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Director, Great Heart Youth Ensemble: Benjamin Stein

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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, November 18, 2018

Membership Sunday

*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 a.m. outside, ending with

Pavane from Suite Archaique

Géo Clément

ORGAN PRELUDE AND CANDLELIGHTING

Sonata VI in D minor (based on Luther's chorale on The Lord's Prayer) Felix Mendelssohn

Chorale and variations: Andante sostenuto – Allegro molto – Fuga – Finale: Andante

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #565 *Love, Who Made Me in Your Likeness*

All Saints

INVITATION TO WORSHIP (Opening liturgy is adapted from Psalm 16, Mark 13, 16)

One: Bless the Lord who counsels and guides us. Because we keep the Lord ever before us, we shall not be moved.

All: **Rejoice! Let your hearts be glad! Let your spirits rejoice and your bodies rest secure. For God does not give us up to death, but shows us the path of life. Praise the Lord!**

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Let us pray. (all seated)

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

One: Holy God, creator of all that is and is to come, you made the world and called it good.

All: **We thank you and praise you, for we have wreaked havoc on your good creation, yet you promise to make all things whole and live among us in joy and peace.**

One: Keep us watchful for Christ's coming, enliven our hope, and support us through the birth pangs of your new creation, that we may welcome you with songs of praise.

All: **God of grace, all around us are wars, and rumors of wars, and we are afraid for ourselves and our world. We follow after false leaders and grasp for whatever security we can find.**

One: Forgive us, Lord, for we are quick to forget that all of life is in your hands.

All: **Renew our hope, increase our courage, and keep us watchful for the signs of your just and peaceful reign that is to come.**

SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

KYRIE (ALL) #69 More Voices *Kyrie eleison (God have mercy)*

Kervin

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: As seedtime blesses the earth with promise, and harvest crowns the year with bounty, so God's spirit forgives and renews.

ACT OF PRAISE (All) #104 More Voices

Trad., Congo

Mungu, ni mwema, mungu ni mwema, mungu ni mwema, ni mwema, ni mwema.

Know that God is good, Know that God is good,

Know that God is good, God is good, God is good.

^(indicates a congregational response – please stand as you are able)

A CELEBRATION OF MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Today we remember the sacred promise and renew our covenant of membership.

There before us stood a tree in the middle of the land. Its height is enormous. The tree grew large and strong and its top touched the sky; it is visible to the ends of the earth. Its leaves are beautiful, its fruit abundant, and on it is food for all. Under it all creation find shelter, and the birds live in its branches; from it every creature is fed.

One: Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear.

All: **Our righteousness will go before us, and the glory of God will be our rear guard.**

All: (sung) **“Live in charity and steadfast love, live in charity, God will dwell with you.”**



Live in char-i - ty and stead-fast love, live in char-i - ty, God will dwell with you.

One: Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

One: Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear.

All: **Our righteousness will go before us, and the glory of God will be our rear guard.**

All: (sung) **“Live in charity and steadfast love, live in charity, God will dwell with you.”**

One: Today, Metropolitan United Congregation reaffirms the covenant of membership. We welcome all people. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

One: Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear.

All: **Our righteousness will go before us, and the glory of God will be our rear guard.**

All: (sung) **“Live in charity and steadfast love, live in charity, God will dwell with you.”**

All: **As brothers and sisters in Christ, we rejoice in the gifts we bring to Metropolitan United. We pledge our love and our support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church.**

OUR COMMITMENT

Metropolitan United Church will be a safe place where everyone is welcome to participate in all aspects of our life and ministry. All will be supported, encouraged and respected wherever they are on their faith journey. Our faith community shall be the open arms of the sacred promise.

BLESSING OF THE HANDS

One: Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge our support as we renew our covenant.

JAFFIRMATION 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.

CHORAL BLESSING

WELCOME

READINGS 1 Samuel 1:4-20; Hebrews 10:11-18

ANTHEM *Rejoice in the Lord Alway*

John Redford

Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say rejoice. Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is e'en at hand. Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication, let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen.

GOSPEL READING Mark 13:1-8

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 #878 *Song of Hannah*

Deer Park

SERMON "Whisper in the Rock"

The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea

ANTHEM *O Thou in Whose Presence*

Trad., arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

O Thou in whose presence my soul takes delight, on whom in affliction I call, my comfort by day and my song in the night, my hope, my salvation, my all....

