

# Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



*The Potter's Hands by Melanie Pyke*

## **Annual Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols December 20, 2020 7:00 p.m.**

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** *Away in a Manger*

**ORGAN PRELUDE** *Offertoire sur Deux Noël's*  
*Chorale Prelude Lo, How a Rose*  
*Noël: Où S'en Vont Ces Gais Bergers*

A. Guilmant  
Lionel Rogg  
Claude Balbastre

### WELCOME

**INTROIT** Conditor Alme Siderum/Creator of the Stars Sarum plainsong, text 6<sup>th</sup> century  
Creator of the stars of night, thy people's everlasting light, Jesus, Redeemer of us all, hear thou  
thy servants when they call... Puer nobis nascitur (to us a boy is born) ...

### OPENING HYMN

Come, Thou, Redeemer of the Earth Tune: Puer nobis nascitur #348  
Come, thou, Redeemer of the earth, and manifest thy virgin birth.  
Let every age adoring fall: such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will, but of the Spirit, thou art still  
the Word of God in flesh arrayed, the promised fruit to us displayed.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright, and darkness breathe a newer light,  
where endless faith shall shine serene, and twilight never intervene.

All laud, eternal Son, to thee whose advent sets thy people free,  
whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Ghost for evermore.

### PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us pray.

One: We gather this evening in this season of expectation and longing, of hope and remembering.

**All: We gather this night to sing, to pray and to hear the story told once again.**

One: The story of light once again coming into the world.

**All: We gather this evening in this season of Advent – to share in the light together.**

**READING** Isaiah 11:1-4, 6

From Jesse's line comes our hope...

**CHOIR** *Lo, How a Rose* (Hymn #8)

Michael Praetorius

READING Micah 5:2-5a

The glory of little Bethlehem is foretold...

CAROL #64

*O little town of Bethlehem*

Forest Green

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessed gift of heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

READING Isaiah 40:1-3

CHANT: *Pour Down, O Heavens*

Pour down, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness. Comfort my people comfort them; my salvation shall not be delayed. I have swept your offences away like a cloud; fear not, for I will save you. I am the Lord your god, the Holy One of Israel, your redeemer.

READING John 1:1-5, 14, 18

In the beginning was the Word...

HYMN #61

*Of the Father's love begotten*

Divinum Mysterium

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,  
Christ is Alpha and Omega, Christ the source, the ending He,  
of the things that are and have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.

At his word the worlds were framed. He commanded, it was done:  
heaven and earth and depths of ocean in their threefold order one;  
all that grows beneath the shining of the moon and burning sun, evermore and evermore.

This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,  
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;  
now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord, evermore and evermore.

READING John 1:6-7, 19-23

John prepares the way...

**HYMN #20**

***On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry***

Winchester New

**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.**

**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.**

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

**READING** Luke 1:26-38

The Angel Gabriel salutes Mary...

**CHOIR** *Gabriel's Message*

arr. Pettman

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; "All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favoured lady," Gloria! Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say – most highly...

**READING** Luke 2:1-7

Luke tells of Jesus' birth...

**CHOIR** *O Magnum Mysterium*

T. L. da Vittoria

O great mystery and wondrous sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in their manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

**READING** Luke 2:8-14

The Angels and Shepherds...

**CHOIR** *My Lord Has Come*

Will Todd

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels: No place for them but a stable. My Lord has come. Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven; No place for them but a stable. My Lord has come. His love will hold me, his love will cherish me, love will cradle me. Lead me, lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels; No place for me but a stable. My Lord has come.

**CAROL #48**

***Hark! the Herald Angels Sing***

Mendelssohn

**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail, the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild he lays His glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK**

**CHOIR**

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

Harold Darke

Text at Hymn #55 Soloists: Chelsea Van Pelt and Charles Davidson

**READING** Luke 2:15-20

The shepherds go to the manger...

**CHOIR**

*The Infant King*

Arr. Desmond Ratcliffe

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now reclining. Hush, do not wake the Infant King. Angels are watching, stars are shining over the place where He is lying. Sing lullaby! ..lullaby baby, now a-sleeping, soon will come sorrow with the morning, soon will come bitter grief and weeping. Sing lullaby!..lullaby baby, now a-dozing, soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing, then in the grave at last reposing. Sing lullaby!..is the babe awaking? Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning. Conquering Death, its bondage breaking.

