

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



'A Visit' by John August Swanson

Sunday, January 31, 2021
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

*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 *Changes*

Gary White

ORGAN PRELUDE *Toccata in E*

J. S. Bach

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN #229 *God of the Sparrow*

Roeder

- 1 God of the sparrow God of the whale
 God of the swirling stars
 How does the creature say Awe
 How does the creature say Praise
- 2 God of the earthquake God of the storm
 God of the trumpet blast
 How does the creature cry Woe
 How does the creature cry Save
- 3 God of the rainbow God of the cross
 God of the empty grave
 How does the creature say Grace
 How does the creature say Thanks
- 4 God of the hungry God of the sick
 God of the prodigal
 How does the creature say Care
 How does the creature say Life
- 5 God of the neighbour God of the foe
 God of the pruning hook
 How does the creature say Love
 How does the creature say Peace
- 6 God of the ages God near at hand
 God of the loving heart
 How do your children say Joy
 How do your children say Home

INVITATION TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: We gather as one in this sacred space,

All: to offer our thanks to God with all our hearts.

One: We gather with this community of faith,

All: to follow Jesus, who longs to lead us into life.

One: We gather in these moments,

All: to learn all we can of grace from the Holy Spirit.

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray. (please be seated)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

KYRIE ELEISON (ALL) #69 MORE VOICES *Kyrie eleison (God have mercy)*

Kervin

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE (All) p. 895 VOICES UNITED

READINGS

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

God will raise up a prophet after Moses.

Psalms 111

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.

READING RESPONSE

In the Lord, I'll be ever thankful

Taizé

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.

READING

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Paul's teaching on food offered to idols.

ONE: This is the witness of the early church.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

The Road Home

Stephen Paulus

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN More Voices #10 *Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom*

Madeleine

- 1 Come and seek the ways of Wisdom, she who danced when earth was new.
Follow closely what she teaches, for her words are right and true.
Wisdom clears the path to justice, showing us what love must do.
- 2 Listen to the voice of Wisdom, crying in the marketplace.
Hear the Word made flesh among us, full of glory, truth, and grace.
When the word takes root and ripens, peace and righteousness embrace.
- 3 Sister Wisdom, come, assist us; nurture all who seek rebirth.
Spirit-guide and close companion, bring to light our sacred worth.
Free us to become your people, holy friends of God and earth.

SOLO *Come to the Waters*

G. F. Handel

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

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.

1 Through the heart of every city
 runs the flow of human need.
'Mid this glass and steel are pulsing
 smoldering wick and bruised reed.
Has our church a word to offer,
 some hope shining from our creed?
Walking through the concrete furrows
 Jesus sows the Word as seed.

2 Through the passing generations,
 in their spirit, flesh and bone,
Jesus Christ becomes incarnate:
 holy hearts are living stone
building here a house of refuge
 as a temple, as a home.
So within the city's shadow
 Jesus' planted Word has grown.

3 Through our worship and our witness,
 Jesus, grant that we may still
hear the heartbeat of compassion
 calling us to do your will.
You, our vine, and we, your branches,
 deadened not by any chill,
working for that final city
 where the harvest is fulfilled.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE *Carillon de Westminster*

Louis Vierne

LEADING IN WORSHIP are **The Rev. Jason Meyers** and **The Rev. Karen Bowles**. Reading the lessons is **Jeff Laiter**, and delivering the Children's Message is **Alana Martin**, Children and Youth Animator. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Timothy Wisnicki**, Wayne C. Vance Junior Organ Scholar **Matthew Fraser**, soprano **Chelsea Van Pelt**, theorbist **Benjamin Stein**, and virtual octet **Gisele Kulak**, **Chelsea Van Pelt**, **Valeria Kondrashov**, **Chris Taeyoung Kim**, **Charles Davidson**, **Benjamin Stein**, **Nicholas Higgs**, and **John Schneider**.

2021 BUDGET MEETING: TODAY, SUN. JAN 31 FROM 1:30-3PM

The Official Board is ready to present the 2021 budget for the congregation's consideration. 2021 presents an unusual assortment of uncertainties, hence the delay. The Zoom link for joining is [here](#).

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

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

Tuesday, February 2

5:00 p.m. Transition Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, February 3

8:30 a.m. *Breakfast Bible Study* (Zoom)

12:00 p.m. *Zoom Bible Study* (Zoom)

12:00 p.m. Hospitality Tent

McGill Square Park

7:00 p.m. Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)

Thursday, February 4

12:00 p.m. Community Meal Program

Narthex

8:00 p.m. *Evening Communion* (Zoom)

Saturday, February 6

8:00 a.m. *Bible Study* (led by Christopher Hoover) (Zoom)

NEXT SUNDAY: February 7 - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

11:00 a.m. Online Worship - The Rev. Karen Bowles preaching

**Sign up for the MET Connect weekly newsletter at metunited.ca
Follow us on Facebook, Instagram (@metropolitanunitedto) & YouTube**

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The ministerial job descriptions are now available on our site, as well as our Community of Faith Profile with ChurchHUB, the official UCC site for posting positions. These documents have been reviewed and approved by Shining Waters Regional Council. We have also placed an ad in the United Church magazine, Broadview, both online and in print. *We are now preparing for review of the applications and the interview process. Applications close on March 31st and we will begin interviewing in early April.* We thank the congregation for your support and ask you to keep us in your prayers as we move forward with the search process.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

As we take stock of Metropolitan in 2020 for the historical record, voices from the congregation will be an important resource. We're asking for your help in telling this chapter of Met's story.

Met tried new ways of worship, new ways of connecting—did we start any new “traditions”? What to keep? What to never do again? Tell us the hits and misses as far as you and your faith journey are concerned. What advice do you have for those moving forward in 2021?

Submissions can be short or longer. If you would prefer that your words be unattributed, let us know. If you would prefer to send feedback that won't be used in the annual report, please indicate that.

If that's too much, give us a word or two that describes Met in 2020. We will be putting together a “word cloud” for the cover. (My word for Met in 2020 is PIVOT!)

Send submissions to boardsec@metunited.ca by Sunday, January 31st. We look forward to hearing what you have to say.

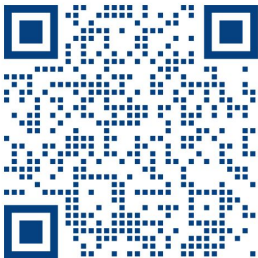
GIFTS OF SECURITIES — FROM YOU TO METROPOLITAN

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. *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 (416-363-0331 ext. 224) or Rev. Karen Bowles at karenb@metunited.ca (416 670-1902)

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. If you have any questions, please contact Elena Pejcinovska, Financial Manager at elenap@metunited.ca or 416-363-0331 ext. 229.



METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH

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: Alana Martin (alana@thegoproject.ca)
Teachers: Karlos Griffith (karlosgriffith@rogers.com)
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
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)
Office Administrator: Sheela Taylor, ext. 210 (sheelat@metunited.ca)
Financial Manager: Elena Pejcinovska, ext. 229 (elenap@metunited.ca)
Technical Administrator: Vinoth Thanganadan, ext. 223 (vinotht@metunited.ca)
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