

# WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH



Photo by Travis Colbert on Unsplash

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT March 13, 2022

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, and keep appropriately distanced from your pew neighbours. You are invited to hum or sing softly.

♪ indicates “*please stand as you are able.*”

### ORDER OF SERVICE

#### CARILLON PRELUDE (OUTSIDE-10:30 A.M.)

#### ORGAN PRELUDE

*Grave and Adagio from Sonata II in C minor*

*By the Waters of Babylon*

“Andantino Cantabile” from *Violin Sonata KV 306*

Dr. Jennifer Martyn, violin

Felix Mendelssohn

J. S. Bach

W. A. Mozart

#### WELCOME

♪PROCESSIONAL HYMN #634 *To Abraham and Sarah*

Thornbury

#### ♪INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: In this season of Lent, we make our way to the cross.

**All: We remember the steps that led Christ there:  
betrayal and fear, but also trust in God, and love for humanity.**

One: In this season of Lent, as we make our way to the cross,  
we strive to follow Christ’s example: to admit betrayal and fear that are part of life,

**All: To embrace trust in God and love for humanity.**

One: So we may make our journey as we worship God.

The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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

#### PRAYER OF APPROACH

#### LENTEN CONFESSION

*(Lent is a season of lament preparing the heart for new growth. Each week we share in this prayer of confession.)*

One: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness, to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, the life of the world.

**All: May God forgive you, Christ renew you and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

One: Amen.

**All: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness, to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, the life of the world.**

One: May God forgive you, Christ renew you and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

**All: Amen.**

## **SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER**

## **TENEBRAE WORDS OF LAMENT**

One: As followers of Jesus, we are led by the Spirit in the wilderness of our days.  
As we extinguish this candle, we lament the spread of hate-motivated messages online  
and in our streets, and commit ourselves afresh to Jesus' call to "love your neighbour."

## **RESPONSE *More Voices #90 Don't Be Afraid***

John Bell, Iona Community

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear.

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised, promised to be always near.

## **READINGS**

### **Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

God seals the covenant with Abram and Sarai.

### **Psalms 27**

God is my light and my salvation.

## **ANTHEM *I Waited For the Lord***

Felix Mendelssohn

Gisele Kulak and Kirsten Fielding, sopranos

## **GOSPEL READING **Luke 13:31–35****

Jesus cries over Jerusalem as a hen over her chicks.

One: This is a witness of the good news of Jesus Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **HYMN #329 *Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns Be Raising***

Welwyn

## **SERMON**

***"Christ Before Me"***

The Rev. Jason Meyers

## **ANTHEM**

*Awake, Timid Soul (world premiere)*

Patrick Murray

Text by Patricia Orr

## **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. *(please greet each other with a bow)*

## **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**

**HANDBELL OFFERTORY**    *Abide With Me*

arr. William E. Moats

**OFFERTORY HYMN #518 v. 4**

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**

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.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN #317-318** / *Bind Unto Myself*

St. Patrick's Breastplate

Verses 1-4 of #317 then #318 - verses 1,2 then #317 verse 5

## COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

### BLESSING #429 (*All - 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 *Fugue from Sonata II in C minor*

Felix Mendelssohn



Leading in worship are **The Rev. Jason Meyers** and **The Rev. Mark Aitchison**. Reading the lessons is **Amanda O'Halloran**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Joshua Duncan Lee**, members of the **Metropolitan Choir**, the **Metropolitan Handbells**, **Dr. Jennifer Martyn**, violin, and Carillonneur **Roy Lee**. Our sound and livestream technicians are **Paya Dehghani**, **Puvi Kanagalingam** and **Charles Davidson**. Metropolitan's livestreaming equipment was made possible thanks to the generosity of **Wayne C. Vance**.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

### TODAY

- 12:15 p.m. après Church - *PIE Day Topic: Why is it important to you to be part of an affirming congregation?*
- 1:30 p.m. Outreach Meeting
- 1:30 p.m. The Big Questions Course *Topic: Who are we?*

### MONDAY, MARCH 14

- 8:00 a.m. Weekday Lenten Office
- 7:00 p.m. PIE Day Gathering
- 8:00 p.m. Centring Prayer

### TUESDAY, MARCH 15

- 8:00 a.m. Weekday Lenten Office
- 6:30 p.m. Official Board
- 7:00 p.m. Metropolitan Silver Band

