

WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 4, 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.

NOTES FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Masks are recommended when in the church building. ♪ indicates “please stand as you are able.”

ORDER OF SERVICE

CARILLON PRELUDE (*Guest Carillonist Minako Uchino; outside, ending with:*)

Fugue

Matthias Vanden Gheyn, 1721-1785

PRELUDE (*played by the Metropolitan Silver Band, dir. Fran Harvey*)

The Message of Christmas

Christmas Fantasy

William Himes

Gordon Langford

WORDS OF WELCOME

♪ **PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 20** *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

WINCHESTER NEW
descant by Hal Hopson

♪ INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: A shoot soon comes from Jesse's stump,
And a branch shall spring from roots

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children.
Let all the people give God praise.

One: A leader soon comes who will lift the poor
With righteousness around his waist.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children.
Let all the people give God praise.

One: A child soon comes from an innocent place
With wisdom and might he will lead the way.

All: Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children.
Let all the people give God praise.

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 (*Congregation and choir*) **More Voices 69**

Lord, have mercy.

William S. Kervin

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - DRAW NEAR TO PEACE

Malcolm and Elspeth Sinclair

One: I feel peace in the moments we share:

In moments when we hold hands around the table of grace,

or when we see friends laughing at shared memories;

when we baptise babies, welcome the new ones, or hear the choir sing a heart-song;

In moments when we hear God say again in scripture,

“One day every valley will be lifted up,” and, “Darkness did not overcome the light.”

Two: In such a storm-broken world, peace can feel abstract, impossible, and naive.

And yet, we come into this safe harbour week after week and say,

“The peace of Christ be with you,”

because we believe that God sounds, feels, and looks like peace.

All: So as a family of God, we light this candle—the candle of peace—

as a reminder that when we draw near to God, we are drawing near to peace.

One: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SUNG ADVENT RESPONSE (All): 6 v.2 *A Candle is Burning*

AWAY IN A MANGER

A candle is burning, a candle of peace,

A candle of signal that conflict must cease:

For Jesus is coming to show us the way;

A message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Statement of Purpose

Presentation of Candidates

Gunn Wongsuwan

One: On behalf of the congregation, I present the following persons whom we welcome into full membership of this community of faith:

New members by Transfer: Rose Scobie, Dan Stapleton

New members by Profession of Faith: Emmanuel Bananuilye, Bob Byakuleka,

James Mujuni, Taylor Torreon

Member previously approved by Official Board: Karen Efron

Commitment of Candidates

♪Congregational Commitment

One: Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge our support and care for these new members.

All: As your brothers, sisters and siblings in Christ, we rejoice in the gifts you bring to our community. We pledge our love and our support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church.

♪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*)

Blessing and Welcome

Sung Response: More Voices 85 *Take, O Take Me As I Am*

READINGS

Isaiah 11:1–10

The peaceable reign of God.

Romans 15:4–13

The root of Jesse and hope of Gentiles.

ANTHEM *This is the record of John*
Michelle Simmons, alto

Orlando Gibbons, 1583-1625

GOSPEL READING **Matthew 3:1–12**

John the Baptist preaches.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

LIGHTING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LANTERN

HYMN: 18 *There's a Voice in the Wilderness*

BANCROFT

SERMON **"The Safe Harbour"**

The Rev. Jason Meyers

ANTHEM *O splendidissima gemma*

Hildegard von Bingen, 1098-1179

O most splendid gem, this fair grace like the sun which pours through you, is as a spring leaping from the Father's heart, For this is His only Word, and from this the prime matter of the world was created, which Eve disturbed. So the Word was fashioned, by the Father, into human form, And therefore you are that one shining matter, whereby the Word exhales all virtues, drawing out all creatures from prime matter.

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*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OFFERING

BAND OFFERTORY

Infant Holy

traditional, arr. A. Cook

OFFERTORY HYMN 20, v.5 *On Jordan's Bank*

WINCHESTER NEW

All praise to you, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won;
And praise to God whom we adore,
With Holy Spirit evermore.

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: 333 *Love Divine, all Loves Excelling*

HYFRYDOL

descant by John Scott

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.

BAND POSTLUDE

Part 3, from *Christmas Triptych*

James Curnow

Please join us outside after the service for the dedication of the Tower Window.



