Jacob shining, and a scepter from Israel rising, to reign in glory over the nations. Like some bright morning star is He, the promise of the coming day, beyond the night of sorrow. Break forth, O Light! We, our joyful hearts uplifting with thanksgiving, hail the brightness of Thy rising.

♪ **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 *The Three Kings*

Peter Cornelius

John Schneider, bass

Choir: How brightly shines the morning star! (Hymn #98)

♪ **OFFERTORY HYMN #518, verse 3**

Forest Green

**With gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to you,
Not just to serve your cause, but share your love with neighbours too.
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your son,
Help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

♪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)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

♪RECESSIONAL HYMN #92

In the Darkness Shines the Splendour

Irby

♪COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

♪BLESSING (All) #429 (Please turn toward the centre)

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.

William Wright

ORGAN POSTLUDE AND CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

In Thee Is Gladness

J. S. Bach

LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning are **The Rev. Karen Bowles** and **Dennis Donovan**. The ministry of music is offered by the **Metropolitan Choir** conducted by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, and by the Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Timothy Wisnicki**.

CARRYING THE BANNER is **Marc Tremblay**.

GREETERS are **Chris Hoover** and **Leesa Kopansky**.

USHERS are **Eva Breeze**, **Jennifer McDonald**, **Michael Connolly** and **Wilbert Ward**.

TODAY'S Music includes several pieces featuring the Epiphany chorale "How brightly beams the morning star" (Hymn #98). Buxtehude's work is an extended prelude on this chorale, and the chorale is sung by the choir in the Cornelius solo. The prelude includes a movement of the 20th century French composer Olivier Messiaen's suite "The Nativity of our Lord" which depicts the journey of the wise men. Listen as the wise men seem to take a brief rest about half way through the movement!

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Tuesday, January 7

12:10 – 12:30 p.m.	Midday Prayer Service	Sanctuary
6:30 p.m.	Open Art Studio and Knitting Circle	MET Centre
7:30 p.m.	Metropolitan Silver Band Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Wednesday, January 8

7:00 a.m.	Out of the Cold Chop Chop	MET Kitchen
8:30 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast at Fran's	200 Victoria Street

Thursday, January 9

11:00 a.m.	Out of the Cold Luncheon	MET Centre
12:10 – 1:00 p.m.	Yoga Church	Sanctuary
6:30 p.m.	Metropolitan Handbells Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:30 p.m.	Metropolitan Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Friday, January 10

10:30 a.m.	Open Art Studio	MET Centre
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Saturday, January 11

9:00 a.m.	Breakfast Bible Study	Flanders Library
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NEXT SUNDAY: January 12 *Baptism of Jesus*

9:00 a.m.	Early Communion Service	Founders' Chapel
9:45 a.m.	Choristers and Sparklers	MET Centre
10:00 a.m.	Library Open (re-opens 12:15 p.m.)	
11:00 a.m.	Morning Service and Church School Rev. Karen Bowles Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Matthew 3:13-17	Sanctuary
12:15 p.m.	Great Heart	Sanctuary

STAY CONNECTED: Sign up for the MET Connect weekly e-newsletter for up-to-date worship, event and programming news. Fill out a form at the Met Connect table, or just visit metunited.ca. We're also on Facebook, Instagram (@metropolitanunitedto) and Vimeo.

MINISTRY OF INTEGRATED ARTS

OPEN STUDIO ARTS: (drawing, painting with acrylics, pencil, pastel - some supplies provided)
Tuesdays - 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the MET Centre
Fridays - 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the MET Centre - *All are Welcome!*

KNITTING CIRCLE: (basic supplies provided) A novice or seasoned pro - you are welcome. Ideas for the inaugural fall session include knitting teddy bears, prayer shawls and perhaps even a yarn bomb... and of course, you can knit a scarf as well! Tuesdays - 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., in the MET Centre.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

AMONG OUR PEOPLE: Have a milestone, special event or some exciting news to share? We'd like to share our community's highlights through the MET Connect. Email communications@metunited.ca.

OUTREACH

OUT OF THE COLD PROGRAM: The OOTC program is fortunate to receive weekly donations of bread and sweets from Cobbs Bread Bakery, Annex (Bloor & Walmer Rd). We are in need of a volunteer with a vehicle to pick up baked goods at Cobbs at 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays, then deliver to the Church (someone will assist you there). The time frame is approximately one hour. If you are willing, once or twice a month, please contact Norah Jardine at (416) 554-9418.

A CALL TO COOKIE BAKERS: Our Out of the Cold luncheons are now running again for the season. If you provide homemade cookies you will be an important part of the love that we try to extend to our guests. Tins are in the Narthex this morning. Next Sunday, leave your cookies there. Many thanks.

