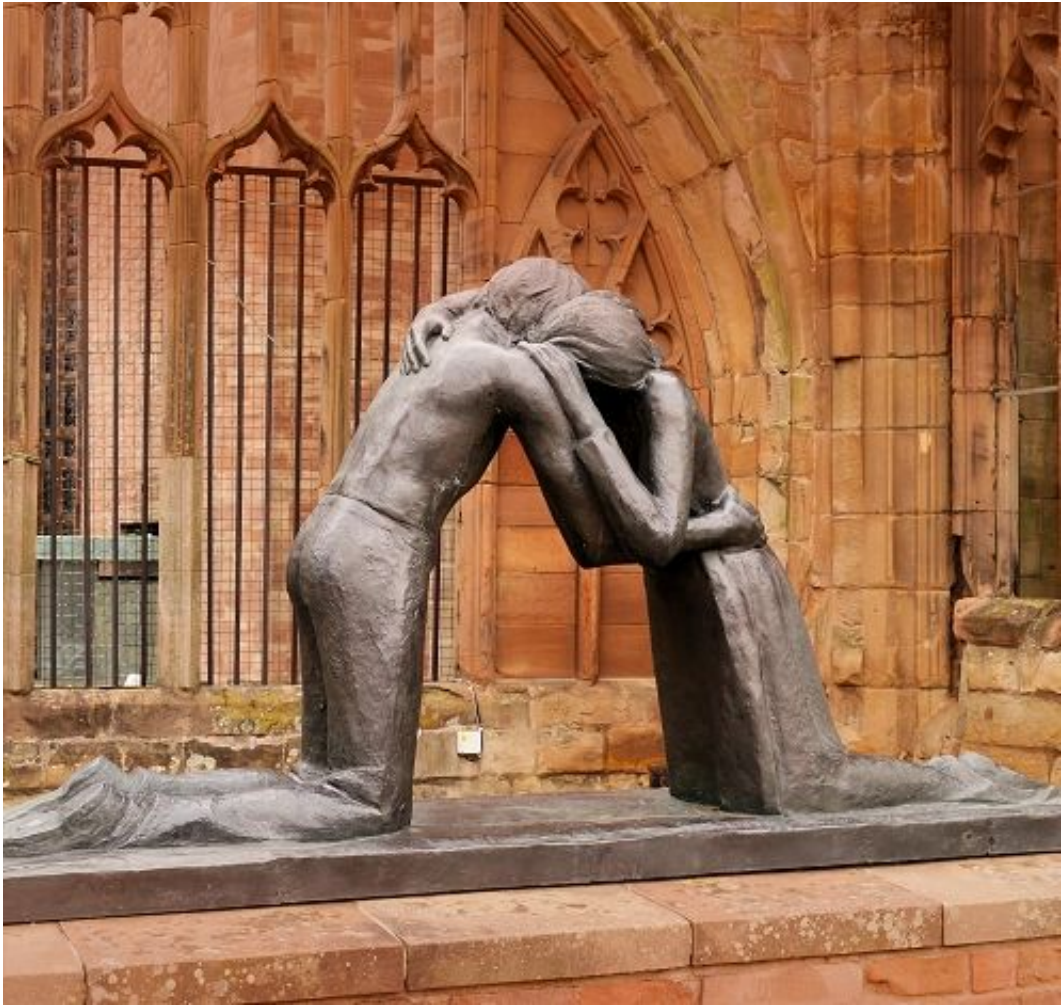


Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



"Reconciliation, Coventry Old Cathedral" by David Dixon

Sunday, February 16, 2020

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany/Sacrament of Baptism

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

Fugue in C Major
Passacaglia in D minor
Meditation

Dieterich Buxtehude
Dieterich Buxtehude
Maurice Duruflé

♪PROCESSIONAL HYMN #227 *For the Fruit of All Creation*

Ar Hyd Y Nos

♪INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: As we offer welcome to stranger and friend,
as we are embraced in their kindness,

All: we choose to be people of life and blessing.

One: As we serve others in God's name,
as we receive blessings from those we do not know,

All: we choose to walk in Christ's way.

One: As we forgive those who have hurt us,
as we reach out to those we have harmed,

All: we choose to reconcile and make new.

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.

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

PRESENTATION OF CHILD

Marco Javen Balolong

Kenneth Younie

PROMISES OF PARENTS, GODPARENTS

PROFESSION OF FAITH

♪ CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT

One: Siblings in Christ, on behalf of the Church, here and elsewhere, now and for the future, do you receive this child in Christ's name, as you also have been received? Will you, be steadfast

and careful to build up the life of this community, worshipping God, seeking justice and resisting evil? Are you willing to accept this holy work?

