

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



Historical Traces, Jens Galschiot

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 20, 2020

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.

SPECIAL NOTES FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Please register for each service. If you require assistance, please raise your hand and an usher will assist you. We also ask that you continue to wear your mask over your nose and mouth, and maintain physical distancing when promptly exiting following the postlude. Thank you for following these guidelines as we prioritize health and safety. Please also see the back of the bulletin and our webpage on in-person worship.

ORDER OF SERVICE

CARILLON PRELUDE (OUTSIDE-10:35)

PRELUDE

Fantasie in G Major
By the Waters of Babylon
Prelude on "Ar Hyd Y Nos"

J. S. Bach
J. S. Bach
Wilbur Held

WELCOME

JOOPENING HYMN #295 *(soloist only)* *The Earth and All Who Breathe*

Ich Halte Treulich Still

- 1 The earth and all who breathe exist through love divine,
who formed the sea, the flowering tree, the wren, the fragrant pine.
Each woman, man, and child created from the dust
is called to share creation's care, a sacred, living trust.
- 2 The good, abundant earth is ours to tend and keep;
yet land lies waste, consumed in haste, and hungry children weep.
The nations proudly build new Babels to the sky.
Their bombs destroy creation's joy; their missiles terrify!
- 3 Creation now awaits humanity's rebirth
at last to claim one common aim: to nurture life on earth.
Awake, all humankind, the challenge now embrace;
apply your strength, your voice, your means, as stewards of God's grace.

JOINVITATION TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH *(responses spoken softly)*

One: In the prayers and the praise,
in the words and the wonder:

All: we are given enough joy to live each day.

One: In the justice for the oppressed,
in the unexpected generosity for the lost:

**All: we are given enough compassion
to use in service each day.**

One: In the promises made to all,
in the mercy offered to each:

All: we are given enough grace to share each day.

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray.

PRAYER OF 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 16:2-15

Manna from Heaven.

Philippians 1:21-30

"For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain."

READING RESPONSE *(soloist only)*

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.

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

Labourers in the vineyard

HYMN #227 *(soloist only)* For the Fruit of All Creation

Ar Hyd Y Nos

- 1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.
- 2 In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.
- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

SERMON

“BEFORE AND AFTER”

The Rev. Karen Bowles

PIANO SOLO

Consolation #2 in E Major

Franz Liszt

♪ 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 *(responses spoken softly)*

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 *(spoken softly)*

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 #421** *(soloist only)* **Lead On, O Cloud of Presence**

Lancashire

- 1 Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come.
In wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.
Our slavery left behind us, new hopes within us grow.
We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.
- 2 Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears,
but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears.
We are not lost, though wandering, for by your light we come,
and we are still God's people. The journey is our home.
- 3 Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.
We pray our sons and daughters may journey to that land
where justice dwells with mercy, and love is law's demand.

♪ **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.

ORGAN POSTLUDE *Festive Trumpet Tune*

David German

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

LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning are **The Rev. Karen Bowles** and **Timothy Wisnicki**. Reading the lesson is **Fran Parkin**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Timothy Wisnicki**, Junior Organ Scholar **Matthew Fraser**, mezzo-soprano and pianist **Chris Taeyoung Kim**, and carillonneur **Roy Lee**.

Please join us this evening at 7:00 p.m. for Online Worship (Facebook/YouTube/website).

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Wednesday, September 23

12:00 p.m. Bible Study Zoom [link here](#)

6:00 p.m. Official Board Meeting

Thursday, September 24

7:00 p.m. Metropolitan Handbells

Sanctuary

8:00 p.m. Evening Communion Zoom [link here](#)

NEXT SUNDAY: September 27 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 11:00 a.m.** In-person Worship (please register for each service at metunited.ca)
Exodus 17:1-7; Philippians 2:1-13 and Matthew 21:23-32
The Rev. Karen Bowles preaches
- 7:00 p.m.** Online Worship

STAY CONNECTED

Updates can be found at metunited.ca. Past sermons and service streams are also available under the Worship menu. Sign up for the MET Connect weekly e-newsletter via our homepage for all news. We're also on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [Vimeo](#).

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Metropolitan is now re-open for in-person worship, with an online service continuing at 7:00 p.m. on Facebook, YouTube and at metunited.ca. Please continue to register for each in-person service through the website or link in MET Connect. A separate reservation should be made for each household or bubble contained in a larger group.

PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Karen Bowles and Rev. Jason Meyers 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).

COMMUNITY SERVICES MINISTRY

The Outreach team continues to respond to the needs of the community with initiatives that include pre-paid **take-out meals** from local restaurants and a similar chit system at a **local laundromat**. Megan Carver and Stephanie Cunti are also assisting clients with ongoing grocery and housing support. A **Hospitality Tent** is also providing relief on Wednesdays in the McGill Square.

DONATIONS DURING THIS TIME

The work of Metropolitan continues. While we cannot collect offerings in person, there remain 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)
Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair (malcolms@metunited.ca)
Context in Ministry Student: Timothy Wisnicki
Chair of the Official Board: Kenneth Younie (boardchair@metunited.ca)
Children & Youth Ministries Animator: Bailey Fleming (bailey@thegoproject.ca)
Teachers: Karlos Griffith (karlosgriffith@rogers.com), Johnnavac 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)
Financial Manager: Elena Pejcinovska, ext. 229 (elenap@metunited.ca)
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Custodians: Nadan Kandiah, Puvi Kanagalingam ext. 232

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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