

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church



**RETURN
TO LIGHT**

December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday in Advent

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.

SPECIAL NOTES FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Please wear your mask over your nose, mouth and chin at all times. You are invited to hum or sing softly.
All of our musicians have undergone rapid Covid testing.

ORDER OF SERVICE

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

ORGAN PRELUDE *Variations on "In Dulci Jubilo"*
Lo, How a Rose
My Soul Magnifies the Lord
In Dulci Jubilo

Denis Bédard
Johannes Brahms
J. S. Bach
J. S. Bach

WORDS OF WELCOME

♪ OPENING HYMN *We Wait for God*

Brother James' Air

- We wait for God, creation longs to see a new day dawn.
And though the night is dark and deep, we dare to sing our song.
We wait for God; creation longs, we dare to sing our song.**
- We watch for God the earth cries out, "Will violence ever cease?"
The One who saw the signs is seen in ways that make for peace.
We watch for God; the earth cries out for ways that make for peace.**
- We work for God, the nations need each one to do their part.
The Spirit works through everyone, each hand and head and heart.
We work for God; the nations need each hand and head and heart.**
- We worship God, the people pray that love will cast out fear.
We wait and watch and work to see the Day of God draw near.
We worship God, the people pray, the Day of God draws near.
Text by William S. Kervin**

♪ INVITATION TO WORSHIP (*responses spoken softly*)

One: In towns and villages, in city towers and wintery woodlands;
All: Christ is waiting to be born.
One: In the vastness of the universe, in the intimacy of our hearts;
All: Christ is waiting to be born.
One: In the shadowed corners of loneliness, in the delight of the dance;
All: Christ is waiting to be born.
One: Come, Lord Jesus.
All: Come into our world.
One: Come, Lord Jesus.
All: Come into our lives.
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

ADVENT KYRIE (ALL)

P. Wright



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: In this season of Advent, we are here to watch and wait and pray for the return of light into the world. We long for the day when the things of darkness - selfishness and greed, suffering and isolation - shall be no more.

We light this candle for all God-bearers, accepting the pain and hope of an unknown future.

All: **God, as we wait for your light,
Give love, give healing.**

SUNG ADVENT RESPONSE (ALL): *More Voices #19 Maranatha*



READINGS

MICAH 5:2-5A

A Promised Rule From Bethlehem.

LUKE 1:46B-55

The Song of Mary

ANTHEM *Over the mountains*

Johannes Eccard

Over the mountains goes Mary, cousin Elisabeth to see. Elisabeth the Spirit moves to honour Mary whom she loves, and call her God's own mother dear, and Mary sings with joy to hear: My soul the Lord exalteth, my heart in God rejoices; He is our Saviour, fear the Lord, he ever shall be merciful.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 1:39-45

Mary Visits Elizabeth

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN *More Voices # 134 There Was a Child in Galilee*

Dreaming Mary

1 There was a child in Galilee who wandered wild along the sea.
A holy child, alone was she, and they called her Dreaming Mary.
And she dreamed, rejoicing in her saviour; she dreamed of justice for the poor.
She dreamed that kings oppressed no more when she dreamed, that Dreaming Mary.

**2 One holy day an angel came with voice of wind and eyes of flame.
He promised blessed would be her name, when he spoke to Dreaming Mary.
Then she spoke, rejoicing in her saviour. She spoke of justice for the poor.
She spoke that kings oppressed no more when she spoke, that Dreaming Mary.**

**3 And did she dream about a son? And did he speak, the angel one?
We only know God's will was done, in the son of Dreaming Mary.
Then she prayed, rejoicing in her saviour. She taught him justice for the poor.
She taught that kings oppressed no more when she taught, that Dreaming Mary.**

**4 Then Jesus grew in Galilee, they wandered wild along the sea.
Now he calls to you and me to dream with Dreaming Mary.
And we dream, rejoicing in our saviour. We dream of justice for the poor.
We dream that kings oppress no more as we dream with Dreaming Mary.**

Text and melody by Janet Gadeski, arrangement by Patricia Wright

SERMON "PASSION IN PALESTINE"

REV. MARK AITCHISON

ANTHEM *Patapan*

Traditional Burgundian, arr. Kirke Mechem

Willie, take your little drum, with your whistle, Robin, come! When we hear the fife and drum, Tu-re lu-re-lu, pa-ta-pa-ta-pan, Christmas should be frolicsome.... Thus the men of olden days loved the King of kings to praise: when they hear... God and man are now become more at one than fife and drum. When you hear the fife and drum, dance and make the village hum!

♪PEACE GREETING (*response 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

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

♪THE OFFERTORY HYMN #518, verse 3 *(please stand as you are able)*

Forest Green

With gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to you,
Not just to serve your cause, but share your love with neighbours too.
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your son,
Help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

♪DEDICATION OF OFFERING

♪GREAT THANKSGIVING

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. *(please be seated)*

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: #35 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

In Dulci Jubilo

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News!
Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

♪COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

BLESSING (All) #429 *(Please turn toward the centre)*

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.

ORGAN POSTLUDE AND CANDLE EXTINGUISHING *In Dulci Jubilo*

J. S. Bach

As you leave the sanctuary, please wear your mask and continue to observe an appropriate distance between yourself and others.

LEADING IN WORSHIP are **The Rev. Mark Aitchison** and **The Rev. Jason Meyers**. Reading the lessons are **Sara Cohen** and **Shawn Winsor**. 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 lead singers of the **Metropolitan Choir**.

Our sound and livestream technicians are **Paya Dehghani** and **Charles Davidson**.

Metropolitan's live streaming equipment was made possible thanks to the generosity of **Wayne C. Vance**.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today

12:30 p.m.	Doug Taylor Memorial	Chancel
2:00 p.m.	Taddle Creek Wild Church	High Park
7:00 p.m.	Candlelight Lessons and Carols	Sanctuary

Monday, December 20

2:00 p.m.	Park Ministry (Zoom)
8:00 p.m.	Centring Prayer (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 22

8:00 a.m.	Chop Chop Meal Prep
12:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study

Thursday, December 23

12:00 p.m.	Winter Community Meal Program	Narthex
7:30 p.m.	Metropolitan Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
8:00 p.m.	Evening Communion (Zoom)	

Friday, December 24

10:00 a.m.	Art and Computer Lab	Met Centre
6:30 p.m.	Family Christmas Eve service 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.	Worship - The Rev. Mark Aitchison, preaching	Sanctuary
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NEXT SUNDAY: December 26 - First Sunday after Christmas Day

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

TADDLE CREEK IN HIGH PARK TODAY AT 2:00 P.M.

How has the land formed you? In this month's Taddle Creek Wild Church service in High Park, we will take time to consider how God speaks through creation, and how some of our foundational memories have been shaped by the soil, sky, plants and animals. Please let Rev. Meyers know that you are coming so we can coordinate a meeting place: jasonm@metunited.ca, 647-338-1713.

CANDLELIGHT LESSONS AND CAROLS TONIGHT at 7:00 P.M.

Our traditional candlelight service featuring the Metropolitan Choir takes place this evening - please register to attend or watch online at metunited.ca/live.

REGISTER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Seating is limited for our upcoming Christmas services, so please register yourself and any guests you are bringing at metunited.ca/advent. Please remember that proof-of-vaccination accompanied by photo ID is required for entry at every service.

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.

FRIDAY NOON AT MET 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!

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.

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. Your gifts enable us to transform lives.

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

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