

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



Photo by [Flavio Gasperini](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Sunday, February 7, 2021
Fifth 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 *Air and Double*

JH Buttstedt arr KA McGrath

ORGAN PRELUDE *Concerto in A minor*

Antonio Vivaldi/J. S. Bach

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN #394 *Moved by the Gospel, Let Us Move*

Bethlehem

- 1 Moved by the Gospel, let us move with every gift and art.
The image of creative love indwells each human heart.
The Maker calls creation good, so let us now express
with sound and colour, stone and wood, the shape of holiness.
- 2 Let weavers form from broken strands a tapestry of prayer.
Let artists paint with skilful hands their joy, lament, and care.
Then mime the story: Christ has come. With reverence dance the word.
With flute and organ, ching* and drum God's praise be ever heard.
- 3 O Spirit, breathe among us here; inspire the work we do.
May hands and voices, eye and ear attest to life made new.
In worship and in daily strife create among us still.
Great Artist, form our common life according to your will.

* A 'ching' is a Korean gong.

INVITATION TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: Let us give thanks to God, by whom we are given life.

All: We bless the One who creates with visions of peace and hope.

One: Let us give thanks to Jesus, through whom we glimpse God.

All: We bless the One who calls us into discipleship.

One: Let us give thanks to the Spirit, in whom we encounter God.

All: We bless the One who fills us with gifts of love and joy.

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

Psalm 103

Great Psalm of Blessing.

2 Corinthians 3:1-6

'You are my letter of recommendation.'

READING RESPONSE

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

Mark 2:13-22

Tax collectors, Fasts, new cloth and old cloaks.

ONE: This is the witness of the good news..

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Thanks be to God.

CHORISTERS ANTHEM

Ubi Caritas

Becki Slagle Mayo

Where there is charity and love, God is there!

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN #93 *When Heaven's Bright with Mystery*

Sussex Carol

- 1 When heaven's bright with mystery
and science searches nature's art,
when all creation yearns for peace
and hope sinks deep in human hearts,
appear to us, O Holy Light;
lift from our eyes the shades of night.
- 2 When Herod barter power and lives
and Rachel's weeping fills the night,
when suffering's mask marks every face,
and Love's a refugee in flight,
reveal to us your word of grace
and make us witness to your peace.
- 3 When fragile faith, like desert wind,
blows dry and empty, hope erased,
when withered grass and fading flower
proclaim again our day's brief space,
breathe on the clay of our despair
and work a new creation there.
- 4 When heaven's bright with mystery
and stars still lead an unknown way,
when love still lights a gentle path
where courts of power can hold no sway,

there with the Magi, let us kneel,
our gifts to share, God's world to heal.

SERMON "ON BRAND"

REV. KAREN BOWLES

SOLO *God Loves Everyone*

Ron Sexsmith

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 I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift,
though heavy oft with drenching spray
and torn with many a rift;
if hope but light the water's crest,
and Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at his behest,
and brave another cruise.
- 2 It is the wind of God that dries
my vain regretful tears,
until with braver thoughts shall rise
the purer, brighter years;
if cast on shores of selfish ease
or pleasure I should be,
O let me feel your freshening breeze,
and I'll put back to sea.
- 3 If ever I forget your love
and how that love was shown,
lift high the blood-red flag above;
it bears your name alone.
Great pilot of my onward way,
you will not let me drift.
I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift.

COMMISSIONING AND BENECTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE *Chorale Prelude on "Old 104th"*

C.H.H. Parry

LEADING IN WORSHIP are **The Rev. Karen Bowles** and **the Rev. Jason Meyers**. Reading the lessons is **Dorcas Beaton**, 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**, tenor **Benjamin Stein**, and members of the **Metropolitan Choristers** with **Dr. Jennifer Martyn**, violin.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

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

Monday, February 8

3:00 p.m. Parks Ministry (Zoom)

Tuesday, February 9

5:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, February 10

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

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

12:00 p.m. Hospitality Tent

5:00 p.m. Worship Committee (Zoom)

McGill Square Park

Thursday, February 11

12:00 p.m. Community Meal Program

Narthex

6:30 p.m. Member Engagement & Evangelism Committee (Zoom)

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

Saturday, February 13

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

NEXT SUNDAY: February 14 - Transfiguration

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**

LENT BRANCHES: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15 at 4pm

Join us on Monday, February 15th at 4pm to make "Lent branches" - an activity designed to help families and individuals bring traditions of Lent home with them. 40 days of devotions, journal or discussion questions and a random act of kindness challenge. Register with Alana for Zoom details and supplies.

SHROVE TUESDAY MET SOCIAL

Traditionally, Shrove Tuesday is the day in the church liturgical year marked by the selection of a Lenten sacrifice and the eating of a big meal of pancakes prior to the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. This year, our Shrove Tuesday gathering will have a distinctly "lockdown in Canada" feel to it. We are still

encouraged to cook up some pancakes and eat together, but we will do so from our own homes on Zoom (link at metunited.ca). And what's the perfect complement to maple syrup? An episode of the distinctly Canadian TV gem, The Red Green Show, of course! So, *break out the duct tape and join us for this special Met Social on Tuesday, February 16 at 7pm.*

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

We begin Lent on Wednesday, February 17 with the marking of ashes and a simple, Taizé-centered service ushering us into the 40 days of personal and communal reflection, repentance and reconciliation. 7pm livestreamed on FB, YouTube and at metunited.ca

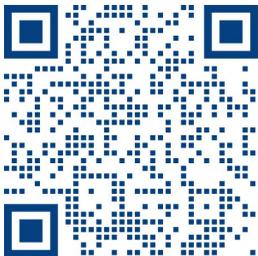
MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

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.

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.

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.*



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
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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

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