

# Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



Sheila Diemert, Prince of Peace - Emmanuel, God is with us

## Wednesday, December 25, 2020 Christmas Day

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.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

**CARILLON PRELUDE**     *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**ORGAN PRELUDE**     *Away in a Manger*

June Nixon

## WELCOME

**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!"

## ♪ INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: Beloved of God come.

Come to follow the way prepared for you.

**All: Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace on earth.**

One: Come to be surprised at the manger,  
as God transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary.

**All: Let us go to Bethlehem to see  
what God has made known to us.**

One: Come, let us experience the wonder of God's ways.

**All: Let be filled with joy and hope  
for all we have seen and heard!**

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us pray. (all seated)

## PRAYER OF APPROACH

### ACT OF PRAISE #38

Gloria

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!

### Reading: Luke 2:1-7

*And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed... And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.*

### Reflection:

**What if on Christmas morning you woke up  
and there were no Christmas lights  
no decorations  
no Christmas trees or presents  
no family gathered for special meals  
and all you had was this story  
a Jewish baby born in a first century hovel  
another illegitimate child in Bethlehem  
“the love of God embodied in a baby”**

### CAROL #74 *What Child Is This?* v. 1 and 3

Greensleeves

What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.

The King of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. R

### Reading: Luke 2: 8-14

*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone*

*round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly Host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all humankind.*

**Reflection:**

**To see God through the window of this stable  
to know the spirit of God in the birth cry  
to feel the breath of God in the whimper  
to see the earthiness of God in the straw  
to experience the presence of God in flesh and blood...  
to have the song of God ringing in our ears  
to be grounded in the power of God...**

**CAROL #75** *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

Winchester Old

1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.

2 'Fear not,' said he, for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind;  
'glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and humankind.

3 'To you in David's town this day  
is born of David's line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:

4 'The heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,  
and in a manger laid.'

5 Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:

6 'All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace!  
Good will to all from highest heaven  
begin, and never cease.'

### **Luke 2: 15-21**

*And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.*

### **Reflection:**

**To watch the hungry fed and the thirsty given water  
to know God, not in the somewhere out there  
but in the every day  
to feel God in the heart ache, to feel God in the laughter  
to see God not only as a little baby but as the ground of all that is alive  
to be moved to pursue the way of God in the wilderness  
to cherish every moment of every hour of every living thing  
to be as a Christ, as a God presence in the living that surrounds us...**

### **HYMN #17 O ANCIENT LOVE V. 1 AND 2**

Bedford Abbey

- 1 O ancient love, processing through the ages;  
O hidden love, revealed in human form;  
O promised love, the dream of seers and sages:  
    O living Love, within our hearts be born,  
    O living Love, within our hearts be borne.
- 2 O homeless love, that dwells among the stranger;  
O lowly love, that knows the mighty's scorn;  
O hungry love, that lay within a manger: R

### **SERMON "CHRISTMAS PART 2 - THE CHALLENGE" The Rev. Karen Bowles**

### **HYMN #17 O ANCIENT LOVE V. 3 AND 4**

Bedford Abbey

- 3 O gentle love, caressing those in sorrow;  
O tender love, that comforts those forlorn;  
O hopeful love, that promises tomorrow: R

- 4      O suffering love, that bears our human weakness;  
          O boundless love, that rises with the morn;  
          O mighty love, concealed in infant meekness: R

#### 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. (congregation is seated)**

#### OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

#### OFFERTORY SOLO *Mary's Lullaby*      Max Reger

Mary sits by the rose bower and rocks her little Jesus, Softly through the leaves the warm wind of summer blows. A brightly coloured bird sings at her feet: Go to sleep, sweet child, It's time to go to sleep! Your smile is lovely, Your happy sleep lovelier still, Lay your tired little head against your mother's breast! Go to sleep, sweet child, It's time to go to sleep!

#### 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)

#### 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 #45** *Joy is Now in Every Place*

Resonet in Laudibus

- 1 Joy is now in every place,  
Christmas lightens every face;  
now be with us, in your grace,  
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.
- 2 May the star that shone that night,  
making your poor stable bright,  
fill our hearts with love and light, R
- 3 Through the New Year let it stay,  
leading us upon your way,  
making Christmas every day, R
- 4 Now and ever may we find  
your good news to fill our mind:  
peace and love to humankind, R

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**ORGAN POSTLUDE AND CANDLE EXTINGUISHING** *Christmas Scherzo*

June Nixon

**LEADING IN WORSHIP** this morning are **The Rev. Karen Bowles** and **The Rev. Jason Meyers**. Reading the lessons are **Tracy Pratt**, chair of the Integrated Arts Pillar, **James Nixon**, president of the Choir, and **Alana Martin**, Animator for Children and Youth. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, tenor **Charles Davidson**, and Carillonneur **Roy Lee**.

**PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK**

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

**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

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

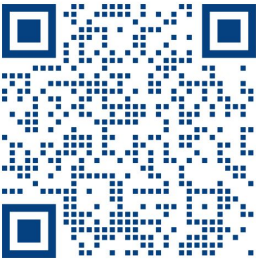
## **GIFTS OF SECURITIES — FROM YOU TO METROPOLITAN**

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.*

## **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. Karen Bowles at [karenb@metunited.ca](mailto:karenb@metunited.ca) (416-363-0331 ext. 227) or 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))  
Office Administrator: Sheela Taylor, ext. 210 ([sheelat@metunited.ca](mailto:sheelat@metunited.ca))  
Financial Manager: Elena Pejcinovska, ext. 229 ([elenap@metunited.ca](mailto:elenap@metunited.ca))  
Technical Administrator: Vinoth Thanganadan, ext. 223 ([vinotht@metunited.ca](mailto:vinotht@metunited.ca))  
Communications Specialist: Charles Davidson, ext. 228 ([communications@metunited.ca](mailto:communications@metunited.ca))  
Property Manager: Frank Cormier, ext. 231 ([property@metunited.ca](mailto:property@metunited.ca))  
Custodians: Nadan Kandiah, ext. 304; Puvu Kanagalingam, ext. 305

**56 Queen Street East, Toronto, ON M5C 2Z3**

**Tel. 416.363.0331 Fax. 416.363.7586**

**Email: [metunited@metunited.ca](mailto:metunited@metunited.ca)**

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