

WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH



The Lindisfarne Priory on Holy Island in Northeast England - Photo by Rev. Meyers

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 7, 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:*)

There Were Three Ravens

Guest Carillonist: Elisa Tersigni

Medieval English folk song, arr. Ronald Barnes

ORGAN PRELUDE

Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten, BWV 642

Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

Partita on *Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten*

Georg Böhm, 1661-1733

Words and melody at VU 286

WORDS OF WELCOME

♪PROCESSIONAL HYMN 223 *Eternal, Unchanging*

ST DENIO

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: God is our Rock and our Fortress.

All: **In God, we find refuge and strength.**

One: God's house has many dwelling places.

All: **We will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

One: Christ himself has gone to prepare a place for us.

All: **For us, Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.**

One: So let us worship God in Spirit and in Truth.

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**

Kyrie eleison (God, have mercy).

William S. Kervin

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

Acts 7:55–60

Stephen is stoned.

1 Peter 2:2–10

“Like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house”

ANTHEM *Prayer to Jesus*

Richard R. Terry, 1864-1938

GOSPEL READING **John 14:1–14**

Jesus says “In my Father’s house there are many rooms.”

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

All: Thanks be to God.

LIGHTING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LANTERN

HYMN 286 *If You Will Trust in God to Guide You*

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

SERMON **“The Polished Stone”**

Rev. Jason Meyers

ANTHEM *Come my way, my truth, my life*

Godfrey Sampson, 1902-1949

The text at *Voices United* 628.

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 *Sit Down Young Stranger*
Benjamin Stein, singer and guitarist

in memoriam Gordon Lightfoot, 1938-2023

♪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 325 *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

♪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 *Coronation March, from Le Prophète*

Giacomo Meyerbeer, 1791-1864
arr. William Thomas Best, 1826-1897



Leading in worship are **The Rev. Jason Meyers, Jim Harbell** and **Amy McClelland**. Reading the lessons is **Godwin Lau**. 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**, 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 & WORSHIP NOTES

"Stones" are a theme that runs through this morning's service. Stones anchor us, we throw them, and they serve as a symbol of eternity and continuity, and more. As the scripture tells us, God is our rock and our source of guidance (alluded to in the hymn texts of our prelude, and all three congregational hymns.) In the prelude, we hear a chorale prelude by **Bach**, plus a partita (set of variations) on that same hymn by one of Bach's probable teachers (or rocks!) **Georg Böhm**. Ancient texts serve as "rocks" to us as well—the 15th-century "Prayer to Jhesu" is such a one; the bedrock of the Christian faith as a complete cycle of confession of sin, gratitude for Jesus' redemption upon the cross, and a prayer for the eternal joys promised. Our anthem is a setting of 17th-century mystic George Herbert's iconic Easter poem, the text of which can be read at *Voices United* 628. In the postlude, we turn to another "rock", i.e. the British Crown which, although we are today reckoning with the darker sides of its legacy, has long stood as a symbol of steadiness in a changing world—and remains the basis for our Canadian constitutional system of government. In the postlude, we pay tribute to this weekend's historic occasion, the coronation of King Charles III, with a march by the 19th-century French grand opera composer **Meyerbeer**.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

MONDAY, MAY 8

8:00 p.m. Centring Prayer*

TUESDAY, MAY 9

6:00 p.m. Trustees

7:00 p.m. Metropolitan Silver Band

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

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

12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study*

7:00 p.m. Met Care*

THURSDAY, MAY 11

- 8:30 a.m. Breakfast Bible Study*
- 10:30 a.m. Pre-Board
- 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. Stewardship*
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
- 7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Choir

FRIDAY, MAY 12

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

SATURDAY, MAY 13

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

NEXT SUNDAY: MAY 14 - Sixth Sunday Of Easter / Mother's Day

- 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. Dr. HyeRan Kim-Cragg, principal of Emmanuel College, preaching
Readings: Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
- 11:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 1:00 p.m. New Members Class - Library
- 1:00 p.m. Outreach Committee - Sunday School Room

COMMUNITY NEWS

LUNCH & LEARN TODAY: AGING IN PLACE

Come downstairs to the Met Centre after service to hear Margot McWhirter, the founder of Inclusive Aging, speak on Aging-in-Place: Growing Older, Staying at Home. Coffee, tea and cake will be provided.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Are you interested in exploring becoming a member of Metropolitan? Perhaps you've been watching services online, or are new to the community, and are wanting to learn more about the life of the church. Perhaps Met has been your spiritual home for quite some time, but you have never taken the step of becoming a member. If you are feeling a nudge to go deeper into your faith journey, we will be hosting a New Members Class on Sunday, May 14 at 1:00 p.m. in the Flanders Library and on Zoom. Please email Rev. Jason to indicate your interest.

