

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 27, 2019

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 IN SPIRIT OR IN FACT)

CARILLON PRELUDE (outside)

ORGAN PRELUDE *Concerto in A Minor*
Adagio in C Major

Antonio Vivaldi/J. S. Bach
W. A. Mozart

♪ **PROCESSIONAL HYMN #220 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty***

Lobe den Herren

♪ **INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

One: We come from all walks of life: the rich, the poor, the struggling and the secure.

All: And God calls us all.

One: We bring our hearts to this time and place – hearts holding joy and sorrow, questions and wonders.

All: And God knows us.

One: We offer what we have to give: our talents and our imperfections, our faith and our doubt, our hope and our hands.

All: And God loves us. Let us worship God.

One: God be with you

All: And with your Spirit.

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) #59 More Voices**

Yoruba song (Nigeria)

Alleluia, Praise to God (two times)....Praises, high praises, we bring you, O God...

Songs of joy sing out to God (two times)....Dancing and singing, we praise you, O God...

Beat the drums, sing out to God (two times)...Praises, high praises, we bring you, O God...

EPISTLE AND GOSPEL READINGS Romans 12:1-8, John 1:1-5

ANTHEM *When the Stars Fall*

Stephen Hatfield

When the sea shakes, then I trust my Saviour. When the sea breaks, still I trust my Saviour. And if the sea crumbles into rust, tumbles into dust, yet will I trust my Saviour. When the stars call, then I trust my Saviour. When the stars fall, still I trust my Saviour, and if the stars crumble into rust, tumble into dust, yet will I trust my Saviour. When my heart sighs, then I trust my Saviour. When my heart cries, still I trust my Saviour. And if my heart crumbles into rust, tumbles into dust, yet will I trust my Saviour.

Chris Taeyoung Kim, mezzo-soprano

OLD TESTAMENT READING Joshua 3:7-17

ONE: This is the witness of the Hebrew Scriptures.

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

CHILDREN AND YOUTH TIME

All children and youth are invited to follow their teachers to Sunday School in the MET Centre.

HYMN #644 *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*

Waterlife

SERMON **“GOD IS STILL WITH THEM”**

THE REV. DR. JONI SANCKEN

ANTHEM *The Road Home*

Stephen Paulus

Tell me, where is the road I can call my own, that I left, that I lost so long ago? All these years I have wandered, oh when will I know there's a way, there's a road that will lead me home? After wind, after rain, when the dark is done, as I wake from a dream in the gold of day, through the air there's a calling from far away, there's a voice I can hear that will lead me home. Rise up, follow me, come away, is the call, with the love in your heart as the only song; there is no such beauty as where you belong; rise up, follow me, I will lead you home. Gisele Kulak, soprano

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 MUSIC *All Creatures of Our God and King*
The Metropolitan Handbells

arr. Kevin McChesney

♪OFFERTORY HYMN #540 (All)

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving, with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living we may offer faithfully.
Grant us time and inspiration, with a vision old and new,
that our goal in all our loving may be reached in loving you.**

♪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 #651 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Cwm Rhondda

♪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

Festival Fanfare for Organ

S. Drummond Wolff

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

The Rev. Dr. Joni Sancken is Associate Professor of Homiletics at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. She is interested in theological and contextual issues in preaching. Joni is an ordained pastor in Mennonite Church USA and served congregations in Indiana and Pennsylvania.

CARRYING THE BANNER is **Janice Andrews**.

GREETERS are **Doug Flanders** and **Carol Kitney**.

USHERS are **Alan Cotterill, Sarah Cotterill, Roy Tomlinson,** and **Kenneth Younie**.

TODAY'S MUSIC includes a Vivaldi concerto for string orchestra arranged by Bach, a Mozart piece originally written for glass harmonica, and the postlude written for the 70th birthday of Healey Willan by S. Drummond Wolff while he was organist of Metropolitan United Church. Stephen Hatfield is a Canadian composer, and Stephen Paulus (1949-2014) was an American composer.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday, October 28

10:30 a.m.	Open Art Studio	MET Centre
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Tuesday, October 29

12:10 – 12:30 p.m.	Midday Service of Prayer and Healing	Sanctuary
6:00 p.m.	Contemplation Circle	Heritage Room
6:00 p.m.	Visual and Creative Arts Committee meeting	Flanders Library
6:30 p.m.	Open Art Studio and Knitting Circle	MET Centre
7:30 p.m.	Silver Band rehearsal	Sanctuary

Wednesday, October 30

8:30 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast	200 Victoria Street
10:00 a.m.	Bible Study	Flanders Library

Thursday, October 31

12:10 – 1:00 p.m.	Yoga Church	Sanctuary
7:30 p.m.	Metropolitan Choir	Sanctuary

Friday, November 1

10:30 a.m.	Open Art Studio	MET Centre
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Saturday, November 2

9:00 a.m.	Breakfast Bible Study	Flanders Library
10:00 a.m.	Membership Class	Heritage Room

NEXT SUNDAY: November 3 Anniversary Sunday

9:00 a.m.	Communion Service	Founders' Chapel
9:45 a.m.	Metropolitan Sparklers and Choristers	MET Centre
10:00 a.m.	Library Open (re-opens 12:15 p.m.)	

11:00 a.m. Morning Service and Church School
The Rev. Karen Bowles - "Of Beasts, Blessings and Deferred Gratification"
Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31
The Metropolitan Choir and Silver Band

12:15 p.m. Great Heart Sanctuary

MET CONNECT: Don't miss our weekly e-blast featuring latest worship, community, and program news - sign up through FB or the website (sign up form is at the bottom of the homepage).