All: We are, God being our helper.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE POURING OF WATER
THE ACT OF BAPTISM, MARKING WITH THE CROSS**

♪CHORAL BLESSING

READINGS Deuteronomy 30:15-20; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

ANTHEM *View Me, Lord*

Richard H. Lloyd

View me, Lord, a work of Thine: shall I then lie drown'd in night? Might Thy grace in me but shine, I should seem made all of light. Cleanse me, Lord, that I may kneel at Thine altar, pure and white; they that once Thy mercies feel, gaze no more on earth's delight. Worldly joys, like shadows, fade when the heavenly light appears; but the cov'nants Thou hast made, endless, know nor days nor years. In Thy word, Lord, is my trust, to Thy mercies fast I fly; thought I am but clay and dust, yet thy grace can lift me high.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 5:21-37

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 #364 *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

Horsley

SERMON **MEANWHILE IN CANADA**

REV. JASON MEYERS

ANTHEM *Ubi caritas*

Maurice Duruflé

Where charity and love are, God is there. Let us gather as one in the love of Christ. Let us rejoice in it and be glad in the living God with a true heart.

♪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 (congregation is seated)

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 *Bringt her dem Herren*

Heinrich Schütz

Bring to the Lord honour, power, and strength, bring glory to his name, worship the Lord in holy splendour. All lands pray and sing praises to your holy name. Alleluia.

Nicholas Higgs, baritone; Benjamin Stein, lute

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 #686

God of Grace and God of Glory

Rhuddlan

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

BLESSING (All-please turn toward the centre)

Izumi Shiota



May the peace of Christ be with you, may the love of God dwell deep in your heart, may the



Spi-rit en-light-en your way, may you walk in the com-fort of God's care.

ORGAN POSTLUDE AND CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

Trumpet Tune

Robert Ampt

LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning are **The Rev. Jason Meyers and Ael Spence**. 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**. **The Rev. Karen Bowles** is away this week.

CARRYING THE BANNER is **Ian Mahaffy**.

GREETERS are **Jean Robison** and **Fran Parkin**.

USHERS are **Karen Scott, Wilbert Ward, Michael Connolly, and Carolyn Pack**.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday, February 17
Family Day - Church closed

Tuesday, February 18

12:10 – 12:30 p.m.	Midday Prayer Service	Sanctuary
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.	Metropolitan Silver Band Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Wednesday, February 19

7:00 a.m.	Out of the Cold Chop Chop	MET Kitchen
8:30 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast at Fran's	200 Victoria Street
12:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study	Online
1:30 p.m.	Met Care Team Meeting	Flanders Library

Thursday, February 20

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

Friday, February 21

10:30 a.m.	Open Art Studio	MET Centre
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Saturday, February 22

9:00 a.m.	Breakfast Bible Study	Flanders Library
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NEXT SUNDAY: February 23 Transfiguration Sunday

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 Exodus 24: 12-18; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9	Sanctuary
12:15 p.m.	Great Heart	Sanctuary
12:30 p.m.	Pillar Talk	MET Centre

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.

TRANSITION

PILLAR TALK: Next **Sunday, February 23** at **12:30 p.m.** in the MET Centre is the second of our Pillar Talks. All are invited. We will consider the activities under the Integrated Arts and the Outreach Pillars. Soup lunch will be served.

MINISTRY OF INTEGRATED ARTS

MUSIC AT METROPOLITAN presents *Sprezzatura! Music of the Forgotten Galant* on **Saturday, March 7** at **7:30 p.m.** Join Benjamin Stein, Emily Klassen, Rezonance Baroque Ensemble and Musicians on the Edge. Tickets are \$20/10 for students and are available after the service and at metunited.ca.

K@MP- Kids at MET Performing: Our arts day camp for ages 4-teens will be held **August 31-September 4**. We have a limit of 30 children total in three age groups, corresponding to Sparklers, Choristers, and Great Heart, and our own children have priority. Please contact Dr. Patricia Wright to register (exact information regarding fees, subsidies, etc. will be available soon).

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

NEXTGEN EVENT: Attention young people (and the young-at-heart): Join us after church on **Sunday, March 1** for fellowship, discussion and refreshments. We'll be heading to a nearby coffee shop. Email RSVP to andrew.mcgee@crowesoberman.com.

BEYOND LONELINESS: We've all been there and none of us want to stay. We arrive, unwillingly, at any age or stage of life and sometimes we feel hopelessly stuck. If you or someone you know is in a place of loneliness, come talk to us about it. Rev. Jason Meyers and Patti Orr will be hosting an informal group to explore the challenges of loneliness and provide support along the way. Continuing **Tuesday, February 25** at **1:00 p.m.** in the Flanders Library, Beyond Loneliness meets every two weeks. All are welcome.