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

- 8:00 a.m. Weekday Lenten Office
- 12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study
- 1:30 p.m. Met Care
- 7:00 p.m. Service of Lament and Healing (in-person only)

## **THURSDAY, MARCH 17**

- 8:00 a.m. Weekday Lenten Office
- 8:30 a.m. Breakfast Bible Study
- 9:00 a.m. Footcare Clinic
- 12:00 p.m. Winter Community Meal Program
- 6:00 p.m. Kids Bedtime Story with Alana
- 6:00 p.m. Peace and Social Justice
- 6:30 p.m. Metropolitan Handbells
- 7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Choir
- 8:00 p.m. Evening Communion

## **FRIDAY, MARCH 18**

- 8:00 a.m. Weekday Lenten Office
- 10:00 a.m. Art and Computer Lab

## **SATURDAY, MARCH 19**

- 8:30 a.m. Saturday Bible Study

## **NEXT SUNDAY: March 20 - Third Sunday in Lent**

- 10:30 a.m. Zoom Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Rev. Jason Meyers, preaching. Readings: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; Luke 13:1-9
- 12:30 p.m. Taddle Creek in the Park
- 1:30 p.m. The Big Questions Course (Zoom)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PIE DAY GATHERING**

The Affirm Committee is hosting an Affirming/PIE Day viewing of the Simpsons episode *Portrait of a Lackey on Fire*, in which the character Smithers gets a boyfriend. There will be a discussion afterward. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own pie! Monday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m. - link in Met Connect.

### **SERVICE OF LAMENT AND HEALING**

Marking two years since the start of the pandemic, this in-person only service Wednesday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m. will offer us opportunities to name, light a candle, and offer a short reflection for a person or experience we may have lost during COVID. If you would like to participate in this way, please contact Rev. Jason Meyers.

### **TADDLE CREEK WILD CHURCH**

Join us for this family-friendly gathering in front of the church on Sunday, March 20 at 12:30 p.m. We will fire up our “Holy BBQ,” ground ourselves with prayer and scripture, and do some intentional wandering to search for signs of renewal within creation and within ourselves.

## **GOOD FRIDAY CONCERT: APRIL 15 AT 7:30 P.M.**

Tickets are now on sale at [metunited.ca/music](http://metunited.ca/music) for *Behold, He Carried Our Sorrows: Bach & Buxtehude for Good Friday*. Both livestream (individual or household) and in-person tickets are available. Our annual concert features the Metropolitan Festival Choir, soloists and orchestra, conducted by Dr. Patricia Wright.

## **NEXT FRIDAY NOON AT MET**

Friday March 25, University of Toronto DMA student Stefani Bedin presents J.S. Bach, Herbert Howells and more. Attend in-person or view the livestream at [metunited.ca/live](http://metunited.ca/live).

## **WEEKDAY LENTEN OFFICE**

Begin the day in prayer and community with a scripture reading, short reflection and prayer. On Zoom from 8:00-8:15 a.m. Monday through Friday (Zoom link on site and in Met Connect).

## **CENTRING PRAYER**

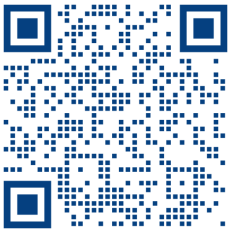
Christian meditation on Monday evenings in Lent, led by former Jesuit priest Tchawbaw Cabafi and Rev. Meyers (Zoom link on site and in Met Connect).

## **PASTORAL CARE**

If you would like a pastoral phone call, you can contact Rev. Jason Meyers at [jasonm@metunited.ca](mailto:jasonm@metunited.ca) or by phone at 416-363-0331 ext. 224.

## **WAYS TO GIVE**

Financial gifts enable our many ministries to grow and thrive. Weekly offering envelopes. Monthly bank or credit card deductions. Post-dated cheques. Gifts of securities. Electronic giving. We are happy to enable a way of giving that suits your needs. Please contact Elena in our church office and thank you for your support.



## **CONTINUED GIVING**

Scan the code to the left to be directed to our giving page. You can continue to mail in envelopes and/or cheques to the church, or arrange a pre-authorized remittance for regular giving (PAR) from your bank account, or credit card - forms at [metunited.ca/donate](http://metunited.ca/donate). Please contact Elena Pejcinovska, Financial Manager at [elenap@metunited.ca](mailto:elenap@metunited.ca) or 416-363-0331 ext. 229 with any questions.

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## DIRECTORY

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## Community Outreach Ministry

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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

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