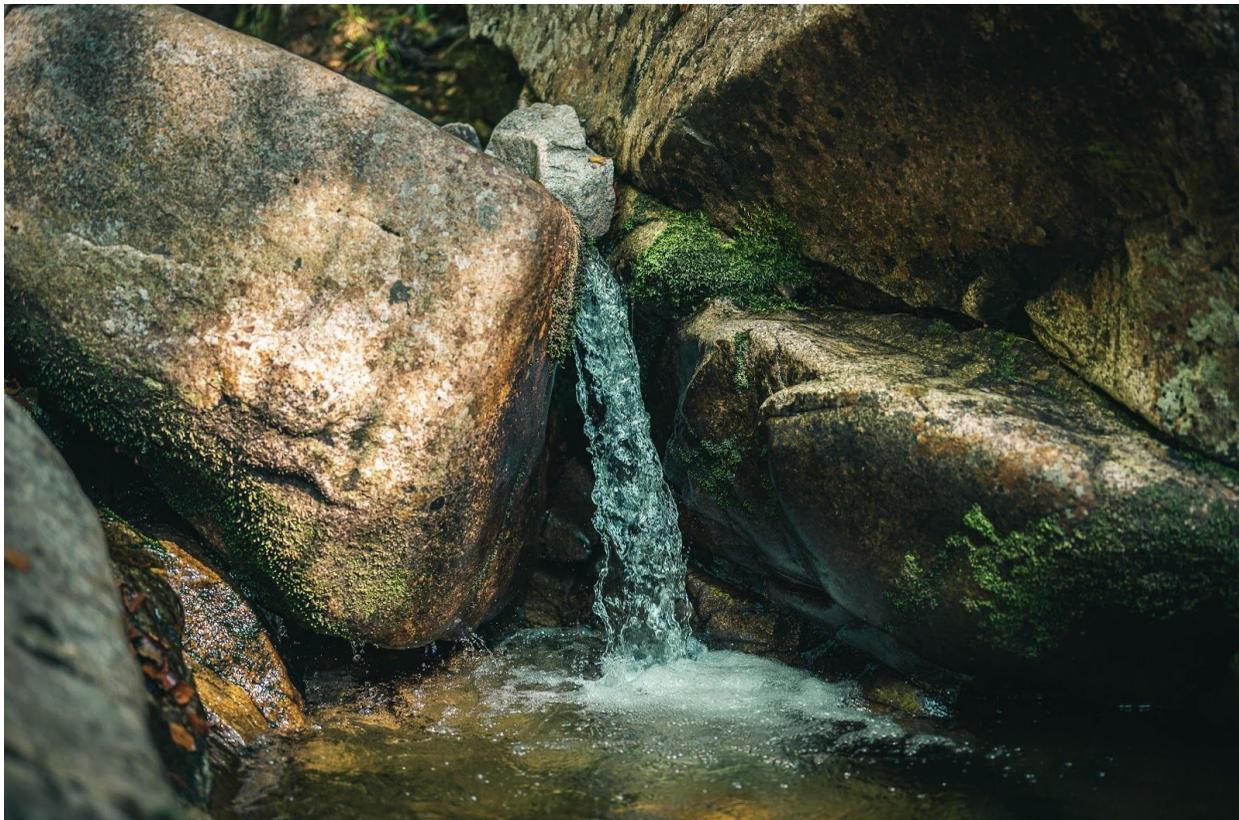


Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



by [Conscious Design](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 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.

SPECIAL NOTES FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

We ask that you continue to wear your mask over your nose and mouth at all times, and maintain physical distancing when exiting following the postlude. Thank you for following these guidelines as we prioritize health and safety - please also see the back of the bulletin, and our webpage on in-person worship.

ORDER OF SERVICE

CARILLON PRELUDE (OUTSIDE-10:35)

PRELUDE	<i>Praeludium in E minor</i>	Nicolaus Bruhns
	<i>Prelude on 'Nicæa'</i>	Healey Willan
	<i>Come Now, Lord Jesus (to the tune Lobe den Herren)</i>	J. S. Bach

WELCOME

JOENING HYMN #220 (*soloist only*) *Praise to the Lord* Lobe den Herren

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;
O my soul, praise him, at all times your health and salvation.
Come, all who hear: brothers and sisters draw near, joining in glad adoration.
- 2 Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,
keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.
Have you not seen how all you needed has been met by God's gracious ordaining?
- 3 Praise to the Lord who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy will daily attend us:
ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who out of love will befriend us.
- 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from God's people again: gladly with praise we adore him.

INVITATION TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH (*responses spoken softly*)

One: We come, so God can show us
goodness and love for all of creation.

**All: We will join in God's love
through kindness and compassion.**

One: We come, so Jesus can lead us
into lives of meaning and sacrifice.

**All: We will join in Jesus' mission
by serving the least, the lost and the lonely.**

One: We come, so the Spirit can empower us
to empty ourselves for God and all of God's children.

**All: We will join in the Spirit's peace
by sharing our lives with others.**

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 *(soloist only)*

P. Wright

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE *(soloist only)* **Hymn #244**

Arfon

Sing your praise to God eternal, sing your praise to God the Son,
sing your praise to God the Spirit, living and forever One.
God has made us, God has blessed us, God has called us to be true.
God rules over all creation, daily making all things new.