Leading in worship are **The Rev. Mark Aitchison, The Rev. Jason Meyers, Jim Harbell** and **Alana Martin**. Reading the lessons is **Bill Martyn**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm**, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Joshua Duncan Lee**, the **Metropolitan Choir**, and the **Metropolitan Silver Band**, directed by **Fran Harvey**. Our sound and livestream technicians are **Paya Dehghani, Nishaanth Siva** and **Alastair McDonald**. Metropolitan's livestreaming equipment was made possible thanks to the generosity of **Wayne C. Vance**. The candle lighting liturgy has been adapted from *A Sanctified Art*.

MUSIC NOTES

- **Orlando Gibbons** is one of the last of the great English Virginalists, in the lineage of William Byrd, John Bull, Peter Philips and others. His vocal music represents a high point of the English Madrigal School, with its elegantly tasteful, yet emotionally compelling text-setting tradition. ***This is the Record of John*** is a characteristically English genre, the verse anthem scored originally for viol consort and voices, in which the story is told in alternation by a soloist (the “verses”) and the full choir (the “refrains”). The work is not without humour, e.g. the only written-out ornament in the piece occurs at the words “...and said plainly: I-I-I-I am not the Christ!”
- **Hildegard of Bingen** was a Benedictine abbess, founder of two monasteries, mystic, poet, playwright, composer, and prolific author on botany, philosophy, theology and medicine. Throughout her life she experienced visions and intense pain, which modern medicine has often interpreted to have been migraines. However, Hildegard saw these as Divine revelations, and chronicled 26 of her visions in a monumental three-volume work, the *Scivias* (1142-1151). Hildegard's music is monophonic, i.e. it consists of a solo melodic line. However, it is probable that drones and organum (parallel intervals of a fourth or fifth) were improvised in performance. Her person and works have found wide popular cultural resonance in the past few decades, among feminists, New Age thinkers, musicologists, theologians and many others.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

**Zoom links in Met Connect and at metunited.ca*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

8:00 p.m. Centring Prayer*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

5:00 p.m. Affirm Committee

6:00 p.m. Trustees

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study*

7:00 p.m. Congregational Care

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

8:00 a.m. Chop Chop

8:30 a.m. Breakfast Bible Study*

10:30 a.m. Pre-Board

12:00 p.m. Footcare Clinic

6:30 p.m. Stewardship

6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir

7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Choir

8:00 p.m. Evening Communion*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

9:00 a.m. Footcare Clinic

9:30 a.m. Winter Breakfast Program

12:00 p.m. Art and Computer Lab

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

8:30 a.m. Saturday Bible Study*

10:00 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal

NEXT SUNDAY: DECEMBER 11 - Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Choristers

10:00 a.m. Library Open (re-opens after service)

10:00 a.m. Pageant

10:30 a.m. Nursery

11:00 a.m. Worship - The Christmas Pageant

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOON AT MET RESUMES FEBRUARY 3

Our Autumn Noon at Met series concluded on November 24, but can still be enjoyed online on our Metropolitan United YouTube channel! We will resume on February 3, 2023 with soprano Hannah Crawford, winner of the 2022 Canadian Opera Company Centre Stage Competition.

TOWER WINDOW DEDICATION & FESTIVE LUNCH

Immediately following service we'll dedicate our new window in honour of Minister Emeritus The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair. A festive boxed lunch will then be served. You're invited to bring along any Christmas baking to be served with coffee and tea after the meal.

DECK THE HALLS! CAROL SING AT 1:00 PM

The Met Silver Band, organ, and guest vocalist present carols and more shortly after 1:00 p.m. Carillonneur Roy Lee will also serenade us from the belltower following the window dedication.

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

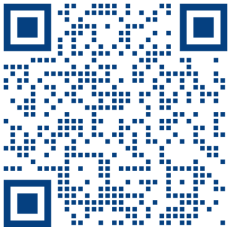
A wonderful tradition continues with Christmas stockings to be distributed at the Winter Meal Program on December 23, filled with practical items, gifts and goodies. A donation of \$25 per stocking makes a great gift on another's behalf! An order form was sent in Met Connect, but you can also pick one up in the Narthex.

WINTER WOOLLIES

At the December 11 service we'll be collecting warm winter items such as toques, mitts, scarves, socks, and underwear to be given out during the cold months at the Winter Meal Program and by the Community Services team. New items only please! If you won't be at the service on December 11 but would still like to contribute, please get in touch with Stephanie to coordinate delivery.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT METROPOLITAN

There is an updated insert available in the Narthex. Visit metunited.ca/drawnear for full details on the Advent and Christmas season.



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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