

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



'Comfort ye my people' by Vera Taylor

Second Sunday in Advent December 6, 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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

CARILLON PRELUDE (OUTSIDE-10:30 A.M.)

PRELUDE *Partita on Comfort Now, My People
Redeemer of the Nations, Come
Comfort Now, My People
Come, Now, Redeemer of the Earth*

J. Pachelbel
D. Buxtehude
Paul Manz
J. F. Dandrieu

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: Advent is a season of waiting: waiting for the love of God to break into our lives anew through the story of the birth of Jesus. Advent is a season of lighting candles; lighting candles for the hope, peace, joy, and love for which we wait. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace.

All: We wait because to wait is to expect something more. To wait is to expect that the story might enter our hearts and our world in new ways, to bring the change for which we long.

One: As we light the candle of peace we remember the stories of times you have been our comfort, when you have heard our cries for justice, for certainty, for peace, and you have led us home.

All: We know we can trust that you are leading us forward, as we wait for peace to be born, anew, in us.

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #7

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth, giving a promise of safety and worth.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

OPENING HYMN #20 *On Jordan's Bank*

Winchester New

- 1 On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lamb is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of Kings.
- 2 Then cleansed be every life from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
and let each heart prepare a home
where such a mighty guest may come.
- 3 In you, we find abundant life,
our refuge in the midst of strife;
without your grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.
- 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and help us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine,
and fill the world with love divine.
- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,

whose advent has our freedom won;
and praise to God whom we adore,
with Holy Spirit evermore.

INVITATION TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: In towns and in cities,

All: Christ is waiting to be born.

One: On battlefields and farm fields,

All: Christ is waiting to be born.

One: In the vastness of the universe and in the intimacy of our hearts,

All: Christ is waiting to be born.

One: Come into our homes, come into our lives,

All: Come, Christ child, come and stay.

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

ADVENT KYRIE ELEISON

P. Wright

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

READINGS

Isaiah 40:1-11

"In the wilderness, prepare the way of the LORD"

CHILDREN'S TIME

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:1-8

The voice of one crying out in the wilderness

ONE: This is a witness of the good news of the early church.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

HYMN #883 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

Genevan 42

1 Comfort, comfort now my people;
speak of peace; so says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness,
mourning under sorrow's load.
Cry out to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell them that their sins I cover
and their warfare now is over.

2 For the herald's voice is crying
in the the desert far and near,
calling all to true repentance,
since God's judgement now is here.
 Oh, that warning cry obey!
 Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise in meeting
and the hills bow down in greeting.

3 Then make straight what long was crooked;
make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits a holy reign.
 For the glory of our God
 now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.

SERMON

“THE NEW WILD NORMAL”

THE REV. JASON MEYERS

SOLO *But Who May Abide* from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

DEDICATION OF 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.

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 #29 *Hark, the glad sound!*

Richmond

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.
- 2 He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE *People, look East*

Rebecca Groom te Velde

LEADING IN WORSHIP are **The Rev. Karen Bowles** and **The Rev. Jason Meyers**. Reading the lesson is **Gunn Wongsuwan**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Timothy Wisnicki**, mezzo-soprano **Valeria Kondrashov**, theorbist **Benjamin Stein**, soprano **Gisele Kulak**, tenor **Charles Davidson**, bass **John Schneider**, and Carillonneur **Roy Lee**.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday, December 7

8:00 p.m. Centering Prayer (Zoom) *link at metunited.ca*

Tuesday, December 8

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

Wednesday, December 9

9:00 a.m. Fran's Prayer Circle (Zoom)

11:30 a.m. Hospitality Tent

McGill Square Park

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

7:00 p.m. Met Social (Zoom) *link at metunited.ca*

Thursday, December 10

10:00 a.m. Pre-Board Meeting (Zoom)

12:00 p.m. Community Meal Program

Narthex

6:30 p.m. Member Engagement and Evangelistic Committee (Zoom)

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

Saturday, December 12

8:30 a.m. Bible Study (led by Christopher Hoover) *link at metunited.ca*

NEXT SUNDAY: December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m. Online worship

1:00 p.m. Deck The Halls! - Online Carol Sing with the Metropolitan Silver Band, organ, singers

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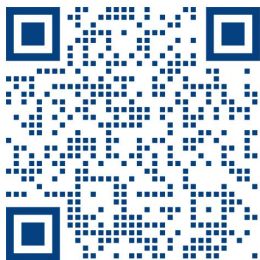
PASTORAL CARE

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

CONTINUED GIVING

A new, easy way to donate! Focus your smartphone's camera on the QR code to the left and you'll be directed to our giving page.

You can continue to mail in envelopes and/or cheques to the church, or arrange a pre-authorized remittance for regular giving (PAR) from your bank account, or credit card - fill out a form at metunited.ca/donate. If you have any questions, please contact Elena Pejcinovska, Financial Manager at elenap@metunited.ca or 416-363-0331 ext. 229.





METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH

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)
Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair (malcolms@metunited.ca)
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)
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

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