

WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH



CANDLELIGHT LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

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 WORSHIP

♪ Indicates a congregational response. Please stand as you are able.
The pew-end candle holders are fragile – please do not touch them.

CARILLON PRELUDE (6:30 p.m. outside)

Roy Lee, Carillonneur

ORGAN PRELUDE: *Canonic Variations on Vom Himmel hoch*, BWV 769 J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 1 (please remain seated) *VENI EMMANUEL*, arr. Paul Leddington Wright

Choir only: O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel;
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Lower voices: O come, O Wisdom from on high, Who orders all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

Upper voices: O come, O come, great God of might, Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law In cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

Lower voices: O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem, From every foe deliver them
That trust your mighty power to save, And give them victory o'er the grave. *Refrain*

Upper voices: O come, O Key of David, come, And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. *Refrain*

All: O come, O Dayspring, from on high, And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

O come, Desire of nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our sad divisions cease, And be for us the Prince of Peace. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Let us pray. (*all seated*)

One: O God, you are your people's everlasting light. The heavens are bright with creativity.
The earth is aglow with welcoming love.

All: Here and there, we lift our own small lights to you, in prayer, and praise and ministry. Here and everywhere, you kindle a flame in us. You open the way and lead us home. You are your people's everlasting light. Amen.

CHOIR: *O splendidissima gemma*

Hildegard von Bingen, 1098-1179

O most radiant jewel and tranquil glory of the sun, which was poured onto, you a leaping spring from the heart of the Father, which is his only word through which he created the first matter of the world, which Eve threw into disorder. This word framed out, for you, Father, a man, and for this reason you are that shining matter through which the very Word breathes out all the virtues, as it brings out all creatures in the first matter.

LESSON: Genesis 3: 8–15; 17–19

Jeff Laitar, Chair of the Property Committee

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

CHOIR: *E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come*

Paul Manz, 1919-2009

LESSON: Genesis 22: 15–18

Joshua Duncan Lee, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

TRIO: *Suscepit Israel, from Magnificat, BWV 243*

J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy.

Gisele Kulak, Veronika Anissimova, sopranos; Michelle Simmons, alto

LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a

Joseph Curry, Chair of the Official Board

The prophet foretells the glory of Bethlehem.

♪CAROL: 64

FOREST GREEN; descant by Thomas Armstrong

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessed gift of heaven.
No ear may hear His coming; but in this world of sin,

Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

LESSON: Isaiah 9: 2; 6–7

Tracy Pratt, Chair of the Music Committee

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

HYMN: 61, vv. 1, 2, 4

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
Christ is Alpha and Omega, Christ the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are and have been, and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.

At His word the worlds were framed. He commanded, it was done:
Heaven and earth and depths of ocean in their threefold order one;
All that grows beneath the shining of the moon and burning sun,
Evermore and evermore.

This is He whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
Now He shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord,
Evermore and evermore.

LESSON: Luke 1: 26–35; 38

James Nixon, President of the Metropolitan Choir

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

CHOIR: 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.

LESSON: Luke 2: 1; 3–7

Dr. Linn Holness, Chair of the Worship Committee

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

CAROL: 67

STILLE NACHT, arr. Stephen Paulus (v. 2) Jonathan Oldengarm, b.1975 (v. 3)

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.

Choir Alone: *Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
 Glories stream from heaven afar,
 Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
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.

LESSON: Luke 2: 8–16

Roy Lee, Metropolitan Carillonneur

The shepherds go to the manger.

CHORISTERS: *A stable lamp is lighted*

David Hurd, b. 1950

conducted by Dr. Jennifer Martyn

HANDBELLS: *I wonder as I wander
 Carol of the Bells*

Appalachian folk tune; arr. Cathy Mocklebust
M. Leontovich, 1877-1921; arr. Cathy Mocklebust

LESSON: Matthew 2: 1–12

Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm, Minister of Music

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

CHOIR: *No small wonder*

Paul Edwards, b. 1955

♪ **CAROL: 48** Hark! the herald angels sing

MENDELSSOHN; arr. David Willcocks

OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

GREAT HEART: *Above the Treeline*

Jean Siberry

♪ **OFFERTORY CAROL: 55, vv. 1, 4**

CRANHAM

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him – give my heart.

