

WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH



CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 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:)

Introit for Christmas Eve

Ronald Barnes, 1927-1997

GREAT HEART PRELUDE (10:30-10:45)

ORGAN PRELUDE (10:45-11:00)

Variations sur *Les Anges dans nos campagnes*

Ernest Grosjean, 1844-1936

The Holy Night

Dudley Buck, 1839-1909

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION:

One: The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who have lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

CHORAL INTROIT *Quem pastores*

14th c. German carol, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

♪PROCESSIONAL CAROL: 60 O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

descant by David Willcocks, 1919-2015

♪INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: The Word became flesh and lived among us,
All: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.
One: Let us rejoice that the Light of the World shines from the manger and the cross.
All: We worship God this holy night,
with joyful hearts and songs of grateful 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 (Choir) from Missa Brevis no. 4

Healey Willan, 1880-1968

Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ, have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE (All): 6 v.5 A Candle is Burning

AWAY IN A MANGER

We honour Messiah with Christcandle's flame,
Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
As God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

READINGS

Isaiah 9:2-7

A child has been born for us.

Luke 2:1-14

Luke's account of the birth of Jesus.

ANTHEM *Carol of the Drum*

Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980

GOSPEL READING **John 1:1-14**

The Word has become flesh.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL: 67 *Silent Night* (v. 2 choir only)

STILLE NACHT

v.2 arr. Stephen Paulus; v.3 descant by Jonathan Oldengarm, b. 1975

SERMON *"Into The Neighbourhood"*

The Rev. Jason Meyers

ANTHEM *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Harold Darke, 1888-1976

Gisele Kulak, soprano; Benjamin Stein, tenor

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OUR SHARED MINISTRY

OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

OFFERTORY *Minuit, Chrétiens !*

Adolphe Adam, 1803-1856

Charles Davidson, tenor

*Midnight, Christians, it is the solemn hour When God as man descended among us
To expunge the stain of original sin And to put an end to the wrath of his father.
The entire world thrills with hope On this night which gives us a saviour.
People, on your knees, wait for your deliverance. Christmas! Here is the Redeemer!*

*The Redeemer has broken all shackles. The earth is free and heaven is open.
He sees a brother were there was once but a slave; Love unites those who restrain the sword.
Who will tell him our gratitude? It is for us all that he was born, that he suffered and died.
People, stand up, sing your deliverance! Christmas! Let us sing the Redeemer!*

OFFERTORY CAROL: 36, v.1 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before him bow, for he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

COMMUNION CAROL: 36, v.3 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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)*

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS (choir only) from Missa Brevis no. 4

Healey Willan

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

AGNUS DEI (choir only) from Missa Brevis no. 4

Healey Willan

Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. (Repeat)
Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.

DISTRIBUTION

The elements are communion whole wheat wafers and organic grape juice. If you would prefer a gluten-free wafer, they are available in a basket at the back of the sanctuary, or from the servers. Please follow the usher's lead and come forward by rows. We will be taking communion by intinction, meaning you will receive a wafer, which you will then dip in the cup. If you wish to remain in your pew, a server will bring the elements to you.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION:

Sigfrid Karg-Elert, 1877-1933

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her, op. 78 no. 20

Rebecca Genge, soprano; Joshua Duncan Lee, violin

From heaven above to earth I come To bear good news to every home;

Glad tidings of great joy I bring Whereof I now will say and sing.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

♫ RECESSIONAL CAROL: 59 *Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

descant by John Rutter, b. 1945

♫ COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BLESSING: (choir alone)

STILL, STILL, STILL

Joy! Joy! Joy! Glad tidings of great joy!

For through God's holy incarnation

Christ is born for our salvation.

Joy! Joy! Joy! Glad tidings of great joy!

POSTLUDE

Finale, from *Symphonie gothique*, op. 70

Charles-Marie Widor, 1844-1937



Leading in worship are **The Rev. Jason Meyers**, **The Rev. Mark Aitchison** and **Jim Harbell**. Reading the lessons is **Dr. Linn Holness**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm**, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Joshua Duncan Lee**, Carillonneur **Roy Lee**, and **Great Heart**, directed by **Dr. Benjamin Stein**. 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**.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Centring Prayer (Zoom): Mondays at 8:00 p.m.

