

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church



September 26, 2021

Orange Shirt Day/

Third 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!

ORDER OF SERVICE

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

ORGAN PRELUDE “Allegro moderato e serioso” and “Adagio” Felix Mendelssohn
from *Sonata 1 in F Minor*
Aria in F Major Couperin/J. S. Bach
Just As I Am arr. Raymond H. Haan

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN #304 (*quartet only*) *O God, Beyond All Face and Form* St. Petersburg

- 1 O God, beyond all face and form, you willed it that creation's night
should blaze, and chaos still its storm, and birth a universe of light.
All things below, all things above are formed of your eternal love.
- 2 The glory of the galaxies, the beauty of a baby's hand,
the thundering of restless seas, the glory of the forest's stand;
All things below, all things above are formed of your eternal love.
- 3 You gave our race both form and name, and love for us was your intent.
Then to a woman's womb love came, and on a cross was wholly spent.
All things below, all things above are formed of your eternal love.
- 4 Of this great love, all loves are born, of self, of neighbour, and of earth.
By love shall night be turned to morn, and death shall never conquer birth.
All things below, all things above are formed of your eternal love.

INVITATION TO WORSHIP (*responses spoken softly*)

One: For the air that animates, the land that nurtures, and the water that sustains,

All: we give thanks for the gifts of God,

One: In the sound of children's laughter and the wisdom of elders,

All: we give thanks for the joy of God.

One: For the quest of faith in the life the Spirit gives,

All: we give thanks for the grace of God.

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

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!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation of Child

Kenneth Younie

One: On behalf of the congregation, I present Lily-May Larin-Chambers, daughter of Patricia Larin and Robert Chambers, to be baptized this morning and welcomed by this congregation. I would ask Lily-May, Patricia and her godparents to come forward now.

Statement of Purpose

Promises of Parent

Promises of Godparents

Profession of Faith

Congregational Commitment

One: Siblings in Christ, on behalf of the Church, here and elsewhere, now and for the future, do you receive this child in Christ's name, as you also have been received? Will you be steadfast and careful to preserve and to build up the life of the church with love Christian teaching and faithful prayer? Are you willing to accept this holy work?

All: We are, God being our helper.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water

The Act of Baptism, Marking with the Cross

Welcome

READINGS

PSALM 19:7-14

God's Glory in Creation and the Law

JAMES 5:13—20

The Prayer of Faith.

ANTHEM *Almighty and Everlasting God*

Orlando Gibbons

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities, stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

MARK 9:38-50

Jesus Warns About Temptation

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

HYMN #364 (*quartet only*) *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

Horsley

1 'Forgive our sins as we forgive,' you taught us, Christ, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

- 2 How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs, and will not let old bitterness depart?
- 3 In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!
- 4 O cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease;
then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

SERMON "WRESTLING WITH THE 'F' WORD"

REV. MARK AITCHISON

ANTHEM *I Sought the Lord*

Hubert Bird

I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew He moved my soul to seek Him, seeking me; it was not I that found, O Saviour, true, no, I was found of Thee. Thou didst reach forth Thy hand and mine enfold; I walked and sank not on the storm-vexed sea, 'twas not so much that I on Thee took hold, as Thou, dear Lord, on me. I find, I walk, I love, but O, the whole of love is but my answer, Lord, to Thee; for Thou wert long beforehand with my soul, always Thou lovedst me

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Love is Little*

Shaker Song, arr. Kevin Siegfried

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*)

**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** *Two Boats of Kin*

Tune: Une Jeune Pucelle (Hymn #71)

Words by Rev. Jason Meyers inspired by United Church apologies to Indigenous people and responses by Indigenous elders

- 1 Two boats of kin a quest begin, across the river deep.
With bounty shared it was declared, a course that each would keep.
But one boat thought they should have more. Cracked covenant squeezed one to shore.
Let us relearn our script, own our whole truth, in the life the Spirit gives.
- 2 With wind and waves and sacred flames, embodied from the land.
Though same in heart, you could not see trace of Creator's hand.
Through cross and pen you sought remake; our names and children you did take.
We say repent your acts, respect our voice, in the life the Spirit gives.
- 3 We tried to make you be like us; we basketed your light.
We did not heed the cries of babes; abused the gospel's might.
Our role in pain we must accept; apologies through justice kept.
We'll now confess our deeds, open our eyes, in the life the Spirit gives.
- 4 Two boats of kin a quest begin, across the river deep.
Awareness share, it was declared joined vision they would keep.
What we do now in strength and love, our children see and rise above.
Let us unite our hearts, unite our minds, in the life the Spirit gives.

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

ORGAN POSTLUDE "Allegro assai vivace"
from *Sonata 1 in F Minor*

Felix Mendelssohn

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 **Doug Flanders**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Joshua Duncan Lee**, Carillonneur **Roy Lee**, and Metropolitan Choir lead singers **Gisele Kulak**, **Valeria Kondrashov**, **Charles Davidson**, and **Nicholas Higgs**.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK
Zoom links in Met Connect and at metunited.ca

Tuesday, September 28

5:30 p.m. Board Meeting (Zoom)
7:00 p.m. Metropolitan Silver Band Rehearsal Sanctuary

Wednesday, September 29

11:30 a.m. Hospitality Tent Park
12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study

Thursday, September 30

6:30 p.m. Metropolitan Handbells Rehearsal Sanctuary
7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Lead Singer Rehearsal Sanctuary
8:00 p.m. Evening Communion (Zoom)

Saturday, October 2

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

**NEXT SUNDAY: October 3 -
Fourth Sunday in the Season of Creation / World Communion Sunday**
Preacher: The Rev. Jason Meyers

10:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m. The Met Farmers' Market Park
11:00 a.m. Worship Sanctuary
12:30 p.m. *Great Heart* Morley Punshon Room

TODAY! TADDLE CREEK WILD CHURCH

Stay for the Farmers' Market and then participate in our nature-based worship service today at 2:00 p.m. outside in the Park. Masking and distancing protocols in place.

FUNERAL SERVICE: MARY STOCKDALE VERNON

Taking place Saturday, October 2 at 12:30 p.m. Registration and YouTube links will be provided in Met Connect. Pre-registration is required - please use our online registration system or leave a message with the office.

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 marka@metunited.ca for more information.

THURSDAY EVENING COMMUNION

Our simple communion service over Zoom takes place 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.

USHERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY MORNING

Can you help out ushering one Sunday per month? If so, please send a note to Sheela in the church office at sheelat@metunited.ca and she will connect you with William Wright, who coordinates the ushers.

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 a line!

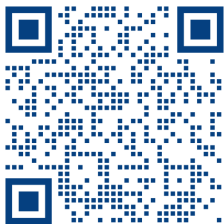
THE MET APP

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.

THOUGHTFUL SOULS

Many thoughtful people have remembered Metropolitan over the years with a gift in their estate plans. A gift of insurance is one way to do this. You may take out a new policy making Metropolitan the beneficiary, sign over an existing policy or change the beneficiary of your current policy to Metropolitan. For information, please contact Doug Flanders at (416) 769-2746 or dougflanders@sympatico.ca. - ***A legacy. It's ours to leave.***

That's what I consider true generosity: You give your all and yet you always feel as if it costs you nothing.— Simone de Beauvoir



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](#)

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Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Dr. Patricia Wright, ext. 226 (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 Martynt
Carillonneur: Roy Lee
Director, Metropolitan Silver Band: Fran Harvey



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