

# Welcome to Metropolitan United Church



Harvesting potatoes in Saskatchewan with Grandpa - Photo by Rev. Meyers

## September 19, 2021 Second Sunday in the Season of Creation

*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.*

## SPECIAL NOTES FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Please wear your mask over your nose and mouth at all times, and maintain physical distance when exiting. Please do not sing or hum - listen to the quartet and sing in your hearts! See the back of the bulletin for more information.

### ORDER OF SERVICE

#### CARILLON PRELUDE (OUTSIDE-10:30 a.m.)

ORGAN PRELUDE *Prelude and Fugue in G Major*  
*Méditation*  
*Intermezzo*

J. S. Bach  
Maurice Duruflé  
Healey Willan

#### WORDS OF WELCOME

♪ OPENING HYMN #296 (*quartet only*) *This Is God's Wondrous World*

Terra Beata

- 1 This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is God's wondrous world; I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, God's hand the wonders wrought.
- 2 This is God's wondrous world: the birds their carols raise;  
the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.  
This is God's wondrous world: God shines in all that's fair;  
in the rustling grass or mountain pass, God's voice speaks everywhere.
- 3 This is God's wondrous world: O let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
This is God's wondrous world: why should my heart be sad?  
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring: God reigns, let earth be glad!

♪ THANKSGIVING FOR THE EARTH IN FOUR DIRECTIONS (*Please remain standing and turn to the East, South, West and North as prompted*)

One: We face East: The place of dawning, there is beauty in the morning, there the seeker finds new visions as each sacred day is born. All who honour life around them, all who honour life within, shall shine with light and glory when the morning comes again. And we pray,

**All: Come Holy Spirit, Come**

One: We turn to the South: In the South, the place of growing, there is wisdom in the earth, Both the painful song of dying and joyful song of birth. As the Earth offers her lifeblood so that her children's hearts may beat, so we give back to her our reverence for the holy ground beneath our feet. And we pray,

**All: Come Holy Spirit, Come**

One: We turn to the West: The place of seeing, there is born a vision of the servant of the servants, who proclaimed the Gospel to us. Guide us at the end of each day and fill us with your peace. And we pray,

**All: Come Holy Spirit, Come**

One: We turn to the North: We look to God our Creator who cleanses our earth with snow, wind, and rain. To Jesus who fills us with the wideness of mercy and grace and lovingly embraces all the people. And the Holy Spirit who comes to inspire us. And we pray,

**All: Come Holy Spirit, Come (*please be seated*)**

*(adapted from Celebrating Creation: Honoring Indigenous People, Kelly Sherman-Conroy, ELCA)*

## PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

### SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

**KYRIE** (*quartet only*)

P. Wright

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

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**ACT OF PRAISE Hymn #293, v.1** (*quartet only*)

Lyons

We praise you, Creator, in earth, sea, and sky: our Ruler, our Maker, our Sovereign most high.  
Each new generation lifts voices in praise; how good your creation, how gracious your ways!

### READINGS

#### PSALM 1

Blessed are those who follow God's law.

#### JAMES 3:13—4:3, 7–8A

Wisdom from above is gentle and peaceable.

**ANTHEM** *Exultate justi*

L. Viadana

Rejoice in God, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright. Praise God with the lyre; make melody to God with the harp of ten strings. Sing to God a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.  
Psalm 33:1-3.

### GOSPEL READING

#### MARK 9:30–37

Whoever welcomes a child, welcomes me.

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

**ALL:** **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN #227** (*quartet only*) *For the Fruit of All Creation*

Ar Hyd Y Nos

- 1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.  
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.
- 2 In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.  
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

**SERMON** "CHILD'S PLAY"

**REV. JASON MEYERS**

**ANTHEM** *Words of Chief Seattle*

Amy Stephen

The earth does not belong to us, we belong to the earth. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. We do not weave the web of life, we are but a strand in the web of life. And what we do to the web we also do to ourselves. The earth is precious to God. To harm the earth is to harm its Creator. Every part of the earth is sacred to my people. One thing I know; our God is the same God. Text by Chief Seattle (1780-1866 – a Suquamish Tribe and Dkhw'Duw'Absh chief.)

