

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



"In the days to come, I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh." Acts 2:17, quoting Joel 2:28

May 23, 2021 **Pentecost 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 *Vif*

J. Berghuys

BAND PRELUDE *Madrigalum*

Philip Sparke

ORGAN PRELUDE *Come God, Creator, Holy Spirit*
Variations on 'Veni Creator' (Come, Holy Ghost)
with verses of Hymn #201 'Come, Holy Ghost'

J. S. Bach
Maurice Duruflé

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN #194 *Filled with the Spirit's Power*

National Hymn

- 1 Filled with the Spirit's power, with one accord
the infant church confessed its risen Lord.
O Holy Spirit, in the church today
no less your power of fellowship display.
- 2 Now with the mind of Christ set us on fire,
that unity may be our great desire.
Give joy and peace; give faith to hear your call,
and readiness in each to work for all.
- 3 Widen our love, good Spirit, to embrace
with your compassion all the human race.
Like wind and fire with life among us move,
till we are known as Christ's, and Christian prove.

INVITATION TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: Welcome, Holy Spirit,

All: we celebrate your presence.

One: Welcome, Comforter,

All: touch our souls with your peace.

One: Welcome, Awakener,

All: touch our souls with your life.

One: Welcome, Disturber,

All: touch our souls with your truth.

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray. *(please be seated)*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

KYRIE #68 *More Voices*

Guarani song, arr. Sosa

O God have mercy, O God have mercy, O God have mercy, have mercy on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE (All) #59 *More Voices* Yoruba song (Nigeria)
Alleluia, praise to God (*repeat*); Praises, high praises we bring you, O God.
Alleluia praise to God.
Songs of joy sing out to God (*repeat*). Dancing and singing, we praise you, O God.
Songs of joy sing out to God.
Beat the drums, sing out to God (*repeat*). Praises, high praises, we bring you, O God.
Beat the drums, sing out to God.

READING GENESIS 11:1-9
The tower of Babel

READING ACTS 2:1-21
The day of Pentecost

ONE: These readings are witness to the good news.
ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *I Will Not Leave You Comfortless* William Byrd

CHILDREN’S TIME

HYMN #205 *Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song* Bridegroom
1 Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigour of the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might:
come, Holy Spirit, come.
2 To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the Vine,
to the church in faith assembled, to our midst as gift and sign:
come, Holy Spirit, come.
3 With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the power to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare:
come, Holy Spirit, come.

SERMON **“SYNTHESIS”** **THE REV. KAREN JESSIE BOWLES**

SOLO *Bridge Over Troubled Water* Paul Simon

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Let us pray.

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 #706 *Give Thanks for Life*

Sine Nomine

- 1 Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,
mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,
yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 2 Give thanks for those who made their life a light
caught from the Christ-flame, bursting through the night,
who touched the truth, who burned for what is right,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 3 And for our own, our living and our dead,
thanks for the love by which our life is fed,
a love not changed by time or death or dread,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

- 4 Give thanks for hope, that like the wheat, the grain
lying in darkness does its life retain
in resurrection to grow green again,
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE verse of Hymn #201 'Come, Holy Ghost'
Variation on "Veni Creator"

Maurice Duruflé

LEADING IN WORSHIP are **The Rev. Karen Bowles** and **The Rev. Jason Meyers**. The reader is **James Nixon** 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**, members of the **Metropolitan Choir**, members of the **Metropolitan Silver Band** led by Fran Harvey, pianist **Benjamin Stein**, and tenor **Charles Davidson**.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Zoom links in MET Connect and at metunited.ca

Monday, May 24

Victoria Day Statutory Holiday

Wednesday, May 26

8:30 a.m. Breakfast Bible Study (Zoom)
11:30 a.m. Hospitality Tent
12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Official Board (Zoom)

McGill Square Park

Thursday, May 27

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

Saturday, May 29

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

NEXT SUNDAY: May 30

The Rev. Jason Meyers preaching

10:45 a.m. Online Worship Service

THANK YOU REV. KAREN BOWLES

We celebrate Karen's ministry with us today. From Karen: "May 2021 is to be my final month with Metropolitan - my time with you was always to be limited by the interim nature of the position and by my anticipated retirement. I am pleased to say that it is very difficult to leave this community and I would not have it any other way."

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - JUNE 6

Met's AGM will take place on Zoom on Sunday, June 6th from 1:30-3:00 p.m. The meeting details and Annual Report will be available soon through the Met Connect weekly email.

THE MET FARMERS' MARKET LAUNCHES JUNE 13

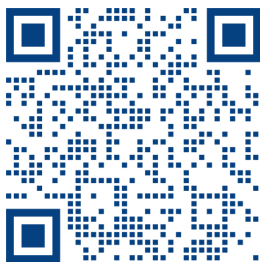
The launch of "The Met Farmers' Market" is fast approaching! We are busy recruiting farmers and vendors, creating marketing materials and working on volunteer roles and responsibilities. More details to follow, but for now, please put Sunday, June 13 in your calendar as the first market date. The Met Market will run each Sunday from 10am to 2pm through Oct. 31 - check out our webpage now up on the site.

THE MET APP

"There's an app for that!" You can follow our programming, view the livestream and chat, register for events, make a donation, and much more through our new app. Use your phone or tablet to download the app through [this link](#). You can also find more details and instructions on our site, [here](#).

GIFTS OF SECURITIES

A gift of securities — stocks, bonds, mutual funds — is an easy and effective way to support our church and our Third Century Campaign. You receive a tax receipt for the full value of the securities and you pay no capital gains on the securities given. Gifts of securities are simple to arrange. Please call Doug Flanders at (416) 769-2746; dougflanders@sympatico.ca. ***A legacy — It's ours to leave.***



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. Thank you for supporting the ministries of Metropolitan United Church.

Sign up for the MET Connect weekly newsletter [here](#)
Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) & [YouTube](#)



A message from The Rev. Karen J. Bowles

The time has come, the ‘tooth-walking sea horse’ announced in my head over breakfast one morning. And so, the date was set and the plans were made - and then laid aside to ‘get to’ later.

And now later is come.

So this Sunday, the day of Pentecost, is my last Sunday in this community. These past two years and a bit have been quite a ride - measures of joy and anguish, solemn and silly moments, challenging and contemplative moments. It has indeed been a privilege to walk with you through this pandemic and witness the myriad of ways you have been there for one another, for your church and for the community.

I would that it were a different end - that I would be preaching to the congregation right there in front of me and not to a camera. But I remember my first year and so many of you there. And I remember where you sat and can picture many faces. And each Sunday since I have re-membered and I have re-called each of you - and will do again this Sunday, this last Sunday.

Retirement is the act of ‘removing oneself from contact one has had with others.’ And that is what I will do, for a time. Beyond that time of solitude and renewal, we will meet again. Of that I am sure.

Grateful to have shared a small slice of Metropolitan’s ongoing journey with each of you.

Rev. Karen



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Director, *Great Heart* Youth Ensemble: Benjamin Stein
Conductor, *Metropolitan Sparklers*: Dr. Jennifer Martyn
Carillonneur: Roy Lee
Director, Metropolitan Silver Band: Fran Harvey



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