

WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 19, 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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

♪ indicates “please stand as you are able.”

CARILLON PRELUDE (*outside, ending with:*)

CRIMOND

Guest Carillonnist: Elisa Tersigni
arranged by Robert Ampt

ORGAN PRELUDE

Choral no. 2 in B Minor

César Frank, 1822-1890

WELCOME

♪PROCESSIONAL HYMN 631 *Jesus, Your Boundless Love to Me*

SURREY

♪INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: We gather together, heeding the call of our God and shepherd,
to come and dwell together.

All: May we know goodness and mercy of the God of love.

One: We gather together, seeking green pastures and still waters,
seeking comfort on difficult journeys through dark valleys.

All: May our souls be restored by the God of love.

One: We gather together, seeking truth, goodness and righteousness.

All: May all know justice through the God of love.

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray. (*please be seated*)

PRAYER OF APPROACH

LENTEN CONFESSION

Iona Community

(Lent is a season of lament preparing the heart for new growth. Each week we share in this prayer of confession.)

One: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness, to the ways I wound
my life, the lives of others, the life of the world.

**All: May God forgive you, Christ renew you and the Spirit enable you to grow in
love.**

One: Amen.

**All: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness, to the ways I
wound my life, the lives of others, the life of the world.**

One: May God forgive you, Christ renew you and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

All: Amen.

SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

TENEBRAE WORDS OF LAMENT

One: As we extinguish the fourth Lenten candle, we recall the times when we have been quick to find scapegoats, make assumptions, and point fingers at anyone but ourselves.

RESPONSE More Voices 85 *Take, O Take Me as I am*

John Bell, Iona Community

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

READINGS

Psalm 23

God is my shepherd

Ephesians 5:8-14

Live as children of the light.

ANTHEM *I waited for the Lord, from Hymn of Praise*
Lindsay McIntyre and Heeyun Park, sopranos

Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

GOSPEL READING **John 9:1–41**

Jesus heals the man born blind.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

LIGHTING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LANTERN

METRICAL PSALM 747 *The Lord's My Shepherd*

CRIMOND

SERMON **"The Lord's My Shepherd"**

Jim Harbell

ANTHEM *The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee*

Jean Berger, 1909-2002

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 *Les Cloches ("The Bells")*
Metropolitan Handbells

Nicolas Lebègue, 1631-1702

OFFERTORY HYMN 518, v.3

FOREST GREEN

With gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to you,
Not just to serve your cause, but share your love with neighbours too.
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your Son,
Help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

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 633 *Bless Now, O God, the Journey*

THORNBURY

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

BLESSING *Voices United 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 *Toccata*

Mel Bonis, 1858-1937



Leading in worship are **Jim Harbell**, **The Rev. Jason Meyers** and **Ael Spence**. Reading the lessons is **Amanda O'Halloran**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm**, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Joshua Duncan Lee**, the **Metropolitan Choir**, the **Metropolitan Handbells**, and Guest Carillonneur **Elisa Tersigni**. 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 and WORSHIP NOTES

The book referred to in the sermon is "A Grief Observed" by C. S. Lewis

César Franck's *Trois Chorals* are his musical last testament, completed shortly before his untimely death due to a traffic accident. They are not "chorales" in the Protestant sense of the word, but are rather symphonic tone poems that develop chorale-like themes. No. 2 begins with a chaconne-like opening, a brooding homage to the great 17th-c works of Lully and Couperin. The "chorale" theme (on the Voix Humaine stop) is superimposed, and both combine in a grand apotheosis, before subsiding into a serene conclusion. **Felix Mendelssohn's** *Hymn of Praise* is a grand symphonic cantata, setting words of scripture, whose inspiration probably falls somewhere between Bach's cantatas and Handel's oratorios. **Nicholas Lebègue** was one of the most respected 17th-c. French organists, harpsichordists and teachers - his most prominent student was Nicolas de Grigny, the greatest master of the French Classical School. Born to a middle-class Parisian family, **Mélanie Bonis** initially taught herself piano. She studied at the Paris Conservatoire with César Franck, among others. Her oeuvre includes over 300 compositions, for many different instrumental and vocal combinations. The *Toccata* is a brief, quixotic work probably intended for the art harmonium, but readily adaptable to the larger pipe organ.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

MONDAY, MARCH 20

8:00 a.m. Lenten Daily Office* (continues each weekday)