♪ **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*)

**Each part of creation reveals unique aspects of God the Creator,  
who is both in creation and beyond it.**

**All parts of creation, animate and inanimate, are related.**

**All creation is good.**

**We sing of the Creator,**

**who made humans to live and move  
and have their being in God.**

**In and with God,**

**we can direct our lives toward right relationship  
with each other and with God.**

**We can discover our place as one strand in the web of life.**

**We can grow in wisdom and compassion.**

**We can recognize all people as kin.**

**We can accept our mortality and finitude, not as a curse,  
but as a challenge to make our lives and choices matter. (please be seated)**

*(From the United Church of Canada's faith statement, A Song of Faith)*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATION OF THE TORONTO UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL'S BAILLIE VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD**

**OFFERING**

**HANDBELL OFFERTORY** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

arr. Bill Ingram

**DEDICATION OF 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.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**LORD'S PRAYER (all)** *(Voices United, p. 921) (spoken softly)*

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,**

**Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!**

**Your beloved community of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.**

**In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.**

**In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.**

**From trials too great to endure, spare us.**

**From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*(Adapted from The New Zealand Book of Prayer which was influenced by Maori theologians)*

**✪ CLOSING HYMN #303** *(quartet only) For Beauty of Prairies*

St. Basil

1 For beauty of prairies, for grandeur of trees, for flowers of woodlands, for creatures of seas,  
for all you created and gave us to share, we praise you, Creator, extolling your care.

2 As stewards of beauty received at your hand, as creatures who hear your most urgent  
command, we turn from our wasteful destruction of life, confessing our failures, confessing our  
strife.

3 Teach us once again to be gardeners in peace; all nature around us is ours but on lease;  
your name we would hallow in all that we do, fulfilling our calling, creating with you.

**✪ COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING (please be seated)**

**ORGAN POSTLUDE** *Finale Jubilante*

Healey Willan

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

**LEADING IN WORSHIP** are **The Rev. Jason Meyers** and **The Rev. Mark Aitchison**. Reading the lessons is **Ael Spence**. Offering the *Thanksgiving for the Earth* are members of Met's Green Team, **The Rev. Dr. Nancy Hardy** and **Hazel Gorley**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Joshua Duncan Lee**, Carillonneur **Naoko Tsujita**, Metropolitan Choir lead singers **Chelsea Van Pelt**, **Michelle Simmons**, **Benjamin Stein** and **Martin Gomes**, and the **Metropolitan Handbells** conducted by **Dr. Patricia Wright**.

## **PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK**

*Zoom links in Met Connect and at [metunited.ca](http://metunited.ca)*

### **Tuesday, September 21**

**7:00 p.m.** Metropolitan Silver Band Rehearsal Sanctuary

### **Wednesday, September 22**

**11:30 a.m.** Hospitality Tent Park

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

**7:00 p.m.** Met Social (Zoom)

### **Thursday, September 23**

**10:00 a.m.** Pre-Board (Zoom)

**6:30 p.m.** Metropolitan Handbells Rehearsal Sanctuary

**7:30 p.m.** Metropolitan Lead Singers Rehearsal Sanctuary

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

### **Saturday, September 25**

**9:00 a.m.** Saturday Bible Study (Zoom)

## **NEXT SUNDAY: Sept 26 - Third Sunday in the Season of Creation / Orange Shirt Day**

Preacher: The Rev. Mark Aitchison

**10:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m.** The Met Farmers' Market

**11:00 a.m.** Worship

**2:00 p.m.** Taddle Creek Wild Church in the Park

## **REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP**

We're aiming to reassemble a Refugee Sponsorship Committee with the hopes of sponsoring a family in the new year if possible. Volunteers are needed to serve on this committee commencing in October. Please email Rev. Mark Aitchison at [mark@metunited.ca](mailto:mark@metunited.ca) for more information.

## THURSDAY EVENING COMMUNION

Our simple communion service over Zoom continues Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. - please have your own bread and beverage available to celebrate the sacrament together! Joining link on our site and in Met Connect.

## MET SOCIAL

Next Wednesday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m. we'll enjoy an episode of the hilarious Britcom *Keeping Up Appearances* together over Zoom (link posted in Met Connect). If you're new to the show, trust us, you don't want to miss the farcical hijinks of Hyacinth Bucket (pronounced "Bouquet") and family!

