

WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 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 (outside, ending with:)

Magnificat in C

Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958, arr. Roy Lee

ORGAN PRELUDE

Excerpts from *15 Pieces Founded on Antiphons*, op. 18

Marcel Dupré, 1886-1971

WORDS OF WELCOME

♪ **PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 36** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

REGENT SQUARE

♪ INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: A love that never ceases,

All: A creativity that designed the universe,

One: A hope that cannot be quenched,

All: A pursuit of reconciliation no matter the cost:

One: These are the things that are of God.

All: Then let us gather together for worship and witness.

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**

William S. Kervin

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy).

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - DRAW NEAR TO LOVE

Andrew Aitchison, Preston MacNeil, Presley Aitchison-MacNeil

One: I used to think love was a feeling.

Two: That was before I knew that love is a fire unquenchable and bright.

Three: That was before I knew that love is a song etching its melody into my memory.

One: I used to think that love was something I had to find.

Two: That was before I knew that love is that which breathes us into beginning.

Three: That was before I knew that love had already found me, never letting me go.

**All: Today we light the candle of love as a reminder
that it is from love that we are made.**

One: We were made from love

Two: to be love,

Three: and to give love. Amen.

SUNG ADVENT RESPONSE (All): 6 v.4 *A Candle is Burning*

AWAY IN A MANGER

A candle is burning, a candle of love,

A candle to point us to heaven above.

A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,

For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

Isaiah gives the sign of Immanuel.

PSALM PARAPHRASE: 59 *Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

ANTHEM Ave Maria

Nathaniel Dett, 1882-1943

Nicholas Higgs, baritone

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

GOSPEL READING **Matthew 1:18-25**

Joseph's dream.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

LIGHTING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LANTERN

HYMN: The Hands that Once Held Mary's Child

FOREST GREEN

The hands that first held Ma - ry's child were hard from wor - king wood,
 When Jo - seph mar - veled at the size of that small breath - ing frame,
 "This Child shall be Em - ma - nu - el, not God up - on the throne,
 The tools which Jo - seph laid a - side a mob would la - ter lift

from boards they sawed and planed and filed, and splin - ters they with - stood.
 and gazed up - on those bright new eyes, and spoke the In - fant's name,
 but God with us, Em - ma - nu - el, as close as blood and bone."
 and use with an - ger, fear and pride to cru - ci - fy God's gift.

This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no i - ron nail,
 the an - gel's words he once had dreamed poured down from hea - ven's height,
 The ti - ny form in Jo - seph's palms con - firmed what he had heard,
 Let us, O Lord, not on - ly hold the Child who's born to - day,

but cra - dled from the head to heel our Lord, new - born and frail.
 and, like the host of stars that beamed, blest earth with wel - come light.
 and from his heart rose hymns and psalms for hea - ven's hu - man Word.
 but, charged with faith, may we be bold to fol - low in his way.

SERMON "When the Moment of Crisis Comes"

The Rev. Mark Aitchison

ANTHEM *Magnificat in C, op. 115*

Charles Villiers Stanford, 1852-1924

The text from Luke 1: 46-55.

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 *Rejoice greatly, from Messiah*

Georg Frideric Handel, 1685-1759

Veronika Anissimova, soprano

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: 38 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

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

Carillon de Westminster, op. 53 no. 6

Louis Vierne, 1870-1937



Leading in worship are **The Rev. Mark Aitchison, The Rev. Jason Meyers, Jim Harbell** and **Amy McClelland**. Reading the lessons is **Stephanie Parkin**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm**, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Joshua Duncan Lee**, and the **Metropolitan Choir**. Our sound and livestream technicians are **Paya Dehghani** and **Nishaanth Siva**. Metropolitan's livestreaming equipment was made possible thanks to the generosity of **Wayne C. Vance**.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

8:00 p.m. Centring Prayer*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study*
5:00 p.m. Blue Christmas (in-person only)
7:00 p.m. Met Care

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

8:30 a.m. Breakfast Bible Study*
12:00 p.m. Footcare Clinic
7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Choir
8:00 p.m. Evening Communion*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

9:00 a.m. Footcare Clinic

9:30 a.m. Winter Breakfast Program

1:00 p.m. Funeral Service: Elizabeth Armstrong

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 - Christmas Eve

8:30 a.m. Saturday Bible Study*

5:30 p.m. Family Christmas Eve service (in-person only)

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve with Communion

NEXT SUNDAY: DECEMBER 25 - Christmas Day

11:00 a.m. Worship - A Folktale Christmas / Reading: Luke 2:1-20

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WILD CHURCH PILGRIMAGE TODAY AT 2:00 P.M.

In our final Wild Church service of the year, we go on pilgrimage to the newly created natural area at the Corktown Common - with a stop for hot chocolate in the Distillery District afterwards! Meet at the corner of Bayview Ave. and Lawren Harris Square. Contact Rev. Meyers for more information.

CANDLELIGHT LESSONS & CAROLS TONIGHT AT 7:00 P.M.

Seasonal choral classics sung by the Metropolitan Choir, with selections by the Met Choristers (our children's choir), Metropolitan Handbells, and Great Heart youth ensemble, solos on Canada's largest pipe organ, and lots of congregational carol singing. Carillon prelude played by Roy Lee beginning at 6:30 p.m.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Visit metunited.ca/drawnear for details on our two Christmas Eve services (5:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.) and *A Folktale Christmas* on December 25 at 11:00 a.m. You can also pick up an insert as you exit the sanctuary.



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 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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