8:00 p.m. Centring Prayer*

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

6:30 p.m. Official Board

7:00 p.m. Metropolitan Silver Band

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

8:45 a.m. Celtic Morning Prayer (Zoom/chapel)

12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

- 8:30 a.m. Breakfast Bible Study*
- 12:00 p.m. Footcare Clinic
- 12:00 p.m. Noon at Met
- 4:00 p.m. Chop Chop
- 6:00 p.m. Kids Bedtime Stories*
- 6:30 p.m. The Big Questions Course*
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
- 7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Choir

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

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

NEXT SUNDAY: MARCH 26 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 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: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; John 11:1-45
- 11:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 1:00 p.m. The Big Questions Course (Library)
- 1:00 p.m. Festival Choir (Sanctuary)

COMMUNITY NEWS

GOOD FRIDAY CONCERT: TICKETS ON SALE

Tickets are now available for the Good Friday concert, April 7 at 7:30 p.m. both in person or livestream, at metunited.ca/Handel. The Metropolitan Festival Choir and Baroque Orchestra (Jonathan Oldengarm, direction and continuo) present Handel's rarely-heard *Brockes Passion*. Soloists include Michael Colvin, Evangelist; Geoffrey Sirett, Jesus; Jacqueline Woodley, Tochter Zion; and several of our own lead singers. A vivid, passionate account of the most dramatic week in the Christian liturgical year, *Brockes Passion* is a rarely performed Handel masterwork written in a style that forms a marked contrast with *Messiah*.

THURSDAY NOON AT MET: MARCH 23

Noon at Met this week features the young virtuoso Norwegian organist Jonas Apeland, a graduate of both McGill University and the Paris Conservatoire.

STARTING A NEW TRADITION: PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST - APRIL 2

To ready ourselves to join in Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, we will gather before the Palm Sunday parade for a hearty breakfast in the Met Centre on April 2 from 9:15-10:30 a.m.

SUPPORTING GUARANTEED LIVABLE INCOME

The United Church of Canada is inviting people of faith to host or participate in vigils on March 24, 25, or 26 to call for a Guaranteed Livable Income. More information on how you can get involved can be found in this week's Met Connect.

AN UPDATE ON REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

Met's Refugee Committee has been busy, steadily working behind the scenes for the last few months. We are excited to announce a partnership with Jubilee United Church and two sisters from Afghanistan. These sisters have a family who are under threat from the Taliban and we have a plan to sponsor them as refugees to Canada. Planning and fundraising are now beginning with some exciting plans in the works in the near future. For our first fund raising event, we are planning a traditional Iftar Afghan meal in April. More details on this coming soon. Should anyone wish to contribute and help with this exciting initiative please contact Jonathan Miles (jonathanrossmiles@gmail.com).

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

As plans to revitalize our Park move forward, members and friends of the congregation will have the opportunity to buy park benches and trees to honour or memorialize loved ones. Costs have yet to be finalized, but if the idea of giving a tribute or memorial gift in this way resonates, please let Doug Flanders know at dougflanders@sympatico.ca or 416-769-2746. This is not a commitment to buy, rather an expression of interest. When we have firm details, Doug will reach out to those who have contacted him and renew the invitation for others to consider this opportunity. Thanks for your interest!

TO THE GLORY OF GOD — EASTER MEMORIALS

Metropolitan invites you to make a memorial gift of any amount for Easter, 2023. We will list your name and the name(s) of those you wish to remember in the print bulletin and online for Easter Sunday worship. All gifts to our Memorial Fund are divided equally between sanctuary restoration and our congregation's endowment fund. You may make your gift in the following ways:

- Online: Visit metunited.ca/donate, click "Donate" and select "Easter Memorials"
- E-transfer: Send an e-transfer to donations@metunited.ca
- By credit card: Contact Elena at (416) 363-0331, ext. 229
- Weekly offering: Include your gift as part of the offering, clearly marked "Memorial Fund"
- By mail: To the church office (details on back of bulletin)

After making your gift, please forward the names of person(s) you would like memorialized to Sheela in the church office at sheelat@metunited.ca or 416-363-0331, ext. 210 and copy Doug Flanders at dougflanders@sympatico.ca no later than noon, Tuesday, April 4 to have it included on Easter Day, April 9. Easter blessings to all.

DIRECTORY

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Conductor, Metropolitan Choristers and Sparklers: Dr. Jennifer Martyn
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Director, Metropolitan Silver Band: Fran Harvey



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