

# Welcome to Metropolitan United Church



**RETURN  
TO LIGHT**

## **Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols December 19, 2021 7:00 p.m.**

*We are an Affirming Congregation, offering welcome and companionship to all, inclusive of age, ethnicity, gender identity, differing abilities, and sexual orientation.*

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

### ORGAN PRELUDE

*Offertoire sur Deux Noël's*  
*Chorale Prelude Lo, How a Rose*  
*Noël: Où S'en Vont Ces Gais Bergers*  
*Prelude on 'Conditor Alme Siderum'*

A. Guilmant  
Lionel Rogg  
Claude Balbastre  
Gerald Near

### WELCOME

INTROIT *Conditor Alme Siderum/Creator of the Stars*

Sarum plainsong, text 6<sup>th</sup> c.

### Opening Hymn #25

***Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending***

Helmsley

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending, see the Lamb for sinners slain!  
thousand, thousand saints attending join to sing the glad refrain:  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah! God appears on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall then behold you, robed in awesome majesty;  
all who jeered, and mocked, and sold you, pierced, and nailed you to the tree,  
deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving, shall the true Messiah see.**

**Now redemption, long expected see in solemn pomp appear;  
all the saints, by us rejected, thrill the trumpet sound to hear:  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah! See the day of God appear!**

**Yea! Amen! Let all adore you, high on your eternal throne;  
crowns and empires fall before you, claim the kingdom for your own:  
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly! Everlasting Christ, come down.**

### PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us pray.

One: We gather this evening in this season of expectation and longing, of hope and remembering.

**All: We gather this night to sing, to pray and to hear the story told once again.**

One: The story of light once again coming into the world.

**All: We gather this evening in this season of Advent – to share in the light together.**

READING Isaiah 11:1-4, 6

From Jesse's line comes our hope...

CHOIR *Lo, How a Rose*

arr. Hugo Distler

READING Micah 5:2-5a

The glory of little Bethlehem is foretold...

CAROL #64 ***O little town of Bethlehem (remain seated)***

Forest Green

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!**

**Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;**



CHOIR *Over the mountains*

Johannes Eccard

READING Luke 2:1-7

Luke tells of Jesus' birth...

CHOIR *Hodie Christus Natus Est*

J. P. Sweelinck

Today Christ is born: today the Saviour appears: today on Earth the angels sing, archangels rejoice:  
today the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia.

READING Luke 2:8-14

The Angels and Shepherds...

CHOIR *Patapan*

Traditional Burgundian, arr. Kirke Mechem

♪ CAROL #48 ***Hark! the Herald Angels Sing***

Mendelssohn

**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"**

**Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail, the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild he lays His glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK**

**METROPOLITAN HANDBELLS** *I Wonder as I Wander*  
*Masters in This Hall*

arr. Cathy Mocklebus  
arr. Kevin McChesney

**OFFERTORY CAROL #55** *In the Bleak Mid-Winter* **(remain seated)** Cranham

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.**

**DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

READING Luke 2:15-20

The shepherds go to the manger...

CHOIR *Softly*

Will Todd

## PRAYER

♪CLOSING HYMN #60 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Adeste fideles

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:  
come and behold him, born the King of angels:**

***Refrain:* O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**God of God, light of light, lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten, not created. *Refrain***

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest: *Refrain***

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain***

♪COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE *Nunc Dimittis* based on *Conditor alme siderum*

P. Wright

POSTLUDE *Noel Suisse*

L. C. D'Aquin

**LEADING IN WORSHIP** are **The Rev. Jason Meyers**, Minister of Worship and Faith Formation, **Frank Cormier**, Property Manager; **Joshua Duncan Lee**, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar; **Susan Girvan**, Chair of Trustees; **James Nixon**, president of the Metropolitan Choir; **Kenneth Younie**, Chair of the Official Board; **Dr. Linn Holness**, Chair of the Worship Committee; **Roy Lee**, Carillonneur; **Charles Davidson**, Communications Specialist; and **Dr. Patricia Wright**, Minister of Music. The music is led by the **Metropolitan Choir and Handbells** conducted by **Dr. Patricia Wright**.

Our sound and livestream technicians are Paya Dehghani, Nishaanth Siva and Charles Davidson. Metropolitan's live streaming equipment was made possible thanks to the generosity of Wayne C. Vance.

