

# Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



## Christmas Eve December 24, 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**    *Silent Night*

**ORGAN PRELUDE**    *Noel Grands Jeux et Duo*  
*Prelude on "Quem Pastores"*  
*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*  
*Noël sur les Flûtes*

L. C. Daquin  
Healey Willan  
Johann Pachelbel  
L. C. Daquin

### **CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION**

One: The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who have lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

### **INTROIT** *Quem pastores*

15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> c. Carol

Shepherds left their flocks a-straying, God's command with joy obeying, when they heard the angels saying, "Christ is born in Bethlehem." Let us now in every nation sing his praise with exultation. All the world shall find salvation in the birth of Mary's son.

Soloists: Gisele Kulak, Valeria Kondrashov, Benjamin Stein, Parker Clements

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

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

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

**See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;**

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

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

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

### **PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION**

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us pray.

**SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER**

**KYRIE ELEISON**

P. Wright

God, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, God, have mercy.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**ACT OF PRAISE (ALL)**

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains:  
"Gloria, in excelsis Deo!"**

**READINGS**      Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 98

**ANTHEM**          *Bring a Torch*

arr. Stein

**GOSPEL READING**      Luke 2:1-20

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

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN #67**      *Silent Night*

Stille Nacht

**Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,  
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.**

**Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.**

**SERMON**                      ***"Christmas Part One, The Comfort"***  
                                         **The Rev. Karen Bowles**

**ANTHEM** *Christ was Born on Christmas Day*

David Willcocks

Christ was born on Christmas Day; wreath the holly, twine the bay. *Christus natus hodie (Christ is born today):* the Babe, the Son, the Holy One of Mary. Let the bright red berries glow, everywhere in goodly

show;...He is born to set us free, He is born our Lord to be....Night of sadness, morn of gladness  
evermore...midnight scarcely past and over, drawing to this holy morn: very early Christ was born.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OUR COMMON LIFE**

### **OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK**

#### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *Nativity Carol*

John Rutter

Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago. Born 'neath light of star He who loved us so.  
Far away, silent he lay. Born today, your homage pay. For Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day  
Cradled by mother so fair tender her lullaby. Over her son so dear angel hosts fill the sky Refrain  
Wise men from distant far land, sheperds from starry hills worship this babe so rare hearts with his  
warmth he fills. Refrain  
Love in that stable was born Into our hearts to flow. Innocent dreaming babe make me thy love to know.  
Refrain.

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

#### **♪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)

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

#### **SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT**

P. Wright

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the  
highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

### **CONSECRATION**

#### **AGNUS DEI**

P. Wright

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us; Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us. Jesus,  
Redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

### **INVITATION**

#### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

#### **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.

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns: let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground:  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the earth with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL RESPONSE**      *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*      harm. J. S. Bach  
From heaven above to earth I come to bring good news to everyone! Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world, and gladly sing: "Glory to God in highest heaven, who unto us a Son has given." With angels sing in pious mirth: a glad new year to all the earth!

**ORGAN POSTLUDE AND CANDLE EXTINGUISHING**  
*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

Johann Pachelbel

**LEADING IN WORSHIP** are **The Rev. Karen Bowles** and **The Rev. Jason Meyers**. Reading the lessons is **Dr. Linn Holness**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Timothy Wisnicki**, soprano **Gisele Kulak**, mezzo-soprano **Valeria Kondrashov**, tenor **Benjamin Stein**, bass **Parker Clements**, and Carillonneur **Roy Lee**.

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**Friday, December 25  
Christmas Day**

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

Online

**Saturday, December 26  
Boxing Day**

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

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

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

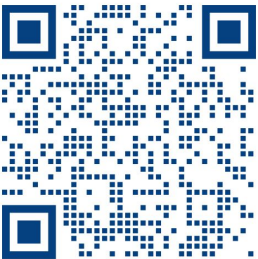
**GIFTS OF SECURITIES — FROM YOU TO METROPOLITAN**

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.*

**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))  
Teachers: Karlos Griffith ([karlosgriffith@rogers.com](mailto:karlosgriffith@rogers.com))  
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  
Wayne C. Vance 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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Custodians: Nadan Kandiah, ext. 304; Puvi Kanagalingam, ext. 305

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