

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



The Exodus by Richard Mcbee

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Gathering Sunday September 13, 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 - doing so earlier in the week aids us in planning. If you require assistance, please raise your hand and an usher will assist you. We also ask that you maintain physical distancing when promptly exiting following the end of service. Thank you for following these guidelines as we prioritize your health and safety. Please see also the back of the bulletin and our webpage on in-person worship.

ORDER OF SERVICE

CARILLON PRELUDE (OUTSIDE)

PRELUDE

Canzona

J. S. Bach

“Gigue” From Suite in D

G. F. Handel

Prelude on ‘Rhosymedre’

Ralph Vaughan Williams

When Peace Like a River

Philip Bliss, arr. Althouse

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN #228 (*Soloist only*) *Sing Praises to God*

Laudate Dominum

- 1 Sing praises to God! Sing praise in the height; rejoice in God's word, blest angels of light; high heavens, recalling by whom you were made, come, offer your worship in brightness arrayed.
- 2 Sing praises to God! Sing praise upon earth, in tuneful accord, you saints of new birth; praise God, who has brought you rich grace from above, and showered your life with abundance of love.
- 3 Sing praises to God, all things that give sound; each jubilant chord re-echo around; loud organs, your glory tell out in deep tone, and trumpets, the story of what God has done.
- 4 Sing praises to God! Thanksgiving and song be ever outpoured, all ages along: for love in creation, for hope spread abroad, for grace of salvation, sing praises to God.

INVITATION TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH (*Responses spoken softly*)

One: In sacred times of word, wonder, and awe,
in ordinary days of work and play:

All: In every moment, God is with us.

One: Whether we gather in the great cathedral,
in nature's abundance or in our simple homes:

All: In every place, God is with us.

One: In those who teach us and those who trouble us;
in those who surprise us, and those who forgive us:

All: In every person, God is with us.

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*)

Patricia 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 14:19-31

The flight from Egypt

Psalms 103:1-13

A love song

READING RESPONSE

(*Soloist only*) *Bless the Lord, My Soul*

Taizé

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name; Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

The parable of the talents

HYMN #364 (*Soloist only*) *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

Horsley

- 1 'Forgive our sins as we forgive,' you taught us, Christ, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
- 2 How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs, and will not let old bitterness depart?
- 3 In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!
- 4 O cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease;
then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

SERMON

“SHOCK AND AWE”

The Rev. Karen J. Bowles

SOLO *Come Dwell Within My Heart* from Cantata #80

J. S. Bach

Come dwell within my heart; Lord Jesus, I adore you! Bid evil all depart, and let your image ever shine before me. Out sin, begone away!

PEACE GREETING *(Please stand. Responses spoken softly, then greet 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. (all seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OFFERING

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Please stand. 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 #651 (Soloist only) Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Cwm Rhondda

- 1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty, hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.
- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

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 "March" from Suite in D

G. F. Handel

As you leave the sanctuary, please continue to observe a 2 metre distance between you and others.

LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning are **The Rev. Karen Bowles** and **The Rev. Jason Meyers**.
Reading the lesson is **Deborah Davis**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, trumpeter **Debbie Silverthorne**, soprano **Chelsea Van Pelt**, and Carillonneur **Roy Lee**.

Please join us on Facebook this evening at 7pm for our online worship service.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Wednesday, September 16

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

Thursday, September 17

7:00 p.m. Metropolitan Handbells

Sanctuary

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

NEXT SUNDAY: September 20 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 a.m. In-person Worship (please register for each service at metunited.ca)
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 our online service continuing at 7pm on Facebook, YouTube and at metunited.ca. **Please register for each in-person service** through the website or link in MET Connect. A separate reservation should be made for each household/bubble.

PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Karen Bowles and Rev. Jason Meyers are connecting with many members and are determining the needs of our community in 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).

COMMUNITY SERVICES MINISTRY

The Outreach team is responding to the needs of the community with initiatives that include **take-out meals** from local restaurants through funded chits. Megan and Stephanie are also buying and delivering groceries, providing grocery cards and meeting with clients, taking appropriate precautions. A **Hospitality Tent** is also up and running on Wednesdays in McGill Square to help provide relief.

DONATIONS DURING THIS TIME

The work of Metropolitan continues. While we cannot collect offerings in person, there remain easy ways to contribute - through our [Canada Helps page](#), 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)
Voluntary Associate Minister: The Rev. Bruce Misener, ext. 255 (officialant@metunited.ca)
Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair (malcolms@metunited.ca)
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), Johnvac 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)
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Financial Manager: Elena Pejcinovska, ext. 229 (elenap@metunited.ca)
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Guidelines for In-Person Worship

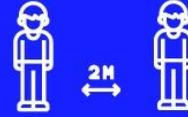
IN THE SANCTUARY



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