**The Metropolitan Lead Singers** Gisele Kulak, Chelsea Van Pelt, Valeria Kondrashov, Michelle Simmons, Charles Davidson, Benjamin Stein, Nicholas Higgs, John Schneider are joined by volunteer members of the **Metropolitan Choir** Janice Andrews, Dorcas Beaton, Fred Keeley, Sally Keeley, Mercy Mandac, Amanda O'Halloran, Lynn Patterson, Stephanie Parkin, Alice Sellwood, and Heather Walsh.

**The Metropolitan Handbells**

Janice Andrews, Vicki Harris, Linn Holness, Mary Ellen Jones, Joshua Duncan Lee, Jennifer McDonald, Rosemary Mok, James Nixon, Amanda O'Halloran, Tracy Pratt, Heather Walsh

# UPCOMING CHRISTMAS SERVICES

*Please note that all services are online only*

## **Friday, December 24 Christmas Eve**

**6:30 p.m.** Family Christmas Eve outside at Kingston Road United Church 975 Kingston Rd.  
**11:00 p.m.** Candlelight Christmas Eve with Communion Sanctuary

## **Saturday, December 25 Christmas Day**

**11:00 a.m.** The Rev. Mark Aitchison preaching Sanctuary

## **Sunday, December 26 First Sunday after Christmas**

**11:00 a.m.** The Rev. Jason Meyers preaching  
Readings: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

**Church office closure:** December 24, 2021 to January 3, 2022, reopening on January 4.

## **PIVOT TO ONLINE SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS**

We have made the difficult decision to livestream our Christmas services only, given the current situation with Covid. Please stay tuned as we reevaluate in the New Year.

## **CHRISTMAS STOCKING SPONSORSHIP - DEADLINE TOMORROW!**

Still need to do some Christmas shopping? With your help, we'll fill Christmas stockings with all kinds of essentials and goodies, and distribute them at our Winter Community Meal Program. Each stocking is \$20 - please fill in the form provided in Met Connect. You can also give a stocking in someone's name and we will send them an e-card.

## **FINAL CENTRING PRAYER TOMORROW**

We wrap up our Monday evenings of Christian meditation on December 20 at 7:00 p.m. Thanks to Tchawbaw Cabafi and Rev. Meyers for leading this program again during Advent.

## **CHRISTMAS NOON AT MET RECITAL ON DEMAND**

Our final recital of the season featuring Dr. Patricia Wright, organ, along with lead singers Charles Davidson and Nicholas Higgs, is available for streaming on our YouTube channel and Facebook page. Stay tuned for future concert dates in 2022!

## **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](mailto:jasonm@metunited.ca) (416-363-0331 ext. 224), or Rev. Mark Aitchison at [marka@metunited.ca](mailto:marka@metunited.ca) (416-363-0331 ext. 254 or 416-805-6287).

## **OUR CHRISTMAS THANK OFFERING**



Thank you for your always generous support of our Christmas Thank Offering. Our gifts to Metropolitan support our many ministries and programs, and help transform lives. You may donate online at [metunited.ca/donate](https://metunited.ca/donate), or use your mobile phone's camera to scan the QR code to the left. We also accept gifts by e-transfer to [donations@metunited.ca](mailto:donations@metunited.ca). For those giving weekly, you may include your gift as part of your Sunday offering, clearly marked "Christmas Thank Offering."

## THANK YOU!

To all those who have returned their Estimate of Giving to Metropolitan for 2022, thank you!. For those Estimates still to come, thank you for your consideration and getting your Estimate of Giving back to the church soon. You didn't receive a package? Please contact Elena in our church office at (416) 363-0331, ext. 229 or email [elenap@metunited.ca](mailto:elenap@metunited.ca). Your gifts enable us to transform lives.

## WEEKLY PROGRAMS AT MET

*Zoom links at [metunited.ca](https://metunited.ca)*

### **Zoom Bible Study**

Wednesdays at Noon resuming Jan. 5, 2022

*A weekly consideration and discussion of the scripture passages and attending commentary, led by Rev. Jason Meyers.*

### **Breakfast Bible Study (Zoom)**

Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. resuming Jan. 6, 2022

*Breaking open the word with Rev. Mark Aitchison.*

### **Evening Communion (Zoom)**

Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. resuming Jan. 6, 2022

*A short service of word and table.*

### **Saturday Bible Study (Zoom)**

Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. resuming Jan. 1, 2022

*Led by Christopher Hoover; open at 8:00 a.m. for social time.*

Sign up for the Met Connect weekly newsletter at [metunited.ca](https://metunited.ca)

Subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#) for Worship & Concerts

Connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) (@metropolitanunitedto)



# METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH

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## 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))  
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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))  
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