

# Welcome to Metropolitan United Church



**Saturday, December 25, 2021**  
**Christmas Day**

*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

♪(indicates a congregational response - please stand as you are able).

### CARILLON PRELUDE (outside)

ORGAN PRELUDE	<i>In Dulci Jubilo</i>	J. S. Bach
	<i>Mary's Lullaby</i>	Christopher Tambling
	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	June Nixon
	<i>In Dulci Jubilo</i>	Dieterich Buxtehude
	<i>Of the Father's Love Begotten</i>	Wilbur Held

### WELCOME

CAROL #48 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Mendelssohn

- 1 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!'
- 2 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! R
- 3 Hail, the heavenborn 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. R

### INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,

**All: and the Word was God.**

One: Then the Word became flesh and lived among us;

**All: We have seen God's glory, full of grace and truth.**

One: What has come into being in Christ was life,

**All: and the life was the light of all people.**

One: This light shines in the darkness,

**All: and the darkness will not overcome it.**

**So let us worship God with gladness.**

One: God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us pray. (all seated)

**PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION**

**SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**ACT OF PRAISE #38**

Gloria

Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria... in excelsis Deo!

**READING** John 1:1-14

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

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:** **Thanks be to God.**

**CAROL #74** *What Child Is This?*

Greensleeves

- 1 What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!
- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. R
- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. R

**SERMON** **"GOD HAS A WORD FOR YOU"**

**The Rev. Mark Aitchison**

**SOLO** *The Seven Joys of Mary*

English Traditional

**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. (congregation is seated)**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OUR COMMON LIFE**

**OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK**

**ORGAN OFFERTORY** *Noël sur les Flûtes*

Louis-Claude Daquin

**OFFERTORY HYMN #55** *In the Bleak Midwinter, v. 4*

Cranham

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.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**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. (all 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.**

**CAROL #75** *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

Winchester Old

1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.

2 'Fear not,' said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind;  
'glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and humankind.

3 'To you in David's town this day is born of David's line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:

4 'The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands, and in a manger laid.'

5 Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:

6 'All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace!  
Good will to all from highest heaven begin, and never cease.'

## ♪ COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE

*God Rest You Merry*

Wilbur Held

**LEADING IN WORSHIP** this morning is **The Rev. Mark Aitchison**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright** and by mezzo-soprano **Michelle Simmons**.

## Sunday, December 26 Boxing Day

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

Rev. Jason Meyers, preaching

**Church closure notice:** December 24, 2021 to January 3, 2022, reopening on January 4, 2022, subject to changes around Covid-19.

## **NEXT SUNDAY: January 2 - First Sunday after Christmas**

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

Rev. Mark Aitchison, preaching

## WEEKLY PROGRAMS AT MET

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

## SECOND ANNUAL STOCKING DRIVE - THANK YOU!

With your help, we were able to fill more than 100 stockings with Christmas goodies, as well as personal hygiene items, for distribution at our Winter Community Meal Program. Thank you for supporting this initiative again this year!

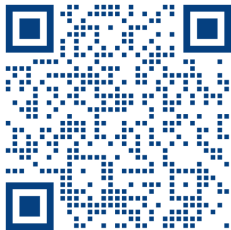
## CHRISTMAS SERVICES & CONCERTS

You can find last Sunday's Candlelight Lessons and Carols service, as well as our Christmas themed Noon at Met concert with Dr. Patricia Wright, organ, and singers, on our [YouTube channel](#). Subscribe and stay up to date with the Choir, children and youth programming and more.

## 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).

## 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."

## GIFTS OF SECURITIES — FROM YOU TO METROPOLITAN

A number from our congregation support Met through gifts of securities. Easy to arrange and a way of supporting Metropolitan other than from your annual income, you will receive a charitable donation receipt for the full value of the shares AND pay no capital gains tax on any securities given. For info, please call Doug Flanders at (416) 769-2746 or email [dougflanders@sympatico.ca](mailto:dougflanders@sympatico.ca). *A legacy. It's ours to leave.*

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## DIRECTORY

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## 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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