**PRAYER** Karen

**CLOSING HYMN #60**

***O Come, All Ye Faithful***

Adeste fideles

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:  
come and behold him, born the King of angels:**

***Refrain:* O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**God of God, light of light, lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten, not created. *Refrain***

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest: *Refrain***

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain***

**COMMISSIONING AND BENECTION**

**CHORAL RESPONSE** *O Gracious Light*

Conditor alme siderum

O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father's glory shone. Immortal, holy, blest is He, and blest are you, His holy Son. Worthy are you of endless praise, O Son of God, Lifegiving Lord; wherefore you are through all the earth and in the highest heaven adored. Greek, 3<sup>rd</sup> century

POSTLUDE *Noel Suisse*

L. C. D'Acquin

**LEADING IN WORSHIP** are **The Rev. Karen Bowles** and **The Rev. Jason Meyers**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, soprano **Chelsea Van Pelt**, mezzo-soprano **Chris Taeyoung Kim**, tenor **Charles Davidson**, bass **John Schneider**, and Carillonneur **Roy Lee**.

### **PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK**

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

#### **Monday, December 21**

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

#### **Wednesday, December 23**

**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

#### **Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve**

**5:00 p.m.** Family Service

Online

**11:00 p.m.** Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

Online

#### **Friday, December 25 Christmas Day**

**11:00 a.m.** Christmas Day Service

Online

#### **Saturday, December 26 Boxing Day Holiday**

### **NEXT SUNDAY: December 27 - First Sunday after Christmas**

**11:00 a.m.** Worship

**Church closure notice:** December 24, 2020 to January 3, 2021, reopening on January 4, 2021, subject to changes around Covid-19.

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

## **GIFTS OF SECURITIES — FROM YOU TO METROPOLITAN**

A number from our congregation support Metropolitan United Church through gifts of securities. Such gifts are easy to arrange and a way of supporting Metropolitan other than from your annual income. You will receive a charitable donation receipt for the full value of the shares AND pay no capital gains tax on any securities given. For information, please call Doug Flanders at (416) 769-2746 or email [dougflanders@sympatico.ca](mailto:dougflanders@sympatico.ca). *A legacy. It's ours to leave.*

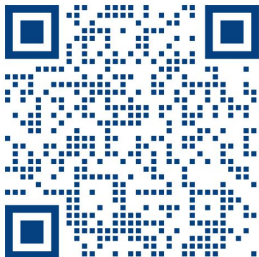
## **COOKIES FOR OUT OF THE COLD**

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](mailto: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](http://metunited.ca/donate). If you have any questions, please contact Elena Pejcinovska, Financial Manager at [elenap@metunited.ca](mailto:elenap@metunited.ca) or 416-363-0331 ext. 229.



# METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH

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## DIRECTORY

Intentional Interim Lead Minister: The Rev. Karen Bowles, ext. 227 ([karenb@metunited.ca](mailto:karenb@metunited.ca))  
Minister of Congregational Care: The Rev. Jason Meyers, ext. 224 ([jasonm@metunited.ca](mailto:jasonm@metunited.ca))  
Minister of Music: Dr. Patricia Wright, ext. 226 ([patw@metunited.ca](mailto:patw@metunited.ca))  
Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair ([malcolms@metunited.ca](mailto:malcolms@metunited.ca))  
Context in Ministry Student: Timothy Wisnicki  
Chair of the Official Board: Kenneth Younie ([boardchair@metunited.ca](mailto:boardchair@metunited.ca))  
Children & Youth Ministries Animator: Alana Martin ([alana@thegoproject.ca](mailto:alana@thegoproject.ca))  
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Library: Marion Lick ([library@metunited.ca](mailto:library@metunited.ca)) and Maureen Maguire ([vigrass78@gmail.com](mailto:vigrass78@gmail.com))



### Community Outreach Ministry

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

### Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Dr. Patricia Wright, ext. 226 ([patw@metunited.ca](mailto: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](mailto:janelt@metunited.ca))  
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