

WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH



FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY | BLACK HISTORY MONTH **February 5, 2023**

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 the Mississaugas of the Credit, covered by Treaty 13. 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:*)

Adoration

Florence B. Price, 1887-1953
arranged for carillon by Tiffany Ng

ORGAN PRELUDE

Retrospection

K'A mura, from *Two Preludes on Yoruba Folk Melodies*

Offertory

Florence B. Price
Fela Sowande, 1905-1987
H. Leslie Adams, b. 1932

WORDS OF WELCOME

♪PROCESSIONAL HYMN 716 *My Life Flows On*

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

♪INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: Just as sunrise breaks through the darkness each day,

All: So God's grace, mercy and justice shine forth.

One: We gather, we who are salt of the earth, with faith and expectation.

**All: Trusting that God's prophecy of a new day,
a new Kingdom, is present here.**

One: Let us come and worship, seeking to build a place without discrimination,
affirming that we are loved for who we are.

All: We come, rejoicing, to praise God's holy name.

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*) **Voices United 947**

Paul Merritt

Lord have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

♪ACT OF PRAISE (*All*) **More Voices 59** *Alleluia, Praise to God*

trad. Yoruba Song

Alleluia, praise to God. Praises, high praises, we bring you, O God. Alleluia, praise to God.

Songs of joy sing out to God. Dancing and singing, we praise you, O God. Songs of joy...

Beat the drums, sing out to God. Praises, high praises, we bring you, O God. Beat the drums...

READINGS

Isaiah 58:1-12

"You shall be called the repairer of the breach"

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Proclaiming Christ crucified.

ANTHEM *Presentation of Christ in the Temple*

Johannes Eccard, 1553-1611

GOSPEL READING **Matthew 5:13-20**

Jesus' teachings about salt and light

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

All: Thanks be to God.

LIGHTING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LANTERN

HYMN 708 *My Lord, What a Morning*

BURLEIGH

SERMON **"Prophetic Imagination"**

The Rev. Jason Meyers

ANTHEM *Precious Lord, take my Hand*

Benjamin Stein, tenor

Thomas Dorsey, 1899-1993

arr. Nathan Carter

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 *Forever*

Gisele Kulak, soprano

Florence B. Price

♪OFFERTORY HYMN 93, v.4 *When Heaven's Bright with Mystery*

SUSSEX CAROL

When heaven's bright with mystery and stars still lead an unknown way,
When love still lights a gentle path where courts of power can hold no sway,
There with the Magi, let us kneel, our gifts to share, God's world to heal.

♪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 678 *For the Healing of the Nations*

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

♪COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

♪BLESSING (*All - please turn toward the centre*) **More Voices 222**

Neil McLaren

May the peace of God be your peace.
May the love of God be the love you show.
May the joy of God be the joy you know,
And may the world that God would see be found in you.

ORGAN POSTLUDE *Go Down, Moses*

arr. W.C. Handy, 1873-1958
adapted by Walter C. Simon



Leading in worship are **The Rev. Jason Meyers, Jim Harbell** and **Amy McClelland**. Reading the lessons is **Patricia Wright**. 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, Nishaanth Siva** and **Alastair McDonald**. Metropolitan's livestreaming equipment was made possible thanks to the generosity of **Wayne C. Vance**.

MUSIC NOTES

This morning we celebrate the great contributions of Black composers from a variety of backgrounds. We'll hear from **Florence Price**, a graduate of the New England Conservatory who was also the first African-American woman to gain wide recognition as a symphonic composer. And **Fela Sowande**, born and trained in Nigeria, and then with Oldroyd and Rubbra in England—where he won numerous distinctions and built a notable career—who later returned to his native land as the “father of modern Nigerian art music.” Both Price and Sowande took the folk music of their childhoods and elaborated it through the lens of classical Western art music. The second anthem is from the pen of **Thomas Dorsey**, American musician, composer and evangelist, who wrote “Precious Lord, take my hand” upon the tragic death of his wife Nettie Harper and infant son in childbirth, in 1932. The postlude is an arrangement of the traditional Spiritual “Go Down, Moses”, arranged by the “father of the blues” **W.C. Handy**. Born in Alabama, Handy was strongly discouraged from studying music by his father, who saw musical instruments as the devil's tools. Nonetheless, the deeply devout Handy persisted, learning guitar, organ and cornet on the sly. As he worked through a succession of manual-labour jobs, Handy collected folk musical influences from Black communities throughout the US, Mexico and Canada, assembling them gradually into what we today know as the blues style, and championing that style through his own masterful solo and ensemble performances.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

