WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

April 16, 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:)* Guest Carillonist: Elisa Tersigni
Spring Morning Geert D'hollander, b. 1965

ORGAN PRELUDE
2e Offertoire pour le jour de Pâques; Jules Grison, 1842-1896
Communion; Cantilena

WORDS OF WELCOME

♪PROCESSIONAL HYMN 165 *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain* *AVE VIRGO VIRGINUM*

♪INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: We have come from many places, following different roads.
All: We come hungering for greater understanding.
One: We have come to hear the wisdom of Scripture.
All: We come seeking companions in the faith.
One: We have come to discover the One revealed in the breaking of the bread.
All: We come to grow as disciples of Christ.
One: Come, let us worship God, made known in Christ Jesus.
All: Come with kindness and curiosity to find God's loving spirit.
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 (*All*) ***More Voices* 69** William S. Kervin
Kyrie eleison (God, 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 **Psalm 16**
In you, God, I take refuge

1 Peter 1:3-9
Salvation is the outcome of faithfulness

ANTHEM *Rise Up, My Love* Healey Willan, 1880-1968

GOSPEL READING **John 20:19-31**
Jesus appears to the disciples and to Thomas

One: This is the witness of the good news of Jesus Christ.
All: Thanks be to God.

LIGHTING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LANTERN

♪HYMN 179 *Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks* *ALLELUIA NO. 1*

SERMON ***"Post-Easter: What now? (Part 1)"*** Jim Harbell

ANTHEM *I Got Me Flowers, from* Five Mystical Songs Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958
Charlie Davidson, tenor

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 *The Call, from* Five Mystical Songs — Ralph Vaughan Williams
Nicholas Higgs, baritone

♪FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY 217 *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia Alleluia
Give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One. Alleluia ...

♪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 232 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You* *HYMN TO JOY*

♪COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

♪BLESSING 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 *Postlude on a Melody by Melchior Vulpius* — Derek Holman, 1931-2019

Leading in worship are **Jim Harbell, Dr. Linn Holness** and **Ael Spence**. Reading the lessons is Wilbert Ward. The ministry of music is offered by Metropolitan Carillonneur **Roy Lee**, Minister of Music **Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm**, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Joshua Duncan Lee**, the **Metropolitan Choir** and the **Metropolitan Handbells.** 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 & WORSHIP NOTES

"Do I Stay Christian" by Brian D. McLaren.

The Easter season has inspired untold amounts of devotional poetry and sacred music over the past two millennia, and this morning we'll visit some of the oldest and most recent. **Jules Grison** was organist of the magnificent gothic cathedral in Rheims, but had no apparent connection to the "mainstream" Parisian organ school of the day (Widor, Franck and company). Thus, while writing for the same Cavaillé-Coll instruments as his colleagues, he speaks with a unique voice. The *Offertoire* has as its theme the ancient "O filii" chant (words at VU 170), while the *Communion* and *Cantilène* are typically attractive music of the French Belle époque. **Ralph Vaughan Williams**' settings of the 17th-c. metaphysic George Herbert's *Five Mystical Songs* are a masterclass in perfect text setting; in "I got me flowers", the allegory of the Song of Solomon's banquet with Holy Communion is perfectly underlined by RVW's citing of the Eucharistic "O sacrum convivium" chant, intoned by the choir under the solo voice line. **Healey Willan**'s *Rise up, my love* is a Canadian classic; the opening gesture's sweep suggests the awakening of spring, resurrection, etc.; while "come away" at the close has an unfinished feel, with the fifth scale degree in the top voice of a rich D flat major chord. **Derek Holman**'s sparkling *Postlude on a theme of Vulpius* (cf. VU 169) is another Canadian classic, commissioned as part of the *Toronto Organ Series* (in which our Minister of Music, Dr. Patricia Wright, was heavily involved).

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

MONDAY, APRIL 17

8:00 p.m. Centring Prayer*

TUESDAY, APRIL 18

6:30 p.m. Official Board
7:00 p.m. Metropolitan Silver Band

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

8:45 a.m. Celtic Morning Prayer (Zoom/chapel)
12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study*
7:00 p.m. Met Care*

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

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*
6:00 p.m. Peace and Social Justice*
6:00 p.m. Stewardship*
6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Choir

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

8:30 a.m. Saturday Bible Study*

NEXT SUNDAY: APRIL 23 - Second Sunday After Easter

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. Green Team/Peace and Social Justice Earth Day Lunch & Learn
12:30 p.m. Book Club*
3:00 p.m. Hymn Festival

COMMUNITY NEWS

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY

There will be a special congregational meeting after worship today to hear from the Search Committee, held in person in the sanctuary and on Zoom (link in Met Connect).

GOOD FRIDAY CHORAL CONCERT: THANK YOU!

An immense thank you to everyone who attended, participated in, and otherwise generously supported Good Friday's presentation of Handel's *Brockes Passion*. Attendance was over 400, including a strong online following. In addition to our *Friends of Music at Met* donors whose names were listed in the programme, we received two generous donations after programme printing: one from Muriel and Karl Griffiths, and another from Kenneth Younie (who sponsored our two excellent oboists.) Thanks also to Festival Choir member Judy

Phillips, whose name was inadvertently omitted from the list of singers. In case you missed the concert, it is available online until June 7; tickets ($15) can be purchased at metunited.org/Handel.

EARTH DAY SERVICE/LUNCH & LEARN ON APRIL 23

April 23 will be our Earth Day service, with Rev. Meyers and special guest Donna Lang offering messages on the care of creation. Donna is the Toronto Coordinator for Greening Sacred Spaces, where she has helped over 200 faith communities in Toronto go green. After the service, Donna will lead a Lunch & Learn on how to create your own pollinator garden (even on a balcony!).

HYMN FESTIVAL APRIL 23 AT 3:00 P.M.

Massed choirs, brass quintet, and organ – plus 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 choir of Yorkminster Park Baptist and the Hymn Society, the event is also the grand finale of a Music United weekend conference. A freewill donation is requested.

DOORS OPEN WEEKEND: CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Could you help out on Doors Open Weekend, May 27 and 28, providing assistance in set-up and/or welcoming visitors to Met? Please fill out our Volunteer Availability form at bit.ly/DoorsOpenMet.
Please contact Frank Cormier with any questions at frankc@metunited.ca.

CONTINUED GIVING

Scan the QR 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.

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METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH

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