

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



'Comfort ye my people' by Vera Taylor

Third Sunday in Advent December 13, 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	Two Carillon Preludes: Neander and Veni Emmanuel	
	<i>Lift High the Gates!</i>	Richard Hudson and Jan Bender
	Two Chorales from the <i>Orgelbüchlein</i>	J. S. Bach
	<i>Praise to God Almighty (Conditor Alme Siderum)</i>	
	<i>Christ, the Only Son of God</i>	
	<i>Conditor Alme Siderum (Creator of the Stars of Night)</i>	Gerald Near

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

- One: Advent is a season of waiting: waiting for the hope, peace, joy, and love of God to break into our lives anew through the story of the birth of Jesus.
- All: Advent is a season of lighting candles; lighting candles for the hope, peace, joy, and love. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy.**
- One: We wait – We wait not because we do not know the story of Jesus, and not because you are not already and always here. 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 change, to build the Kingdom.
- One: As we light the candle of joy, we remember the stories of God's loyalty to all creation.
- All: We give thanks for the messengers – the apostles, prophets, artists, sages, faithful ones – present in every age, who bring us the good news of God's restoring love; and we shout with joy, trusting that God is with us and before us, and that joy will be born anew in us.**

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #7

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world that the Saviour is born.
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 #18 *There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying*

Ascension

- 1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
 a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
 a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
 the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
 where God, our God, may go!
- 2 O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
 get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
 the coming of their King.

Like the flowers of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay;
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass, like a dream, away.

3 But the word of our God endureth,
whose arm is ever strong;
God stands in the midst of nations,
and soon will right the wrong.
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
the lambs so gently hold;
to pastures of peace will lead them,
and bring them safe to fold.

4 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go!

INVITATION TO **W**ORSHIP AND **P**RAYER OF **A**PPROACH

One: The Promised One of God brings good news to the oppressed
and binds up the brokenhearted.

All: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!

One: The Promised One of God proclaims liberty to captives
and release to prisoners.

All: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!

One: The Promised One of God comforts all who mourn
and keeps the promises made so long ago.

**All: Holding fast to the promise of God,
we are witnesses to the light of Christ!**

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray.

PRAYER OF **C**ONFESSION

SILENCE **F**OR **P**RIVATE **P**RAYER

ADVENT **K**YRIE **E**LEISON

P. Wright

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

READING

Isaiah 61:1-4. 8-11

'The spirit of God is upon me.'

ANTHEM *Thou Shalt Know Him*

Mark Sirett

Thou shalt know Him when He comes, not by any din of drums, nor His manners, nor His airs, nor by anything He wears. Thou shalt know Him when He comes, not by His crown or by His gown, but His coming known shall be, by the holy harmony which His coming makes in Thee. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

GOSPEL READING

John 1:16-8, 19-28

Who are you John?

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN #5 *All Earth Is Waiting*

Taulé

- 1 All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.
- 2 Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel.'
One whose name is 'God with us', our Saviour shall be,
through whom hope will blossom once more
within our hearts.
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,
open new highways, new highways for our God,
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.
- 4 In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.
Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

SERMON

"OAKS OF COMFORT AND JOY"

THE REV. KAREN BOWLES

SOLO

Comfort Ye My People/Ev'ry Valley Shall Be Exalted 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. (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 #28 *Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness*

Neander

1 Herald! Sound the note of gladness!
Tell the news that Christ is here;
make a pathway through the desert
for the one who brings God near.
Sound the trumpet!
Tell the message!
Christ the Saving One has come!

- 2 Herald! Sound the note of judgement,
warning us of right and wrong,
turning us from sin and sadness,
till once more we sing the song. R
- 3 Herald! Sound the note of pardon!
Those repenting are forgiven;
God receives these wayward children,
and to all new life is given.
 Sound the trumpet!
 Tell the message!
 Christ the Saving One has come!
- 4 Herald! Sound the note of triumph!
Christ has come to share our life,
bringing God's own love and power,
granting victory in our strife. R

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Redeemer of the Nations, Come*

Paul Manz

LEADING IN WORSHIP are **The Rev. Karen Bowles** and **The Rev. Jason Meyers**. Reading the lesson is **Stephanie Parkin**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, tenor **Charles Davidson**, lead singers from the **Metropolitan Choir**, and Carillonneur **Roy Lee**.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Zoom links can be found in MET Connect and at metunited.ca

Monday, December 14

8:00 p.m. Centring Prayer (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 16

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

1:30 p.m. Met Care Committee

5:30 p.m. Board Meeting

Thursday, December 17

12:00 p.m. Winter Meal Program

Narthex

8:00 p.m. Evening Communion (Zoom)

Friday, December 18

12:00 p.m. Friday Noon at Met Concert: David Simon, organist

Online

Saturday, December 19

8:30 a.m. Bible Study (led by Christopher Hoover)

NEXT SUNDAY: December 20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m. Online Worship

7:00 p.m. Candlelight Lessons and Carols

**Sign up for the MET Connect weekly newsletter at metunited.ca
Follow Met on Facebook, Instagram (@metropolitanunitedto) & YouTube**

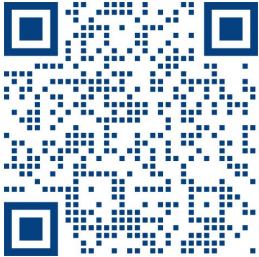
COOKIES FOR OUT OF THE COLD

Calling all cookie bakers! Our new Winter Community Meal Program has begun and delicious cookies, always popular with our guests, are welcomed. Tins can be dropped off on a Sunday morning, or call the office to make arrangements.

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

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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



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