

# Welcome to Metropolitan United Church



## Candlelight Christmas Eve December 24, 2021

*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     *Noel Grands Jeux et Duo*  
                          *Offertoire sur Deux Noël's*  
                          *Prelude on "Quem Pastores"*  
                          *From Heaven on High*

L. C. D'Aquin  
A. Guilmant  
Healey Willan  
Johann Pachelbel

## WELCOME

## CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

One: The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who have lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

## INTROIT *Quem Pastores*

15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> c. Carol

Shepherds left their flocks a-straying, God's command with joy obeying, when they heard the angels saying, "Christ is born in Bethlehem." Let us now in every nation sing his praise with exultation. All the world shall find salvation in the birth of Mary's son.

Soloists: Gisele Kulak, Veronika Anissimova, Valeria Kondrashov, Michelle Simmons

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

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

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

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;

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

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

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

## INVITATION TO PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

One: On this silent night

**All: We ponder your mystery with Mary and Joseph.**

One: On this holy night,

**All: We come with the shepherds to worship.**

One: On this night of joy for the world,

**All: We sing praises with choirs of angels.**

One: In the darkness of this night,

**All: We celebrate the Light of the World.**

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us pray.

## SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

### KYRIE ELEISON

P. Wright

God, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, God, have mercy.

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### ACT OF PRAISE (ALL)

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!"

**READINGS**      Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96

**ANTHEM**          *In the Bleak Mid-Winter*

Harold Darke

Gisele Kulak, soprano; Charles Davidson, tenor

**GOSPEL READING**      Luke 2:1-20

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

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

**HYMN #67**      *Silent Night*

Stille Nacht

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,  
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

**SERMON**            ***“Lullaby of Light and Dark”***

**The Rev. Jason Meyers**

**ANTHEM** *Christ was Born on Christmas Day*

David Willcocks

**ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OUR COMMON LIFE**

**OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *On Christmas Night*

R. Vaughan Williams

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE #48**

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.”

**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)

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT**

P. Wright

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

**CONSECRATION**

**AGNUS DEI**

P. Wright

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us; Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us. Jesus, Redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

**SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

### 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 #59 *Joy to the World*

Antioch

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns: let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground:  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the earth with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

## COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

### ORGAN POSTLUDE AND CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

Johann Pachelbel

LEADING IN WORSHIP are **The Rev. Jason Meyers** and **The Rev. Mark Aitchison**. Reading the lessons is **Dr. Linn Holness**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, and singers Gisele Kulak, Veronika Anissimova, Valeria Kondrashov, Michelle Simmons, Charles Davidson, Benjamin Stein, Martin Gomes, and John Schneider.

**Saturday, December 25  
Christmas Day**

**11:00 a.m.** Christmas Day Service Rev. Mark Aitchison, preaching

**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 - Second 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.*

[Sign up](#) for the Met Connect weekly newsletter

[YouTube](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

## 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!

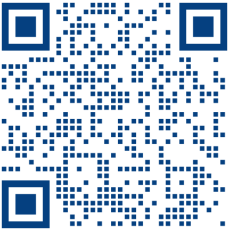
## CHRISTMAS SERVICES & CONCERTS

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.*

## **DIRECTORY**

Chair of the Official Board: Kenneth Younie ([boardchair@metunited.ca](mailto:boardchair@metunited.ca))  
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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))  
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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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