

WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH



CHRISTMAS DAY: A FOLKTALE CHRISTMAS

December 25, 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.” Please help yourself to refreshments at the back of the sanctuary. There is no nursery or Sunday School today, but there are activity booklets and a quiet play area at the back for children.

ORDER OF SERVICE

CARILLON PRELUDE (outside, ending with:)

Joy to the World

Guest Carillonist: Elisa Tersigni

arranged by Beverly Buchanan

ORGAN PRELUDE

Walking in the air, from *The Snowman*

Pastorella, BWV 590

Howard Blake, arr. Robert Gower

J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

WORDS OF WELCOME

♪ **OPENING CAROL: 48** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

♪ INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: Christmas Day is a time for rejoicing!

All: Arise and shine for our light has come. The time of waiting is over.

One: Amid all that is still wrong in the world,
we proclaim that God comes to us in Jesus.

All: Arise and shine for our light has come. The glory of God is revealed.

One: We gather on this joyful day, to celebrate the mystery of Christ's love
that will never let us go.

**All: Arise and shine for our light has come. The glory of God is revealed.
Our Saviour is born.**

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**

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

William S. Kervin

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

♪ACT OF PRAISE (All): 38

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria... in excelsis Deo!

READING

Luke 2:1-20

The Birth of Jesus

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

All: Thanks be to God.

♪CAROL: 74 *What Child Is This?*

GREENSLEEVES

A CHRISTMAS FOLKTALE - *The Gift of the Magi*

O Henry

ANTHEM

Ding, Dong! Merrily on High

arr. Charles Wood, 1866-1926

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 CAROL (All): *Good King Wenceslas*
(*please remain seated*)

arr. David Willcocks, 1919-2015

Good King Wenceslas look'd out, On the Feast of Stephen;
When the snow lay round about, Deep, and crisp, and even:
Brightly shone the moon that night, Though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight, Gath'ring winter fuel.

Lower voices: "Hither page and stand by me, If thou know'st it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?"

Upper Voices: "Sire, he lives a good league hence. Underneath the mountain;
Right against the forest fence, By Saint Agnes' fountain."

Lower voices: "Bring me flesh, and bring me wine, Bring me pine-logs hither:
Thou and I will see him dine, When we bear them thither."

All: Page and monarch forth they went, Forth they went together;
Through the rude wind's wild lament, And the bitter weather.

Upper Voices: "Sire, the night is darker now, And the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know now how, I can go no longer."

Lower voices: "Mark my footsteps, good my page; Tread thou in them boldly;
Thou shalt find the winter's rage Freeze thy blood less coldly."

All: In his master's steps he trod, Where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod Which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christians all, be sure, Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor, Shall yourselves find blessing.

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.

♫ **CLOSING CAROL: 43** *Go, Tell it on the Mountain*

GO! TELL IT

♫ **COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

♫ **BLESSING: 47 vs. 3** (*quartet only*)

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!*

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Petite Overture, from The Nutcracker

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, 1840-1893
arr. by Frederick Hohman



Leading in worship is **The Rev. Jason Meyers**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm**; a quartet of Met's choral lead singers: **Gisele Kulak, Michelle Simmons, Charles Davidson, and John Schneider**; and Guest Carillonist **Elisa Tersigni**. 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.

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 *Brookes Passion*. Stay tuned for ticket info and further details.

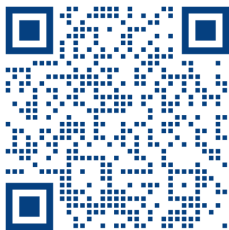
Sunday, April 23 at 3:00 p.m. We will be hosting a Hymn Festival, with massed choirs, brass quintet, and organ – and lots of congregational singing. Bring your friends and family, and sing the great hymns of the faith with joy and vigour! Presented in collaboration with the Hymn Society, the event is 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](#) for the Met Connect weekly newsletter at metunited.ca

Connect with us on YouTube, Facebook & Instagram

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Conductor, Metropolitan Choristers and Sparklers: Dr. Jennifer Martyn
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