READINGS

Exodus 17:1-7

Water from rock

Philippians 2:1-13

Flight from hubris

READING RESPONSE *(soloist only)*

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be; set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

Jesus in the temple with the chief priests

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

HYMN #147 *(soloist only-remain seated)* *What Wondrous Love*

Wondrous Love

- 1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.
- 2 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, to lay aside his crown for my soul.
- 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I Am,
while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme I will sing.

4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on.

SERMON "BROKEN AND BLESSED"
The Rev. Karen Bowles

SOLO *Come to the Waters* G. F. Handel

♪ **PEACE GREETING** (*responses spoken softly, then greeting each other with a bow*)

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** (*spoken softly*)

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. (please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OFFERING

♪ **GREAT THANKSGIVING** (*responses spoken softly*)

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** (*spoken softly*)

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 #654** *(soloist only)* *All My Hope Is Firmly Grounded*

Michael

- 1 All my hope is firmly grounded in our great and living Lord;
who, whenever I most need him, never fails to keep his word.
God I must wholly trust, God the ever good and just.
- 2 Tell me, who can trust our nature, human, weak, and insecure?
Which of all the airy castles can the hurricane endure?
Built on sand, naught can stand by our earthly wisdom planned.
- 3 But in every time and season, out of love's abundant store,
God sustains the whole creation, fount of life forevermore.
We who share earth and air count on God's unfailing care.
- 4 Thank, O thank, our great Creator, through God's only Son this day;
God alone, the heavenly potter, made us out of earth and clay.
Quick to heed, strong in deed, God shall all the people feed.

♪ **COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

♪ **BLESSING** *(soloist only)* **#429**

William Wright

May the blessing of God be upon you. May God's love light all your way. May the grace of Christ enfold you and peace around you stay. May the Spirit of God dwell within you. May you live in joy each day.
(Please be seated)

ORGAN POSTLUDE *Fanfare*

William Mathias

As you leave the Sanctuary, please wear your mask and continue to observe a two metre distance between you and others.

LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning are **The Rev. Karen Bowles** and **The Rev. Jason Meyers**.
Reading the lesson is **Kenneth Younie**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Timothy Wisnicki**, Junior Organ Scholar **Matthew Fraser**, baritone **John Schneider**, and carillonneur **Roy Lee**.

Please join us this evening at 7:00 p.m. for Online Worship (FB/YouTube/website).

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Wednesday, September 30

12:00 p.m. *Zoom Bible Study* [link here](#)

Thursday, October 1

7:00 p.m. Metropolitan Handbells

Sanctuary

8:00 p.m. Evening Communion (Zoom) [link here](#)

NEXT SUNDAY: October 4 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost/ World Communion

- 11:00 a.m.** In-person Worship (please register for each service at metunited.ca)
The Rev. Jason Meyers preaches.
- 7:00 p.m.** Online Worship

STAY CONNECTED

Updates can be found at metunited.ca. Past sermons and service streams are also available under the Worship menu. Sign up for the MET Connect weekly e-newsletter via our homepage for all news. We're also on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [Vimeo](#).

PASTORAL CARE

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

DONATIONS DURING THIS TIME

While we cannot collect offerings in person, there remain easy ways to contribute - through [Canada Helps](#), or by mailing in envelopes and/or cheques to the church. You can also arrange for pre-authorized remittance for regular giving (PAR) from your bank account, or credit card - just [download and fill out a form](#) via the website. If you have any questions, please contact Elena Pejcinovska, Financial Manager at elenap@metunited.ca or 416-363-0331 ext. 229.

GOOD STEWARDSHIP

Good stewarding of our personal resources involves planning. Does your Will show you to be a lifetime steward of all that you have received? Thank you for remembering Metropolitan United Church with a legacy gift. Like to explore options? Contact Doug Flanders: (416) 769-2746; dougflanders@sympatico.ca.ca A legacy — It's ours to leave.

WINTER WARMTH!

Each Christmas we give gifts of PURCHASED OR HAND-KNITTED TOQUES, SCARVES OR MITTS to the many guests who attend our Out of the Cold meal program. Tighter knitted, solid colours and larger sizes are preferable. NEW THERMAL SOCKS, UNDERWEAR AND WINTER BOOTS are also needed. Please bring your donations to service, or call the church office to arrange drop-off. It is indeed miserable to be cold – help us warm hearts and hands this winter!

The Official Board of Metropolitan United Church deeply appreciates your financial gifts. We strive to honour our donors' wishes at all times. When gifts are designated for a specific purpose and the need for that purpose has been fulfilled, your Board will redirect surplus gifts to the closest alternative or the area of greatest need. Thank you again for supporting Metropolitan.

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: Bailey Fleming (bailey@thegoproject.ca)
Teachers: Karlos Griffith (karlosgriffith@rogers.com), Johnavac Abraham
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
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 (communications@metunited.ca)
Property Manager: Frank Cairns, ext. 231 (frankc@metunited.ca)
Custodians: Nadan Kandiah, Puvi Kanagalingam ext. 232

56 Queen Street East, Toronto, ON M5C 2Z3
Tel. 416.363.0331 Fax. 416.363.7586
Email: metunited@metunited.ca



Guidelines for In-Person Worship

IN THE SANCTUARY



No food or
drink



Pick up a bulletin



Keep physically
distanced &
follow ushers



Stay in your
seat



No singing



Use washroom at
back of Sanctuary

LEAVING THE CHURCH



Respect
physical distancing



Offering plates
at exit



No socializing
in building