## HELP OUT AT THE MET FARMERS' MARKET!

The Market continues each Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. into the fall. Are you able to help out for a few hours to help this important initiative run smoothly? Drop [market@metunited.ca](mailto:market@metunited.ca) a line!

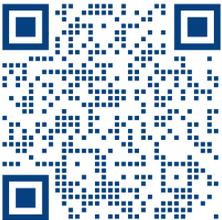
## THE MET APP

Follow our social channels, view worship and concert livestreams, make a donation and more through our new app. Use your phone or tablet to download [here](#). More details and instructions on our site.

## PRESERVE AND ENABLE

Preserve our heritage. Enable our future. Remembering Metropolitan Church with a gift in your will or some other type of legacy gift will ensure just that. As one of our legacy donors says: "Metropolitan uses my annual offerings effectively and well to do good. I know it will be the same after I'm gone." For information, contact Doug Flanders at (416) 769-2746; [dougflanders@sympatico.ca](mailto:dougflanders@sympatico.ca) ***A legacy — It's ours to leave.***

***"When it comes to giving until it hurts, most people have a very low threshold of pain."***  
***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. Thank you for supporting the ministries of Metropolitan United Church.

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

## DIRECTORY

Chair of the Official Board: Kenneth Younie ([boardchair@metunited.ca](mailto:boardchair@metunited.ca))  
Minister of Worship and Faith Formation: The Rev. Jason Meyers, ext. 224 ([jasonm@metunited.ca](mailto:jasonm@metunited.ca))  
Supply Minister: The Rev. Mark Aitchison, ext. 254 ([marka@metunited.ca](mailto:marka@metunited.ca))  
Minister of Music: Dr. Patricia Wright, ext. 226 ([patw@metunited.ca](mailto:patw@metunited.ca))  
Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair ([malcolms@metunited.ca](mailto:malcolms@metunited.ca))  
Voluntary Associate Minister: The Rev. Alana Martin, ext. 255 ([officiant@metunited.ca](mailto:officiant@metunited.ca))  
Children & Youth Ministries Animator: The Rev. Alana Martin ([alana@thegoproject.ca](mailto:alana@thegoproject.ca))  
Teacher: Karlos Griffith ([karlosgriffith@rogers.com](mailto:karlosgriffith@rogers.com))  
Library: Marion Lick ([library@metunited.ca](mailto:library@metunited.ca)) and Maureen Maguire ([vigrass78@gmail.com](mailto:vigrass78@gmail.com))



## Community Outreach Ministry

Outreach and Housing Worker: Megan Carver, ext. 221 ([meganc@metunited.ca](mailto:meganc@metunited.ca))  
Outreach and Community Service Coordinator: Stephanie Cunti, ext. 241 ([stephaniec@metunited.ca](mailto:stephaniec@metunited.ca))

## Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Dr. Patricia Wright, ext. 226 ([patw@metunited.ca](mailto:patw@metunited.ca))  
Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar: Joshua Duncan Lee  
Metropolitan Choir Lead Singers: Gisele Kulak, Chelsea Van Pelt, Valeria Kondrashov, Michelle Simmons, 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](mailto:janelt@metunited.ca))  
Office Administrator: Sheela Taylor, ext. 210 ([sheelat@metunited.ca](mailto:sheelat@metunited.ca))  
Financial Manager: Elena Pejcinovska, ext. 229 ([elenap@metunited.ca](mailto:elenap@metunited.ca))  
Technical Administrator: Vinoth Thanganadan, ext. 223 ([vinotht@metunited.ca](mailto:vinotht@metunited.ca))  
Communications Specialist: Charles Davidson, ext. 228 ([charlesd@metunited.ca](mailto:charlesd@metunited.ca))  
Property Manager: Frank Cormier, ext. 231 ([frankc@metunited.ca](mailto:frankc@metunited.ca))  
Custodians: Puvi Kanagalingam, Brian McElwain, ext. 320

**56 Queen Street East, Toronto, ON M5C 2Z3**

**Tel. 416.363.0331 Fax. 416.363.7586**

**Email: [metunited@metunited.ca](mailto:metunited@metunited.ca)**