THE BEREAVEMENT CIRCLE at Metropolitan United Church is led by Sarah Cotterill and Rev. Jason Meyers and it is a safe space for all those who are grieving. Its aim is to provide mutual support through sharing your story and personal journey. It is an informal circle that allows and respects each person's right to grieve in his/her own way. Our next meeting will be **Sunday, March 1** at **1:00 p.m.** in the Flanders Library.

PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: The Peace and Social Justice committee will meet on **Thursday, February 20** at **6.30 p.m.** in the Flanders Library. New members are welcome.

SHROVE TUESDAY COMMUNITY MEAL: As we approach the Lenten season, this will be a "Mardi Gras" celebration with pancakes, sausages and ice cream. The meal is free and all are welcome to attend. **February 25** from **5:00-6:30 p.m.**

OUTREACH

SHARING SACRED SPACES brings together local communities from diverse religious and spiritual traditions to share in a facilitated, structured process of visiting each other's place of worship or practice. This initiative is starting up in Toronto, and we're looking for volunteers to represent Metropolitan United

Church. If you're interested in representing MET or looking for more information on the commitment involved, please contact Karen Scott at kscott99@gmail.com.

SPIRITUAL LEARNING FOR LIFE

THE BIG QUESTIONS COURSE is a six-week Lenten exploration of Christian discipleship in the modern world. Using the United Church of Canada's faith document, *A Song of Faith*, we will delve into the big questions of the life of faith and discern what following Jesus means for our daily living. This course is for current Metropolitan members wishing to deepen into their faith, people wishing to join the MET community, or any seeker looking for a spiritual path on which to walk. **Saturdays, February 29 - April 4, from 10:00-11:30 a.m.** Sign up at the MET Connect Table or contact Rev. Jason Meyers for more information.

YOUTH CANOE TRIP: Gibimishakaadimin ("we paddle forward together") is a project of reconciliation launched as a direct outcome of the recommendations of the TRC Report. **From August 21 - 29, a total of 20 youth ages 14 - 18 will embark on nine days of learning about each other and the richness of Indigenous cultural and community histories.** This all-expenses-paid journey of paddling together and fostering relationships through a canoe trip and experiential learning on both land and water will take place deep in the heart of the Canadian Shield. Contact Rev. Karen Bowles for more information.

FLANDERS LIBRARY: 'Yes, and...: Daily Meditations' by Richard Rohr was added to our catalogue this month. This is a collection of 366 meditations - for every day of the year. The meditations are arranged around seven themes. Richard Rohr has been called "one of the most popular spirituality authors and speakers in the world" by Religion & Ethics Newsweekly, American weekly television newsmagazine program on PBS. The Library is open **10:00-11:00 a.m.** and **12:15-1:00 p.m. every Sunday.**

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.

THE SHARING OF OUR ABUNDANCE

THANK YOU! On behalf of Metropolitan's Official Board, thank you for your generous and ongoing gifts to our many ministries in 2019. Your gifts help to transform lives. Receipts for income tax purposes will be mailed in February. Your church remains grateful for your support.

THERE IS SOMEONE IN NEED: You may help our congregation and someone in future need by remembering Metropolitan with a gift in your estate plans. Whether through a bequest, a gift of insurance, an annuity or some other type of legacy, a future gift to our church will make a difference. For information on opportunities, contact Doug Flanders at dougflanders@sympatico.ca or (416) 769-2746.

A legacy - It's ours to leave.

The Official Board of Metropolitan United Church deeply appreciates your financial gifts. We strive to honour our donors' wishes at all times. When gifts are designated for a specific purpose and the need for that purpose has been fulfilled, your Board will redirect surplus gifts to the closest alternative or the area of greatest need. Thank you again for supporting Metropolitan.

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 (officialat@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), Johnvac Abraham
Library: Marion Lick (library@metunited.ca) and Maureen Maguire (vigrass78@gmail.com)

Community Outreach Ministry

Outreach and Housing Worker: Megan Carver, ext. 221 (housingworker@metunited.ca)
Community Service Worker: Stephanie Cunti, ext. 241 (csw@metunited.ca)

Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Dr. Patricia Wright, ext. 226 (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. 222 (janelt@metunited.ca)
Office Administrator: Sheela Taylor, ext. 210 (sheelat@metunited.ca)
Financial Manager: Elena Pejcinovska, ext. 229 (elenap@metunited.ca)
Technical Administrator: Vinoth Thanganadan, ext. 223 (vinotht@metunited.ca)
Communications Specialist: Charles Davidson (communications@metunited.ca)
Property Manager: Frank Cairns, ext. 231 (frankc@metunited.ca)
Custodians: Nadan Kandiah, Puvi Kanagalingam ext. 232

56 Queen Street East, Toronto, ON M5C 2Z3

Tel. 416.363.0331 Fax. 416.363.7586

Email: metunited@metunited.ca

www.metunited.ca



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