A gentle time of silent prayer to become aware of God's presence in our lives.

Zoom Bible Study: Wednesdays at Noon

A weekly consideration of the scripture passages and attending commentary.

Breakfast Bible Study (Zoom)

Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.

Saturday Bible Study (Zoom)

Saturdays at 8:30 a.m.

Taddle Creek Wild Church

Monthly nature-based service taking place outdoors on Sunday afternoons.

COMING SOON: Celtic Morning Prayer

Starting in January, we will gather on Wednesday mornings on Zoom and in-person in the chapel for a short service of prayer, scripture, song and silence in the Celtic tradition - stay tuned for our start date.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

Church closure notice: December 26, 2022 to January 2, 2023, reopening on January 3, 2023.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:30 a.m. Saturday Bible Study*

NEXT SUNDAY: JANUARY 1, 2023 - FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

11:00 a.m. Worship - Jim Harbell preaching

Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

COMMUNITY NEWS

NOON AT MET RETURNS IN FEBRUARY

Our renowned midday concert series starts up again on Thursdays in February, this time in partnership with the Glenn Gould School of Music, and the Laureat and Musical Oasis series of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music. February's artists include February 2: soprano Hannah Crawford, (prizewinner at the COC Centre Stage competition); February 9: organist Jonathan Oldengarm (works from the H.A. Fricker collection); February 16: organist Joshua Duncan Lee (Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar); February 23: soprano Veronika Anissimova (section lead here at Metropolitan United).

MUSIC AT MET CONCERTS IN THE NEW YEAR

Sunday, February 19 at 3:00 p.m. In the first edition of an exciting new joint venture, the Trinity Bach Project partners with Music at Met to present an Epiphany cantata of J.S. Bach, plus other choral masterpieces in a sacred concert. Prayers, spoken Word and music, presented together on Transfiguration Sunday. Freewill donation requested at the door.

Good Friday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m. The Metropolitan Festival Choir, together with soloists and period-instrument orchestra, present G.F. Handel's monumental *Brockes Passion*. Stay tuned for ticket info and further details.

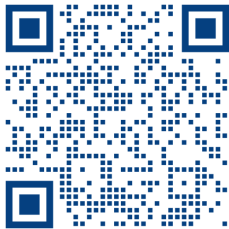
Sunday, April 23 at 3:00 p.m. We will be hosting a Hymn Festival, with massed choirs, brass quintet, and organ – and lots of congregational singing. Bring your friends and family, and sing the great hymns of the faith with joy and vigour! Presented in collaboration with the Hymn Society, the event is also the grand finale of a Music United weekend conference. Freewill donation requested.

METROPOLITAN CHOIR, CHORISTERS AND GREAT HEART

Details regarding fall 2023 Metropolitan (adult) Choir auditions will be forthcoming in the spring. We're also seeking singers and instrumentalists for Choristers (kids' choir) and Great Heart (youth band). These groups meet each Sunday either before or after the service. An excellent educational opportunity, and a lot of fun - all ages are welcome! For more info, contact Dr. Jennifer Martyn, at jennifer.f.martyn@gmail.com (Choristers) or Benjamin Stein at benny@interlog.com (Great Heart).

STOCKINGS THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous donations towards our Third Annual Christmas Stockings campaign. Funds were raised for close to 150 stockings, which were distributed at the Winter Meal Program on December 23.



CONTINUED GIVING

Scan the code 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.

[Sign up](https://metunited.ca) for the Met Connect weekly newsletter at metunited.ca

Connect with us on YouTube, Facebook & Instagram

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Michelle Simmons, Charles Davidson, Benjamin Stein, Nicholas Higgs, John Schneider
Director, Great Heart Youth Ensemble: Benjamin Stein
Conductor, Metropolitan Choristers and Sparklers: Dr. Jennifer Martyn
Carillonneur: Roy Lee
Director, Metropolitan Silver Band: Fran Harvey



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