

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



Harvest on the potato farm. Outlook, Saskatchewan. Photo by Larry Gray.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost **Thanksgiving Sunday** **October 11, 2020**

We are an Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada, 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.

SPECIAL NOTES FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

We ask that you wear your mask over your nose and mouth at all times, and maintain physical distancing when exiting. Please see the back of the bulletin for more info, as well as metunited.ca. Today we begin a livestream of the 11:00 a.m. service to Facebook (facebook.com/MetUnited), YouTube and our website.

ORDER OF SERVICE

CARILLON PRELUDE (OUTSIDE-10:30 a.m.)

PRELUDE	<i>Fest Hymnus</i>	Carl Piutti
	<i>Now Thank We All Our God</i>	J. S. Bach and G. F. Kauffmann
	<i>Prelude on 'St. George'</i>	Colin Hand

WELCOME

♪ OPENING HYMN #516 *Come, You Thankful People, Come* (soloist only) St. George's, Windsor

- 1 Come, you thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in, safe before the storms begin;
God, our maker, does provide for our needs to be supplied:
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home!
- 2 All the world is God's own field, harvests for God's praise to yield;
wheat and weeds together sown, here for joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear:
Harvest-giver, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.
- 3 For our God, one day, shall come, and shall take this harvest home;
from the field shall in that day all offences purge away;
giving angels charge at last in the fire the weeds to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store in the garner evermore.
- 4 Even so, God, quickly come to your final harvest home!
Gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin;
there for ever purified, in your presence to abide:
come, with all your angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.

♪ INVITATION TO WORSHIP (responses spoken softly)

One: Here in this place, with these people,
we come to worship the living God.

**All: In you, O God, we hope;
in you, Creator of love, we live.**

One: Here in these sacred moments,
we are invited to the Table of Joy.

**All: In you, Christ of the Way, we rejoice;
in you, dear Brother, grace is as near as your heart.**

One: Here on this day of gentleness and beauty,

we are filled with the peace of God

**All: In you, O Spirit, we find our path;
in you, Teacher of hope, we learn to serve.**

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray. (please be seated)

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

KYRIE ELEISON *(soloist only)*

P. Wright

God, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; God, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE *(soloist only)* **Hymn #244**

Arfon

Sing your praise to God eternal, sing your praise to God the Son,
sing your praise to God the Spirit, living and forever One.
God has made us, God has blessed us, God has called us to be true.
God rules over all creation, daily making all things new.

READINGS

Exodus 32:1-14

The story of the golden calf.

Philippians 4:1-9

With thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

READING RESPONSE *(soloist only)*

Taizé

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice! Look to God, do not be afraid; lift up your voices,
the Lord is near.

READING

Matthew 22:1-14

The parable of the wedding banquet.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

♪HYMN #517 *(soloist only)* **Praise God for the Harvest**

Stowey

- 1 Praise God for the harvest of orchard and field, praise God for the people who gather their yield,
the long hours of labour, the skills of a team, the patience of science, the power of machine.
- 2 Praise God for the harvest that comes from afar, from market and harbour, the sea and the shore:
foods packed and transported, and gathered and grown by God-given neighbours, unseen and
unknown.

- 3 Praise God for the harvest that's quarried and mined, then sifted, and smelted, and shaped, and refined: for oil and for iron, for copper and coal, praise God, who in love has provided them all.
- 4 Praise God for the harvest of science and skill, the urge to discover, create, and fulfill.
For dreams and inventions that promise to gain a future more hopeful, a world more humane.
- 5 Praise God for the harvest of mercy and love from leaders and peoples, who struggle and serve with patience and kindness, that all may be led to freedom and justice, and all may be fed.

SERMON

“GRACE, TOO”

The Rev. Jason Meyers

SOLO *Make a Joyful Noise*

Michael Head

PEACE GREETING (*responses spoken softly, then greeting each other with a bow*)

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 (*spoken softly*)

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. (please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OFFERING

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.

