

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



Union United Church in Montreal - photo by Nancy Oliver

Sunday, February 28, 2021 Second Sunday in Lent / Black History Sunday

*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 *Take, O Take Me As I Am*

arr. Lee

BAND PRELUDE *Spiritual Sounds*

arr. by Alan Fernie

*Joshua Fight the Battle of Jericho/Swing Low/ Peter Go Ring Them Bells & Nobody
Knows the Trouble I See* Recorded on "Amazing Grace" 2015

ORGAN PRELUDE *There is a Balm in Gilead*

arr. Joe Utterback

VIDEO: Black History Month - 2021: Nancy Oliver, Union United, Montreal

WELCOME, CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

One: Today is the second Sunday of the season of Lent. We have embarked on a journey of faith with each other and with Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem.

Two: We remember how Jesus challenged and encouraged his disciples to embrace his way of ministry and to respond to God's call with faith-filled living.

One: We give thanks for God's covenant with our ancestors in faith and for the wisdom that we are blessed to be a blessing to others.

Two: As we extinguish the second Lenten candle we commit ourselves to follow Jesus' way even though we know that at times we will fall short of Christ-like living.

One: As we watch the smoke rise we give thanks that God's Spirit is always with us and that God forgives and encourages us to strive to live in right-relationship with ourselves, others and God.

OPENING HYMN #108 *Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights* Winchester New

- 1 Throughout these Lenten days and nights we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light, we live in hope till Easter Day.
- 2 The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God, who found in weakness greater power,
embraces us, though lost and flawed, and leads us to his Rising Hour.
- 3 We bear the silence, cross and pain of human burdens, human strife,
while sisters, brothers help sustain our courage till the Feast of Life.
- 4 And though the road is hard and steep, the Spirit ever calls us on through
Calvary's dying, dark and deep, until we see the coming Dawn.
- 5 So let us choose the path of One who wore, for us, the crown of thorn,
and slept in death that we might wake to life on Resurrection Morn!
- 6 Rejoice, O sons and daughters! Sing and shout hosannas! Raise the strain!
For Christ, whose death Good Friday brings on Easter Day will rise again!

INVITATION TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us.

All: Lent calls us to journey: to the place where God covenants with us, to receive the new names we are given.

One: Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.

All: Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.

One: Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

All: Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us.

One: Lent calls us to journey with God.

All: Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.

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 (based on *Pange Lingua* plainsong)

P. Wright

God, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. God, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE *Shepherd Me, O God*

Marty Haugen

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

READINGS

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

The covenant between Abram, Sarai, and God.

Romans 4:13–25

God's promise rests on grace and faith.

ANTHEM *Hymn to Freedom*

Oscar Peterson

GOSPEL READING

Mark 8:31–38

Take up your cross and follow.

ONE: This is the witness of the gospel of Jesus.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN #593 *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

Chereponi

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.

- 1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them. R
- 2 Neighbours are rich and poor,
varied in colour and race,
neighbours are near and far away. R
- 3 These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love,
all are neighbours to us and you. R
- 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you. R

SERMON **“THE SHAPE OF YOUR CROSS”**

THE REV. JASON MEYERS

SOLO *He's Got the Whole World*

arr. M. Bonds

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.

CLOSING HYMN *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

Anthem

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty;

Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died;

Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our people sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;

We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;

Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

BAND POSTLUDE *Swing Low Sweet Chariot*

arr. by Brian Hogg

Recorded "Live at Home" February 2021

LEADING IN WORSHIP are **The Rev. Karen Bowles and the Rev. Jason Meyers**. Reading the lessons is **Gunn Wongsuwan**, 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**, Carillonneur **Roy**

Lee, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Timothy Wisnicki**, Wayne C. Vance Junior Organ Scholar **Matthew Fraser**, soprano **Gisele Kulak**, **The Metropolitan Silver Band** conducted by **Fran Harvey**, members of **The Metropolitan Choir, Choristers**, and **Great Heart**, led by **Benjamin Stein**.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

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

TODAY

1:00 p.m. Big Questions Course - *Who are we?*
3:00 p.m. Affirm Committee (Zoom)

Monday, March 1

8:00 a.m. Daily Lenten Office (Zoom)
8:00 p.m. Centring Prayer (Zoom)

Tuesday, March 02

8:00 a.m. Daily Lenten Office (Zoom)
5:00 p.m. Transition Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 3

8:00 a.m. Daily Lenten Office (Zoom)
8:30 a.m. Breakfast Bible Study (Zoom)
11:30 a.m. Hospitality Tent
12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)

Thursday, March 4

8:00 a.m. Daily Lenten Office (Zoom)
12:00 p.m. Community Meal Program
8:00 p.m. Evening Communion (Zoom) Narthex

Friday, March 5

8:00 a.m. Daily Lenten Office (Zoom)

Saturday, March 6

8:00 a.m. Lenten Bible Study (Zoom)

NEXT SUNDAY: March 7 - Third Sunday in Lent

The Rev. **Karen Bowles** preaching

1:00 p.m. Big Questions Course (Zoom) - *What is the Holy Spirit?*

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

LENTEN DAILY OFFICE

An invitation to begin the days of Lent with a time of scripture and prayer. **February 18 to April 1 at 8:00 a.m** via Zoom (link available on the website).

LENTEN MET MUSINGS

A reflection for each day of the Lenten season written by ministers and members of our community, delivered to your inbox. Sign up at communications@metunited.ca.

PASTORAL CARE

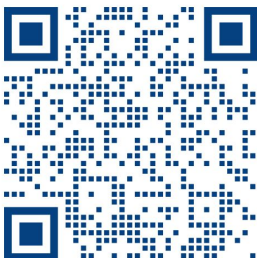
Our ministers are connecting with members and determining the needs of our community during this challenging time. If you would like a pastoral phone call, you can contact Rev. Jason Meyers at jasonm@metunited.ca (416-363-0331 ext. 224) or Rev. Karen Bowles at karenb@metunited.ca (416) 670-1902.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER?

Would you consider joining the many in our congregation who donate by pre-authorized bank deduction or PAR? You set the amount and once a month, it's deducted from your bank account. PAR is easy to arrange and makes things simpler for you, while ensuring your vital support of our church continues during this time of pandemic disruption. It also enables our church to have a steady stream of income on a monthly basis. Please contact Elena in the church office at (416) 363-0331, ext. 229 or elenap@metunited.ca. You can also fill out a form at metunited.ca/donate.

OUR LEGACY. OUR FUTURE:

“Congregations and Christians everywhere are discovering that the best giving flows not from heads informed about the budget, but from hearts that are tuned to the will of God.” (Thomas C. Reike)
Thank you for remembering Metropolitan Church with a gift in your estate plans. For help, please contact Doug Flanders at (416) 769-2746; email dougflanders@sympatico.ca A legacy — It's ours to leave. **Generosity is the most natural outward expression of an inner attitude of compassion.** — Anonymous.



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.



DIRECTORY

Chair of the Official Board: Kenneth Younie (boardchair@metunited.ca)
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
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)
Outreach and Community Service Coordinator: 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)
Communications Specialist: Charles Davidson, ext. 228 (charlesd@metunited.ca)
Property Manager: Frank Cormier, ext. 231 (property@metunited.ca)
Custodian: Puvi Kanagalingam, ext. 305

56 Queen Street East, Toronto, ON M5C 2Z3

Tel. 416.363.0331 Fax. 416.363.7586

Email: metunited@metunited.ca