

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



les Beatitudes, Joseph Matar

Sunday, February 2, 2020 **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany** **New Member Reception/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 as you are able).

CARILLON PRELUDE (outside)

ORGAN PRELUDE *Sonata VI in D Minor* Felix Mendelssohn
Chorale and Variations on "Our Father in Heaven": Andante sostenuto, Allegro molto, Finale: Andante

♪**PROCESSIONAL HYMN #218** *We Praise You, O God* Kremser

♪INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: Baptized into lives of faith,

All: we would witness to God in our world and in our midst.

One: Baptized into service,

All: we would do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly.

One: Baptized into community,

All: we would treat all as God's Beloved.

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray. (all seated)

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

Choral Response: #701 What Does the Lord Require of You?

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.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Kenneth Younie

New members by Profession of Faith: Mark Gregory Sobrepena and Yoradyll Advincula

COMMITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

♪ CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT

One: Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge our support and care for these new members.

All: As your siblings in Christ, we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. We pledge our love and our support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church.

WELCOME

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

PRESENTATION OF CHILD

Janyah Carmela Sobrepena

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, the members of Metropolitan United Church, be steadfast and careful to build up the life of the church within 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

WELCOME

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)

♪ CHORAL BLESSING

READINGS

Micah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

ANTHEM *Pilgrims' Hymn*

Stephen Paulus

Even before we call on Your name to ask You, O God, when we seek for the words to glorify You, You hear our prayer. Unceasing love surpassing all we know. Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Even with darkness sealing us in, we breathe Your name, and through all the days that follow so fast, we trust in You; endless Your Grace beyond all mortal dream. Both now and forever, and unto ages and ages, Amen. Text by Michael Dennis Browne

GOSPEL READING Matthew 5:1-12

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 #442 *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters* Beach Spring

SERMON THE PRACTICAL AND THE PARAPROSDOKIAN
 REV. KAREN BOWLES

ANTHEM *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life* Text at Hymn #628 Philip Tomblings

♪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 SOLO *Cara Cossa Improvisation* after Diego Ortiz, c. 1510 –1576
 Benjamin Stein

♪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:

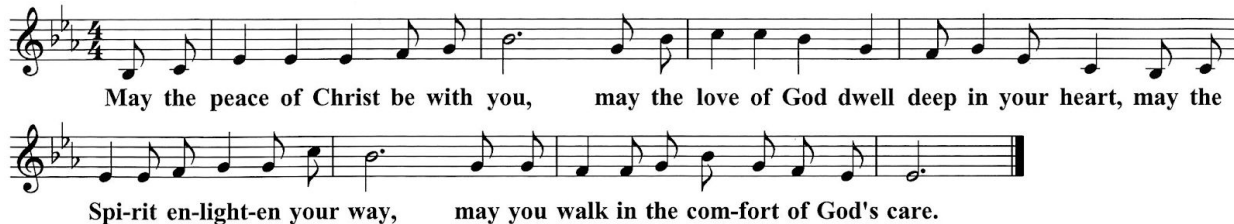
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

♪RECESSIONAL HYMN #223 *Eternal, Unchanging, We Sing* St. Denio

♪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

Choral

Joseph Jongen

LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning is **The Rev. Karen Bowles**. Reading the lessons is **Heather Walsh**. The ministry of music is offered by the **Metropolitan Choir** conducted by the Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Timothy Wisnicki** and **Charles Davidson**. The organ prelude is played by **Michael Oldaker** and the postlude by **Timothy Wisnicki**. **The Rev. Jason Meyers** and Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright** are on study leave today.

CARRYING THE BANNER is **Ian Mahaffy**.

GREETERS are **Chris Hoover** and **Jean Robison**.

USHERS are **Eva Breeze**, **Greg McMaster**, **Shari McMaster**, and **Ed Oikawa**.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday, February 3

6:00 p.m. Taize Service Sanctuary

Tuesday, February 4

12:10 – 12:30 p.m. Midday Prayer Service Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Open Art Studio and Knitting Circle MET Centre
7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Silver Band Rehearsal Sanctuary

Wednesday, February 5

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

Thursday, February 6

11:00 a.m. Out of the Cold Luncheon MET Centre
12:10 – 1:00 p.m. Yoga Church Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Metropolitan Handbells Rehearsal Sanctuary
7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary

Friday, February 7

10:30 a.m. Open Art Studio MET Centre

Saturday, February 8

9:00 a.m. Breakfast Bible Study Flanders Library

NEXT SUNDAY: February 9 Fifth Sunday After Epiphany/Black History 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 "Safe Harbour" Isaiah 58:1-9a; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20	Sanctuary
12:15 p.m.	Great Heart	Sanctuary
12:30 p.m.	Pillar Talk	MET Centre

PILLAR TALK: February 9 beginning at 12:30 in the Met Centre is the first of our Pillar Talks to inform the ministry position descriptions going forward. All are invited. We will consider the activities under the Spiritual Learning for Life and the Congregational Care Pillars. Soup lunch will be served. Contact any member of the Transition team or Rev. Karen with questions.

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.

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, the 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

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. Beginning on Tuesday, February 11 at 1:00 p.m. in the Flanders Library, Beyond Loneliness will meet 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. The next meeting will be Sunday, March 1 at 1:00 p.m. in the Flanders Library.

OUTREACH

A CALL TO COOKIE BAKERS: If you provide homemade cookies you will be an important part of the love that we try to extend to our guests in our Out of the Cold lunch program. Tins are in the Narthex this morning. Next Sunday, leave your cookies there. Many thanks.

THE COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM: is looking for a one-time donation of electronics in good working condition to assist a community member stabilize in their new home. Please contact our Community Service Worker, Stephanie Cunti prior to donation at csw@metunited.ca or 416-363-0331 ext. 241. Community Services is also in need of unused deodorant, razors and shaving cream. Please contact our Housing Worker, Megan Carver at housingworker@metunited.ca or 416-363-0331 ext. 221.

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, Feb 29-Apr 4 - 10:00-11:30am. 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: Richard Wagamese’s book “One Drum: Stories and Ceremonies for a Planet” expresses the belief that the ceremony has the power to unify and to heal. “When that happens, we truly become one song and one drum beating together in a common purpose - and we are on the path to being healed.” 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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS AND HYMNS: Large-print copies of today’s scripture and hymns are available at the back of the sanctuary.

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. The church will send receipts for income tax purposes in the near future. Again, our sincere thanks for your support.

STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS: We stand on the shoulders of the faithful who have gone on before. We too can make the shoulders of our congregation strong for future generations by remembering Metropolitan with a gift of any amount in our wills. For information or to explore ideas, call Doug Flanders at (416) 769-2746; email dougflanders@sympatico.ca. *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.



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Ministry of Music

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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

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