THE COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM: is looking for a one-time donation of electronics in good working condition to assist a community member stabilize in their new home. Desired items include a DVD player, television, computer or tablet, and phone - cell or landline. Please contact our Community Support Worker Stephanie Cunti prior to donation at csw@metunited.ca or 416-363-0331 ext.241. Thank you for your consideration, all is appreciated.

SPIRITUAL LEARNING FOR LIFE

FLANDERS LIBRARY: "The Magical Worlds of Narnia: The Symbols, Myths, and Fascinating Facts Behind C.S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia." This book by David Colbert, which is in our library explores the myths, legends, and history behind C.S. Lewis's famous Narnia series. The Library is open 10:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:15-1:00 p.m. every Sunday.

ZOOM Bible Study with Rev. Karen Bowles/Rev. Jason Meyers:

Noon to 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays beginning January 15, 2020.

Breaking Open the Word via Video conference! Connect to this new weekly bible study from your home, office, or anywhere with an internet connection. Sign up with Rev. Karen Bowles or at the MET Connect table and we will send you information on how to join.

FAITH FORMATION: MET is looking for a Youth and Children Animator to lead the Sunday school and youth program. If you know of anyone who is excited about Christian leadership and working with this age group, please contact Rev. Karen Bowles or download the position description from the metunited.ca website.

CALM COMMUNITY FOR A BUSY CITY

Midday Service of Prayer and Healing - Tuesdays 12:10 to 12:30 p.m.

Yoga Church - Thursdays 12:10 to 1:00 p.m.

BIBLES: Recently, we have seen an uptick in the number of Bibles that walk from the Sanctuary. For this reason there will be a Bible cart when you come in on Sunday morning. Please return Bibles to the cart after the service.

THE SHARING OF OUR ABUNDANCE

BROADVIEW — A BARGAIN GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING: Our United Church magazine connects people to the wider church and to the world of faith. It's an excellent magazine and its new format is being received with rave reviews. *Broadview is offering those who give gift subscriptions this Christmas a reduced rate of \$20 — a bargain to be sure.* Sign-up cards are on the Met Connect Table or contact Doug Flanders, our congregation's *Broadview* rep at dougflanders@sympatico.ca; (416) 769-2746. Thank you!

METROPOLITAN LEGACY CIRCLE: This honorary circle includes those who have remembered Metropolitan Church in their estate plans with a bequest, gift of insurance, annuity or some other type of legacy gift. Since the launch of our Circle, we have over 60 members and more would be warmly welcomed. Legacy gifts can make a lasting difference to our church. For information, please contact Doug Flanders (416) 769-2746; email dougflanders@sympatico.ca.

PLEASE RETURN PLEDGE FORMS: Stewardship packages were mailed in early November. Please remember to review and return your pledge for 2020 as soon as possible. Having your pledge will allow us to plan more effectively for our 2020 activities. If you did not receive the Stewardship package or have any questions, please contact Rev. Karen Bowles.

UPDATE ON MISSION AND SERVICE: Our gifts to M&S make a better world possible and bring hope for the future. Our M&S Fund supports 82 global partners in 21 countries, 20 Canadian Ecumenical networks, 63 community ministries across Canada, 36 chaplaincies on campuses and in hospitals, 7 theological colleges and 3 education centres, 81 vision fund projects with youth, 86 local congregation grants, 197 Embracing the Spirit innovation grants and 89 Reconciliation projects with Indigenous communities in Canada. Together we support global partnerships, community outreach and human rights across Canada and around the world!

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

DIRECTORY

Intentional Interim Lead Minister: The Rev. Karen Bowles, ext. 227 (karenb@metunited.ca)
Minister of Congregational Care: The Rev. Jason Meyers, ext. 224 (jasonm@metunited.ca)
Minister of Music: Dr. Patricia Wright, ext.226 (patw@metunited.ca)
Voluntary Associate Minister: The Rev. Bruce Misener, ext. 255 (officiant@metunited.ca)
Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair
Chair of the Official Board: Kenneth Younie (chair@metunited.ca)
Teachers: Karlos Griffith (karlosgriffith@rogers.com), Johnavac Abraham
Library: Marion Lick (library@metunited.ca) and Maureen Maguire (vigrass78@gmail.com)

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Community Service Worker: Stephanie Cunti, ext. 241 (csw@metunited.ca)

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Charles Davidson, Benjamin Stein, Nicholas Higgs, John Schneider
Director, *Great Heart* Youth Ensemble: Benjamin Stein
Conductor, *Metropolitan Sparklers*: Dr. Jennifer Martyn
Carillonneur: Roy Lee
Director, Metropolitan Silver Band: Fran Harvey

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To hear the sermon: www.metsermons.com

www.metunited.ca



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