RUTTER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Do you love to sing? If you have choral experience and read music, test-drive the Met Choir by joining us for John Rutter's *For the Beauty of the Earth* (SATB version) in the morning service for Mother's Day on Sunday, May 14 (choir call time will be 10:10 a.m.). We will rehearse that piece in the church on Thursday, May 11 from 7:30 - 7:50 p.m. If you would like to participate, email Minister of Music Jonathan Oldengarm (jonathano@metunited.ca) by Monday, May 8.

PILGRIMAGE ON MAY 21

As acts of devotion and spiritual practice, Christians have been walking to holy places or with holy intention for centuries. We will be opening up opportunities to embark on 'spiritual quests' in the coming months, with the first being a local pilgrimage on May 21 after our Sunday worship service. We will travel together via TTC to Keele Station, through High Park, along the waterfront trail, and back to the church (approx 11km), where we will gather for a snack and a closing ceremony. There are many opportunities to shorten the walk via TTC access. For more information please contact jasonm@metunited.ca.

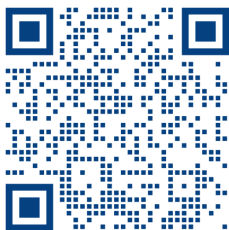
NOON AT MET

On May 11 we welcome back organist Stefani Bedin, a Doctor of Musical Arts degree candidate at the University of Toronto and Associate Organist of St. Basil's Catholic Parish.

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 frankcc@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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Chair of the Official Board: Joseph Curry (boardchair@metunited.ca)
Minister of Worship and Faith Formation: The Rev. Jason Meyers, ext. 224 (jasonm@metunited.ca)
Minister of Congregational Care and Outreach (SME): Jim Harbell, ext. 223 (jimh@metunited.ca)
Minister of Music: Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm, ext. 226 (jonathano@metunited.ca)
Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair
Minister of Music Emerita: Dr. Patricia Wright
Voluntary Associate Minister: The Rev. Alana Martin, ext. 255 (officiant@metunited.ca)
Children & Youth Ministries Animator: Amy McClelland (amy@thegoproject.ca)
Library: Marion Lick (library@metunited.ca) and Maureen Maguire (vigrass78@gmail.com)



Community Outreach Ministry

Outreach and Community Service Coordinator: Stephanie Cunti, ext. 241 (stephaniec@metunited.ca)

Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm, ext. 226 (jonathano@metunited.ca)
Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar: Joshua Duncan Lee
Metropolitan Choir Lead Singers: Gisele Kulak, Veronika Anissimova, Valeria Kondrashov,
Michelle Simmons, Charles Davidson, Benjamin Stein, Nicholas Higgs, John Schneider
Director, Great Heart Youth Ensemble: Dr. Benjamin Stein
Conductor, Metropolitan Choristers and Sparklers: Dr. Jennifer Martyn
Carillonneur: Roy Lee
Director, Metropolitan Silver Band: Fran Harvey



Administrative Ministry

Director of Administration: Jane Tuomi, ext. 222 (janelt@metunited.ca)
Office Administrator: Sheela Taylor, ext. 210 (sheelat@metunited.ca)
Financial Manager: Elena Pejcinovska, ext. 229 (elenap@metunited.ca)
Property Manager: Frank Cormier, ext. 231 (frankc@metunited.ca)
Communications Specialist: Charles Davidson, ext. 228 (charlesd@metunited.ca)
Custodians: Puvi Kanagalingam, Brian McElwain, Siva Selva, Daniel Goggin, ext. 320

56 Queen Street East, Toronto, ON M5C 2Z3

Tel. 416.363.0331 | Fax. 416.363.7586 | Email: office@metunited.ca