LESSON: John 1: 1–14

The Rev. Jason Meyers

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

CHOIR: *O Magnum Mysterium*

Tomás Luis de Victoria, c1548-1611

O great mystery and wondrous sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in their manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

PRAYER

RECESSIONAL CAROL: 60, vv. 1, 2, 3, 5

ADESTE FIDELES, arr. David Willcocks

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:

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:

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:

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesu, to Thee be glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION (please be seated)

CHORAL RESPONSE: *Hodie Christus natus est*

Antiphon at Vespers on Christmas Day

Today Christ is born: Today the Saviour appears:

Today on earth Angels sing, the Archangels rejoice:

Today the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace and good will to all: Alleluia.

POSTLUDE: Noël Suisse

Louis-Claude Daquin, 1694-1772

Leading in worship are The Rev. Jason Meyers, Minister of Worship and Faith Formation; The Rev. Mark Aitchison, Supply Minister; Jim Harbell, Minister of Congregational Care and Outreach (SME); Frank Cormier, Property Manager; Joshua Duncan Lee, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar; Joseph Curry, Chair of the Official Board; Tracy Pratt, Chair of the Music Committee; James Nixon, President of the Metropolitan Choir; Dr. Linn Holness, Chair of the Worship Committee; Roy Lee, Carillonneur; Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm, Minister of Music.

The music is led by the Metropolitan Choir and Handbells conducted by Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm, the Metropolitan Choristers and KRU Crew conducted by Dr. Jennifer Martyn, and Great Heart conducted by Dr. Benjamin Stein. Carrying the Advent Torch is Ian Mahaffy. 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.

Metropolitan Choir **lead singer: Soprano:* Veronika Anissimova*, Sally Keeley, Gisele Kulak*, Cheryl Lake, Mercy Mandac, Jennifer Martyn, Alice Sellwood, Heather Walsh *Alto:* Janice Andrews, Dorcas Beaton, Valeria Kondrashov*, Amanda O'Halloran, Stephanie Parkin, Lynn Patterson, Michelle Simmons* *Tenor:* Charles Davidson*, Ian Mahaffy, James Nixon, Benjamin Stein* *Bass:* Nicholas Higgs*, Fred Keeley, John Schneider*

Metropolitan Handbells: Janice Andrews, Michael Falardeau, Vicki Harris, Linn Holness, Mary Ellen Jones, Jeff Laitar, Joshua Duncan Lee, Jennifer MacDonald, Rosemary Mok, Jim Nixon, Amanda O'Halloran, Tracy Pratt, Heather Walsh

Metropolitan Choristers and KRU Crew: Megan Joyce, Hermione Martyn, Rachel Miles, and Sarana Miles; Ash Atherley, Danna Finnie, Yoonah Finnie, Mayei Kojo, Lisa Mitchell, Madeline Taylor, Keirsten Taylor, and Ada Wood.

Great Heart: Lexie Landerkin, Leo Landon, Charlotte Mallia, Alastair McDonald

CHRISTMAS AT METROPOLITAN

CHRISTMAS EVE AT 5:30 PM: FAMILY SERVICE

A family-friendly contemporary service with music and activities to involve and engage children.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT 11 PM: CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

Celebrating under candlelight with the full choir and organ. All are welcome at Christ's table for communion.

CHRISTMAS MORNING AT 11 AM: A FOLKTALE CHRISTMAS

A cozy, intimate Christmas service with cider, story-telling and music.

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DIRECTORY

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Director, Great Heart Youth Ensemble: Dr. Benjamin Stein
Conductor, Metropolitan Choristers and Sparklers: Dr. Jennifer Martyn
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Director, Metropolitan Silver Band: Fran Harvey



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