

# Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



Flight into Egypt by JESUS MAFA

## Sunday, December 29, 2019

### First Sunday After Christmas

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>Noël: Où S'en Vont Ces Gais Bergers</i>	Claude Balbastre
	<i>In Dulci Jubilo</i>	J. S. Bach
	<i>Sussex Carol</i>	Dale Wood
	<i>In Dulci Jubilo</i>	Dieterich Buxtehude
	<i>The Old Year Now Has Passed Away</i>	J. S. Bach

♪PROCESSIONAL HYMN #76 *See Amid the Winter's Snow* See Amid the Winter's Snow

### ♪INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: We have come like the shepherds,

**All: following a vision of hope.**

One: We have come like the innkeeper,

**All: sharing what we have to give.**

One: We have come like the Magi,

**All: presenting our best selves.**

One: We have come seeking Christ,

**All: the light born into the world.**

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 63:7-9; Hebrews 2:10-18

ANTHEM *Coventry Carol* 1591, arr. Martin Shaw

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child, by by, lully lullay. O sisters too, how may we do for to preserve this day this poor youngling, for whom we do sing, Herod, the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day...

GOSPEL READING Matthew 2:13-23

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

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

♪ **HYMN** *MORE VOICES #111*     *A Voice Was Heard in Ramah*

Llangloffan

**SERMON**     **SEEKING SANCTUARY**     **The Rev. Jason Meyers**

**Anthem**     *The Shepherds' Farewell*

Hector Berlioz

Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling, the humble crib, the stable bare, Babe, all mortal babes excelling, content our earthly lot to share; loving father, loving mother, shelter thee with tender care! Blessed Jesus, we implore thee with humble love and holy fear, in the land that lies before thee, forget not us who linger here!...

♪ **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. (congregation is seated)**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OUR COMMON LIFE**

**OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK**

**OFFERTORY SOLO** *Bring a Torch*

Nicolas Saboly, arr. A. L. Christopherson

Valeria Kondrashov, mezzo-soprano

♪ **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.**

♪ **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.

### ♪ RECEPTIONAL HYMN #54

*Unto Us a Boy Is Born!*

Puer nobis nascitur

### ♪ COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

### ♪ 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 *Noël Suisse*

Louis-Claude Daquin

LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning are **The Rev. Jason Meyers** and **Dr. Linn Holness**. The ministry of music is offered by the **Metropolitan Choir** conducted by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**.

CARRYING THE BANNER is **Marc Tremblay**.

GREETER is **Deborah Davis**.

USHERS are **Karen Scott, Jennifer McDonald, Denise Moore** and **Eva Breeze**.

**Church Offices:** will reopen on Thursday, January 2, 2020. For pastoral emergencies, contact Rev. Jason Meyers at 647-338-1713.

**CONNECT WITH MET:** Keep up to date through Facebook/Instagram, and with our weekly e-newsletter, the 'MET Connect' (sign up through our homepage).

## NEXT SUNDAY: January 5 *Epiphany Sunday*

**9:00 a.m.** Communion Service in the Founders' Chapel

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

**11:00 a.m.** Morning Service

Rev. Karen Bowles - Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12



56 Queen Street East, Toronto, ON M5C 2Z3  
Tel. 416.363.0331 Fax. 416.363.7586  
Email: [metunited@metunited.ca](mailto:metunited@metunited.ca)  
[www.metunited.ca](http://www.metunited.ca)