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Bruyères* from Preludes, Book II

Claude Debussy

Chris Taeyoung Kim, pianist

THE 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

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 #420 *Go to the World* Sine Nomine

♪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 *Toccata* Georgi Mushel



LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning are **The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea** and **The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair**. Reading the lessons is **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 **Michael Oldaker**.

CARRYING THE BANNER is **Marc Tremblay**.
GREETERS are **Jean Robison** and **Fran Parkin**.
USHERS are **Terry Kelly, Wilbert Ward, Toba Bryant** and **Carolyn Pack**.
All are welcome to share in coffee and conversation after the service.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

	Monday, November 19	
10:00 a.m. Art Program		Metropolitan Centre
	Tuesday, November 20	
6:30 p.m. Open Studio Night		Metropolitan Centre
7:00 p.m. Silver Band rehearsal		Sanctuary
	Wednesday, November 21	
7:00 a.m. OOTC Chop Chop Group		Met Kitchen
6:00 p.m. Official Board Meeting		Chancel Room
	Thursday, November 22	
7:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast		Fran’s Restaurant
11:00 a.m. OOTC Met Luncheon		Metropolitan Centre
6:30 p.m. Metropolitan Handbells		Nursery
7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Choir		Chancel Room
	Friday, November 23	
10:00 a.m. Art Program		Metropolitan Centre
	Saturday, November 24	
8:30 a.m. Breakfast Bible Study		Nursery

NEXT SUNDAY: November 25 *Reign of Christ*

9:30 a.m. Communion Service in the Founders' Chapel

"Rock of the Morning" **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

"Called to Preach: Je me souviens!" **The Rev. Dr. David McKane**

Jeremiah 1: 4-9, Psalm 84 and Mark 1: 16-20

SAVE THE DATE: On **Sunday, December 2** there will be a congregational meeting after the Sunday service to review the 2019 budget. Budget documents will be available **November 25th**.

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.

THE METROPOLITAN SILVER BAND: Silver Band has 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 at mccallm@rogers.com or let the main office know.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

NEXT GEN NIGHT – Attention young people (and the young-at-heart): Join us at **6:00 p.m.** on **Sunday, November 25** at the Imperial Pub (on Dundas) for fellowship, discussions and a few beverages. Email your RSVP to Rebecca.schoenhardt@rbc.com.

GREENING OF THE CHURCH – **Saturday, December 1** from **9:30 a.m. to noon**. Come help put up our traditional decorations.

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.**

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 GIFTS FOR OUT OF THE COLD GUESTS: Please help Met give Christmas gifts to our guests. Gift list is at Met Connect table. Gift bin will be in the Narthex next week.

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: The book “Lost Toronto” by Doug Taylor appeared in our library this year. “Lost Toronto” looks at Toronto buildings that have changed use, vanished under a wave of new construction, or been drastically transformed. The Library is open from 10:00 -11:00 a.m. and 12:15-1:00 p.m. every Sunday.

FAITH IN ACTION

Stewardship Campaign 2018 A word from the Congregational Care Pillar

The Congregational Care Pillar at Met is responsible for serving the needs of our diverse congregation and making our worship a pleasant experience. Congregational Care includes the Hospitality Committee, which ensures that coffee and cookies are available after the service, and milestone events of the church or its congregants are celebrated. Congregational Care also includes the Next Generation group, the Affirming Life Committee, the Membership Committee and the Met Care Team. The Met Care team is comprised of those who are responsible for ill or housebound members and keep in touch through phone, pastoral care, the Prayer Covenant Group and visits when they are unable to attend services.

I have been attending Met for three years and a member for the last two. I got hooked on Met not just because of the excellent preaching and music, but also due to the sense of community and welcome. As a transplant from a very small town to this large city, it can be difficult to find a friendly community here. I remember the very first connections that I made with other congregants here and I quickly felt like I belonged.

Please remember the Congregational Care Pillar when you are giving to Met. Your financial support helps ensure that Met will continue to be a welcoming place to all who come.

Kenneth Younie Chair, Congregational Care Committee

RESEARCH INDICATES that one 1 in 3 Canadians would leave a gift in their will to a charity if asked. Please — would you be 1 of those 3 and remember Metropolitan Church with a gift in your own estate plans? For information on opportunities please contact Doug Flanders (416) 769-2746; email dougflanders@sympatico.ca ***A legacy — It's ours to leave.***

The emphasis in Scripture is not the amount we give, but the attitude with which we give. — Dillon Burroughs