♪ **CLOSING HYMN #236 *Now Thank We All Our God* (soloist only)**

Nun Danket

- 1 Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
- 2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us strong in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ill in this world and the next.
- 3 All praise and thanks to God for all that has been given,
the Son, and Spirit blest who dwell in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

♪ **COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

♪ **BLESSING (soloist only) #429**

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.

(Please be seated)

ORGAN POSTLUDE *Now Thank We All Our God*

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

As you leave the sanctuary, please wear your mask and continue to observe a two metre distance between yourself and others.

LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning are **The Rev. Jason Meyers** and Context in Ministry Student, **Timothy Wisnicki**. Reading the lesson is **Doug Flanders**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, Junior Organ Scholar **Matthew Fraser**, mezzo-soprano **Valeria Kondrashov**, and Carillonneur **Roy Lee**.

TODAY'S MUSIC includes organ music by Carl Piutti, J. S. Bach and German Romantic composer Sigfrid Karg-Elert. Piutti was a 19th century German organist and composer and served as organist of the Leipzig St. Thomas Church (Bach's church) in the latter part of the century. This 'Fest-Hymnus' contains the motive 'B A C H' interspersed with the hymn 'Now thank we all our God.'

Flowers today are in loving memory of our parents by William and Patricia Wright.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday, October 12

Thanksgiving Day - Metropolitan United Church closed

Tuesday, October 13

5:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, October 14

12:00 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom) *link at metunited.ca*

5:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting (Zoom)

Thursday, October 15

6:00 p.m. Peace and Social Justice Committee (Zoom)

7:00 p.m. Metropolitan Handbells

8:00 p.m. Evening Communion (Zoom) *link at metunited.ca*

NEXT SUNDAY: October 18 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 a.m. In-person worship and livestream / The Rev. Karen Bowles preaches

BECOME A MEMBER OF MET

Are you looking to deepen into your faith and get more involved in the life and work of the Metropolitan community? We will be offering new member classes this fall. Please contact Rev. Jason Meyers for details.

WINTER WARMTH!

Each Christmas we give gifts of purchased or hand-knitted toques, scarves or mitts to guests of our Out of the Cold meal program. Tighter knitted, solid colours & larger sizes are preferable. New thermal socks, underwear & winter boots are also needed. Please bring your donations to service, or call the church office to arrange drop-off. It is indeed miserable to be cold – help us warm hearts and hands this winter!

PASTORAL CARE

Our ministers are connecting with members and determining the needs of our community in this challenging time. If you would like a pastoral phone call, you can currently contact Rev. Jason Meyers at jasonm@metunited.ca (416-363-0331 ext. 224).

CONTINUED GIVING

There are many easy ways to contribute - through [Canada Helps](#), or by mailing in envelopes and/or cheques to the church. You can also arrange for pre-authorized remittance for regular giving (PAR) from your bank account, or credit card - just [download and fill out a form](#) via the website. If you have any questions, please contact Elena Pejcinovska, Financial Manager at elenap@metunited.ca or 416-363-0331 ext. 229.

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)
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Context in Ministry Student: Timothy Wisnicki
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Children & Youth Ministries Animator: Alana Martin (alana@thegoproject.ca)
Teachers: Karlos Griffith (karlosgriffith@rogers.com), Johnavac 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
Junior Organ Scholar: Matthew Fraser
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)
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NOTICE OF FILMING Please note that services are considered to be public events, and you are choosing to enter a space where your image may be captured as part of event proceedings that may be made public as part of our livestream, website or social media. We make every effort to ensure your personal information is kept and used in compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA). If you have any questions please contact janelt@metunited.ca.

Guidelines for In-Person Worship

IN THE SANCTUARY



No food or
drink



Pick up a bulletin



Keep physically
distanced &
follow ushers



Stay in your
seat



No singing



Use washroom at
back of Sanctuary

LEAVING THE CHURCH



Respect
physical distancing



Offering plates
at exit



No socializing
in building