

WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH



The Farm - Toronto Islands by Randolph Croft | © Creative Commons

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | RURAL LIFE SUNDAY **May 22, 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.)

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE

Praeludium in E Minor

N. Bruhns

Three Short Hymn Settings: Lord of the Dance, Fairest Lord Jesus

G. Bales

WELCOME

♪PROCESSIONAL HYMN #291 *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Royal Oak

♪INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: The God of love plants the seeds of compassion within us,

All: watching with joy as they sprout in our lives.

One: The Christ of God's heart walks among us,

All: calling us to tend to the needy and offer hope to all.

One: In the rhythms of nature, the Spirit is at work around us,

All: nurturing us to bring forth crops of justice and peace.

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

KYRIE (ALL) #69 *More Voices*

Kervin

Kyrie eleison (God, have mercy)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

♪ACT OF PRAISE (All) #59 *More Voices*

Yoruba song (Nigeria)

Alleluia, praise to God (twice); Praises, high praises we bring you, O God.

Alleluia praise to God.

Songs of joy sing out to God. (twice) Dancing and singing, we praise you, O God.

Songs of joy sing out to God.

Beat the drums, sing out to God. (twice) Praises, high praises, we bring you, O God.

Beat the drums, sing out to God.

READING

Genesis 1:1-2:3 (translation by John Philip Newell)

The first creation story.

ANTHEM *There is a Stream*

R. Delong

There is a stream, which issues forth from God's eternal throne. And from the Lamb, a living stream, clear as the crystal stone. The stream doth water Paradise, it makes the angels sing. One cordial drop revives my heart; Hence all my joys do spring. Eye hath not seen, nor ear hath heard. From fancy 'tis concealed: what Thou, Lord, hast laid up for Thine, and hast to me revealed.

GOSPEL READING **Mark 4:1-9**

The parable of the seed sower.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN #300 (tune #2) *God, Whose Firm is All Creation*

Stuttgart

SERMON

"The Good Seed"

The Rev. Jason Meyers

ANTHEM *How Can I Keep From Singing*

R. Lowry, arr. R. Staheli

My life flows on, in endless song, above earth's lamentation; I hear the sweet, tho' far-off hymn
That hails a new creation; Thro' all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing; It sounds an echo in my soul - How can I keep from singing? When tyrants tremble, sick with fear, and hear their death knell ringing, When friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing? In prison cell and dungeon vile
Our thoughts to them are winging. When friends by shame are undefiled, How can I keep from singing? What if my joys and comforts die? I know that truth is living, What though the darkness round me close, Still truth its light is giving. No storm can shake my inmost calm, While to that rock I'm clinging. Since love is lord of Heaven and earth, How can I keep from singing? I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin, I see the blue above it. And day by day this pathway smooths, Since first I learned to love it, The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, A fountain ever springing; All things are mine since truth I've found - How can I keep from singing?

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

OFFERTORY SOLO *Now the Spring Has Come Again*
Michelle Simmons, Nicholas Higgs

Piae Cantiones (1582)/S. Wilson

Now the spring has come again, joy and warmth will follow. Cold and wet are quite forgot, northward flies the swallow... All the woods are now in leaf, all the fruit is budding. Bees are humming round the hive, done with winter's brooding... God is in the midst of her. God commands her duty. Earth does but reflect your light, mirrors back your beauty... We but poorest patterns are of that Mind beyond compare, God our great Creator.

FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY ("*Lasst uns erfreuen*", Hymn #217)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia Alleluia
Give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One. Alleluia ...

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 (choral response from *More Voices #151 - Your Will Be Done*)

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.

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 *Trumpet Tune*

A. Carter



Leading in worship are **The Rev. Jason Meyers**. Reading the lesson is **Susan Girvan**. The ministry of music is offered by interim Music Director **Benjamin Stein**, Organist **Michael Oldaker**, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Joshua Duncan Lee**, members of the **Metropolitan Choir**, and carillonneur **Roy Lee**. Our sound and livestream technicians are **Paya Dehghani**, **Alastair McDonald** and **Charles Davidson**. Metropolitan's livestreaming equipment was made possible thanks to the generosity of **Wayne C. Vance**.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

TODAY

1:00 p.m. Taddle Creek at Riverdale Farm (meet at front entrance)

MONDAY, MAY 23 - Victoria Day (Church closed)

8:00 p.m. Centring Prayer

TUESDAY, MAY 24

6:00 p.m. Visual and Creative Arts

7:00 p.m. Metropolitan Silver Band

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study

THURSDAY, MAY 26

8:30 a.m. Breakfast Bible Study

9:00 a.m. Footcare Clinic

12:00 p.m. Summer Community Meal Program

6:30 p.m. Metropolitan Handbells

7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Choir

8:00 p.m. Evening Communion

FRIDAY, MAY 27

10:00 a.m. Art and Computer Lab

6:30 p.m. Family, Faith & Fun Night

SATURDAY, MAY 28

8:30 a.m. Saturday Bible Study

NEXT SUNDAY: May 29 - Ascension of the Lord

10:30 a.m. Zoom Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship - The Rev. Mark Aitchison preaching

Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

12:15 p.m. après Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WILD CHURCH TODAY AT RIVERDALE FARM

This month's Taddle Creek Wild Church service will take place at Riverdale Farm (201 Winchester Street) today at 1:00 p.m. The farm features flower, vegetable and herb gardens, as well as wooded areas and ponds connected to the city's rich ravine system - a perfect place to encounter the bounty of creation right in the heart of Toronto. We will walk/drive/transit from the church after the service and meet at the front entrance. You may want to bring a lunch.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Metropolitan's Annual General meeting will be held on Sunday, June 5 at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom. Links to financial statements and other materials can be found in Met Connect. Information about connections will be published next week. All members and adherents are welcome.

PODIUM FESTIVAL THIS WEEKEND

Met hosts three concerts over the holiday weekend as part of the national event, PODIUM Choral Festival. The diverse lineup features childrens' choirs, Indigenous voices, gospel and spiritual music, new Canadian works, and world premieres. Info at podium2022.ca

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC: CELEBRATING DR. PATRICIA WRIGHT

Sunday, June 12 after worship is a celebration featuring our various musical groups and special guests, celebrating Dr. Wright's 36 years of ministry with Met. Stay tuned for more details!

WEEKLY PROGRAMS AT MET

Centring Prayer

Monday evening at 8:00 p.m., thirty minutes of silent meditation to open ourselves to the presence of God.

Zoom Bible Study

Wednesdays at noon, a weekly discussion of the coming Sunday's scripture passages, led by Rev. Jason Meyers.

Breakfast Bible Study

Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. we break open the word with Rev. Mark Aitchison.

Evening Communion

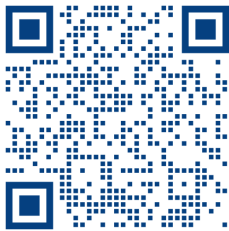
Thursdays at 8:00 p.m., a short service of word and table.

Saturday Bible Study

Saturdays at 8:30 a.m., led by Christopher Hoover and Jay Wagner. Open at 8:00 a.m. for social time.

PASTORAL CARE

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



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. Please contact Elena Pejcinovska, Financial Manager at elenap@metunited.ca or 416-363-0331 ext. 229 with any questions.

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DIRECTORY

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Minister of Music Emerita: Dr. Patricia Wright

Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair

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Outreach and Community Service Coordinator: Stephanie Cunti, ext. 241 (stephaniec@metunited.ca)

Ministry of Music

Interim Music Director: Benjamin Stein

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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