

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city

23rd Sunday of Pentecost
Sunday, November 17, 2019

*“Brothers and sisters, do not be weary
in doing what is right.”*

2 Thessalonians 3:13

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.

Painting created by the Metropolitan Art Group



ORDER OF SERVICE

♪ (INDICATES A CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - PLEASE STAND IN SPIRIT OR IN FACT)

CARILLON PRELUDE (outside)

ORGAN PRELUDE *Chorale in A Minor* César Franck

♪ **PROCESSIONAL HYMN #347** *Retell What Christ's Great Love Has Done* Pater Omnium

♪ **INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

One: We gather in the name of God, Creator of the heavens and the earth, source of true humanity, mother and father of us all.

All: Be present here.

One: We meet in the name of Jesus, Word made flesh, incarnation of mystery, breaker of barriers, lover of all.

All: Befriend us here.

One: We meet in the name of the Holy Spirit, sustainer of life, midwife of mission, artist of love, inspirer of all.

All: Renew us here.

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...

READINGS Isaiah 65:17-25; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

ANTHEM *Yabban, Yamman* Rupert Lang

Yabban, Yamman (Father, Mother in Aramaic), timeless and loving, loving creator of all, your name is holy. We seek to do your will that your purpose may prevail, we ask you for the bread of life and for the power to forgive and be forgiven. For all your gifts and constant love your holy name be blest and praised now and forever. Amen. Paraphrase of the "Lord's Prayer" by Frances Somerville

GOSPEL READING Luke 21:5-19

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

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 *MORE VOICES* #139 *True Faith Needs No Defence***

Rocklin

SERMON

“Faithful Imagination”

The Rev. Karen Bowles

ANTHEM

“Nearer, my God, to Thee” from *Five Hymns in Popular Style*

John Gardner

Text at Hymn #497

♪ **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

SPOKEN OFFERING

OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

HANDBELL OFFERTORY *Shall We Gather at the River*

arr. Dale Wood and W. H. Mathis

♪ **OFFERTORY HYMN #540 (All)**

Stuttgart

**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

CHORAL RESPONSE 'Lord, Listen to your Children Praying' text at #400

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 #682 *O Day of Peace*

Jerusalem

♪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 *Antiphon: Ave Maris Stella*

Marcel Dupré

LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning are **The Rev. Karen Bowles** and **The Rev. Jason Meyers**. We welcome **Ben Vozzolo**, Executive Director, Fontbonne Ministries, Sisters of St. Joseph, Toronto and chair of the Toronto Faith Community Downtown HUB, as the reader this morning. 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**.

CARRYING THE BANNER is **Ian Mahaffy**.

GREETERS are **Andrew McGee** and **Fran Parkin**.

USHERS are **Terry Kelly**, **Wilbert Ward**, **Michael Connolly**, and **Carolyn Pack**.

FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

We will be having our quarterly **COMMUNITY SERVICES TOWN HALL MEETING** today in the MET Centre. Please bring your coffee and questions. You will leave with more answers and information about the initiatives that are underway in Outreach-Community Services. Soup lunch provided.

COMMUNICATING WITH VULNERABLE PERSONS TRAINING

Date: Today
Time: 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. in the MET Centre
A light lunch will be provided.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Tuesday, November 19

12:10 – 1:00 p.m.	Midday Prayer Service	Sanctuary
6:00 p.m.	Contemplation Circle	Heritage Room
6:00 p.m.	Visual and Creative Arts Committee	Flanders Library
6:30 p.m.	Open Art Studio and Knitting Circle	MET Centre
7:30 p.m.	Metropolitan Silver Band rehearsal	Sanctuary

Wednesday, November 20

7:00 a.m.	Out of the Cold Chop Chop	MET Kitchen
8:30 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast at Fran's	200 Victoria Street
10:00 a.m.	Bible Study	Flanders Library
5:30 p.m.	Official Board	MET Centre

Thursday, November 21

11:00 a.m.	Out of the Cold Luncheon	MET Centre
6:30 p.m.	Metropolitan Handbells	Sanctuary
6:30 p.m.	Peace and Social Justice Committee	Flanders Library
7:30 p.m.	Metropolitan Choir	Sanctuary

Friday, November 22

10:30 a.m.	Open Art Studio	MET Centre
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Saturday, November 23

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

NEXT SUNDAY: November 24 Reign of Christ/Peace and Justice Sunday

9:00 a.m.	Early 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	

Peter Haresnape "You Just Want to Destroy Traditional Monarchy"

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

Peter Haresnape is National Coordinator of the Student Christian Movement of Canada, a Christian Peacemaker Teams reservist, and the husband of Ken. He came to Canada from the UK in 2010 to work with the Indigenous Peoples Solidarity Team, which has now become

the Turtle Island Solidarity Network. Peter has recently been appointed as pastor of the Toronto United Mennonite Church.