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.

MINISTRY OF INTEGRATED ARTS

MUSIC AT METROPOLITAN presents our first concert of the season on Saturday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m. *Like As the Lute Delights* features Benjamin Stein on lute and soprano Emily Klassen. Admission is \$20/10 for students, and tickets are available after the service and through our website.

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.

OUTREACH

HOUSING AT MET: continues to gratefully accept the following items: unused socks, underwear and hygiene items and 'hot paws'.

OUTREACH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: NARTHEX GREETERS: Narthex Greeters are essential to allow our church to be open to the public on weekdays. An open church provides an opportunity for quiet spiritual reflection in an oasis of peace and safety in the city core. Narthex Greeters are available to answer questions about Metropolitan, give brief tours, or connect people with our ministers or services. What is involved? 3 hours per week with another person hosting our visiting hours (Monday – Friday, 12 noon - 3:00 p.m.) Please contact Rev. Jason Meyers for more information.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

AFFIRM GROUP BRUNCH: The Affirm Group is planning to host a brunch on Sunday, November 3 at 1:00 p.m. at the Duke of Richmond restaurant, located at the south end of the Eaton Centre. This is a great opportunity for LGBTQ2+ members to meet each other. Everyone who attends Metropolitan is welcome at the brunch. Please RSVP to Jim Nixon at jnixon4411@hotmail.com. We'll meet at coffee hour and walk over to the restaurant together.

USHERS NEEDED: Two ushers are needed to serve regularly on the fourth Sunday of every month. If you are interested please contact William Wright at wrightmcauley@gmail.com

SPIRITUAL LEARNING FOR LIFE

FLANDERS LIBRARY: “All the Women of the Bible” by M.L. del Mastro is a collection of biographies and stories of over 400 women who appear in the Bible. The book is divided into two sections: “The Book of Names” and “The Book of Stories”. “The Book of Names” is an alphabetical and biographical dictionary including over 400 names. “The Book of Stories” contains stories of 56 women whose lives were changed by crisis and challenge. The Library is open 10:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:15-1:00 p.m. every Sunday.

MIDDAY OFFERINGS: Are you ever downtown at noon? Know anyone who is? Consider coming and telling others about our mid-week spiritual offerings:

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

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

A calm community for a busy city.

MET PODCASTS: Find expanded podcast versions of the sermon, including meditative music, the weekly Gospel reading, and take-home exercises, on our website. You can also subscribe through iTunes, Spotify, or Google Play.

THE SHARING OF OUR ABUNDANCE

OUR THIRD CENTURY CAMPAIGN: To date we have over \$1.2 million pledged or received towards our \$1.5 million goal. Gifts continue to arrive and we encourage you to make your commitment soon. Work has begun to repair our carillon, we have commitments for much of the work needed for our park, but we still must raise enough money to restore our sanctuary. This work cannot proceed without the money in hand. Thank you again for your tremendous support to date. ***To God be the Glory.***

OUR HANDIWORK CONTINUES! Thank you to all who are knitting or crocheting items for our Out of the Cold program. Each Christmas season we give our guests gifts of mitts, toques or scarves and we would deeply appreciate any donations. Men’s sizes and solid colours are preferable. If you can knit/crochet or donate purchased items for our guests, we would be grateful. You may leave your donations at the Church Office. Thank you again.

FORMALIZE IT! New to Metropolitan? Are you using the green visitor envelopes for your weekly offering or putting money directly on the plate? Please consider formalizing your giving to Metropolitan by using a box of weekly offering envelopes or arranging to give by bank deduction or credit card. It will be easier for you and you will also receive a tax receipt for all your gifts at year end. Please call Elena in the church office at (416) 363-0331, ext. 29. Thank you for your support.

GIFTS OF SECURITIES: A gift of securities — stocks, bonds, mutual funds — is an easy and effective way to support *Our Third Century* campaign. Many of you have done so. You receive a tax receipt for the full value of the securities and you pay no capital gains on the securities given. Please call Doug Flanders at (416) 769-2746; dougflanders@sympatico.ca.

A legacy — It's ours to leave.

Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings. — William Arthur Ward

DIRECTORY

Intentional Interim Lead Minister: The Rev. Karen Bowles, ext. 27 (karenb@metunited.ca)
Minister of Congregational Care: The Rev. Jason Meyers, ext. 24 (jasonm@metunited.ca)
Voluntary Associate Minister: The Rev. Bruce Misener, ext. 55 (officialant@metunited.ca)
Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair
Teachers: Karlos Griffith (karlosgriffith@rogers.com), Johnavac Abraham
Library: Marion Lick (library@metunited.ca) and Maureen Maguire (vigrass78@gmail.com)

Community Outreach Ministry

Manager of Community Services: Laura Awosanya ext. 43 (lauraa@metunited.ca)
Outreach and Housing Worker: Megan Carver, ext. 21 (housingworker@metunited.ca)
Community Service Worker: Stephanie Cunti (csw@metunited.ca)

Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Dr. Patricia Wright, ext. 26 (patw@metunited.ca)
Wayne C. Vance 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
Director, Metropolitan Silver Band: Fran Harvey

Administrative Ministry

Director of Administration: Jane Tuomi, ext. 35 (janelt@metunited.ca)
Office Administrator: Sheela Taylor, ext. 10 (sheelat@metunited.ca)
Financial Manager: Elena Pejcinovska, ext. 29 (elenap@metunited.ca)
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Custodians: Nadan Kandiah, Puvi Kanagalingam



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