8:00 p.m. Centring Prayer*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

5:15 p.m. Taizé and Labyrinth Walk (livestream and in the Chancel)

7:00 p.m. Metropolitan Silver Band

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

8:45 a.m. Celtic Prayer* (Zoom and in the Chapel)

12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study*

4:00 p.m. Worship Committee*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

- 8:00 a.m. Chop Chop
- 8:30 a.m. Breakfast Bible Study*
- 12:00 p.m. Footcare Clinic
- 12:00 p.m. Noon at Met: Jonathan Oldengarm, organist
- 6:00 p.m. Kids Bedtime Stories*
- 6:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee*
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
- 7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Choir

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

- 9:00 a.m. Footcare Clinic
- 9:30 a.m. Winter Breakfast Program
- 12:30 p.m. Art and Computer Lab

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- 8:30 a.m. Saturday Bible Study*

NEXT SUNDAY: FEBRUARY 12 - Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

- 9:30 a.m. Choristers
- 10:00 a.m. Library Open (re-opens 12:15 p.m.)
- 10:30 a.m. Nursery
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - The Rev. Jason Meyers preaching
Readings: Sirach 15:15-20; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37
- 11:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:30 p.m. Congregational Meeting: Budget and Park Ministries* (Zoom and in the sanctuary)
- 1:30 p.m. Outreach Committee

COMMUNITY NEWS

TODAY: SUNDAY LUNCH AT IMPERIAL PUB

Come to the Imperial Pub at 54 Dundas St. E. after worship for lunch - we'll meet on the ground floor.

NEW SERVICE - MONTHLY TAIZÉ BEGINS TUESDAY

Tuesday Feb. 7 at 5:15 p.m. is our first monthly Taizé service and labyrinth walk (in person and on livestream). Celtic Morning Prayer (in person in the chapel, and on Zoom) continues each Wednesday at 8:45 a.m. - a 15 minute service of scripture, song, silence and prayer.

THURSDAY NOON AT MET: FEBRUARY 9

Noon at Met this week features organist Jonathan Oldengarm in a wide-ranging programme of works by Black composers, including David Hurd, Judith Baity, W.C. Handy and others. Your freewill donations support our musical ministry and allow us to continue to share great music in the heart of the city. Next concerts: February

16: organist Joshua Duncan Lee (Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar); on February 23, trumpeter Silas Friesen, with cellist David Liam and organist/pianist Jonathan Oldengarm.

TRINITY BACH PROJECT: FEBRUARY 19

On Sunday, February 19 at 3:00 p.m. in our first Spring 2023 Music at Met performance, we will be partnering with the singers and instrumentalists of the Trinity Bach Project to present Bach's *Cantata 23* and motet *Singet dem Herren*, BWV 225, as well as Brahms' *Geistliches Lied* and other masterworks. Your freewill donations will help offset the costs of the performance, and will allow us to continue this partnership—which seeks to make great sacred choral music accessible to everyone, regardless of creed or income.

THE “BIG QUESTION” COURSE - ONLINE OR IN PERSON

Who is God? Who are we? What is the work of the Spirit? Who is Jesus? What is the church? What does it all mean to me? Designed for “seekers and dreamers”, we are offering the Big Questions Course over the six weeks of Lent. If you are new to church/fait h or just looking to think deeply about what is truly important to you, this course is for you. Please register through the links on our site. Contact Rev. Meyers if you have questions, or for more info.

THE FLANDERS LIBRARY WELCOMES YOU

Please drop by the Flanders Library downstairs, open each Sunday before and after worship, and explore the thousands of titles in our catalogue! You can browse the online catalogue through the link on the Library page at metunited.ca/library.



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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