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

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT at Roy Thomson Hall on Tuesday, December 17 at noon features the Metropolitan Choir and organists Timothy Wisnicki and Patricia Wright. Admission is free.

OUTREACH

COMMUNICATING WITH VULNERABLE PERSONS TRAINING:

Date: Monday, November 25, 2019

Time: 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

Location: MET Centre

A light meal will be provided.

WINTER WOOLLY CHALLENGE! Challenges have been issued by Reverends Bowles and Meyers to their former congregations (Rosedale United Church and Jubilee United Church, respectively) to participate in a friendly competition for a very good cause. All three churches will collect NEW or HANDMADE socks, mittens/gloves, toques and scarves to be distributed at Met's Out of the Cold luncheons and in the park. The 'Winter Woolly' collection will happen as part of Pageant Sunday on Dec 15. Please note that Community Services will also welcome underwear, hygiene items and 'hot paws', but no other clothing besides socks, mittens/gloves, toques and scarves can be accepted at this time.

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

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). Volunteer with car needed for one hour once or twice a month to pick up baked goods at Cobbs at 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays, and deliver to the Church (someone will assist you there). Please contact Norah Jardine at 416-554-9418.

A CALL TO COOKIE BAKERS AND KNITTERS: 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.

PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: The Peace and Social Justice committee will have its regular meeting on November 21 in the Library at 6:30 p.m. to prepare for our P&SJ church service next Sunday.

CLIMATE ACTION: Join members of the Peace and Social Justice Committee, as well as Reverends Karen and Jason, on the next march at Queen's Park on November 29. Sign up at the MET Connect table to attend and/or to help make signs on November 24 after church. All are invited!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

A 'GREEN' CHRISTMAS LUNCH: An exciting collaboration between the newly formed Met Green Team and the Hospitality Committee will be putting an environmentally friendly twist on this year's Christmas Lunch (more details to come). Your help with meal prep and decorating will be very welcome. Please sign up at the Met Connect table.

NEXTGEN EVENT: Attention young people (and the young-at-heart): Join us at the Imperial Pub (2nd floor) on Thursday, November 28 at 6:30 p.m. for fellowship, discussion and refreshments. Email RSVP to andrew.mcgee@crowesoberman.com.

SPIRITUAL LEARNING FOR LIFE

PAGEANT SIGN UP! We need a variety of volunteers for our annual Christmas Pageant which is on Sunday, December 15, during the 11 a.m. service. We need angels, shepherds, etc. for the cast, and we need people to help with costumes. A sign-up sheet will be at the Met Connect table.

FLANDERS LIBRARY: Frederick Buechner is the author of more than thirty works of fiction and nonfiction. He is a recipient of the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award and was honoured by the American Academy of Arts and Letters. One of his books in our library is "The Alphabet of Grace". The Library is open 10:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:15-1:00 p.m. every Sunday.

BOOK CLUB: Please come if you like lively discussions about non-fiction books. The next Non-Fiction Book Club will meet at Met on December 8 at the congregational Christmas lunch. We are reading "This Town: Two Parties and a Funeral—plus plenty of valet parking! - in America's gilded capital" by Mark Leibovich. Available at the Public Library.

A CONTEMPLATIVE CHRISTMAS: a four-week program using the *Bridges to Contemplative Living* series. We gather for a time of silent meditation, intentional reading of Thomas Merton and other spiritual writers, followed by a time of contemplative dialogue. Nov 26, Dec 3, 10, 17, 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room - led by Rev. Meyers.

THE SHARING OF OUR ABUNDANCE

TESTIMONY: Future bequest gifts to our congregation are a testimony to our faith and the confidence we have in our church family. For information on opportunities for giving, please contact Doug Flanders (416) 769-2746; email dougflanders@sympatico.ca A legacy — It's ours to leave.

STEWARDSHIP 2020: Our fall stewardship packages have now been mailed out. Please read the contents carefully and consider how you may support Metropolitan in 2020. Our gifts enable effective ministry to our congregation, our city and to the world. Thank you for returning your estimate of giving by November 24 and thank you for your generous support.

DIRECTORY

Official Board Chair: Kenneth Younie, (boardchair@metunited.ca)
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)
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Financial Manager: Elena Pejcinovska, ext. 29 (elenap@metunited.ca)
Technical Administrator: Vinoth Thanganadan (vinotht@metunited.ca)
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Property Manager: Frank Cairns, ext. 31(frankc@metunited.ca)
Custodians: Nadan Kandiah, Puvi Kanagalingam



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