

WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH



'Christ Ascending' sculpture, El Picacho City Park, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

May 21, 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:*)
THAXTED

Guest Carillonneur: Deborah Hennig
arranged by D. Hennig

ORGAN PRELUDE Allein Gott in der Höh’ sei Ehr, BWV 662 & 663
“All Glory be to God on High”

J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

WORDS OF WELCOME

♪ **PROCESSIONAL HYMN 189** *Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise*

alt. tune VU 875 LLANFAIR

♪ INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: Let us be joyful before God!

All: We will sing praises to God’s holy name.

One: Let us lift up a song to the One who rides upon the clouds,

**All: Who protects the poor and disadvantaged,
and gives the vulnerable a home.**

One: Sing to God, all nations of the earth;

All: We will sing praises to the Lord, our God!

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

Acts 1:1-11

The promise of the Spirit and Jesus’ ascension.

Ephesians 1:15-23

I do not cease to give thanks for you.

ANTHEM *O Clap Your Hands*
The text from Psalm 47.

Martin Shaw, 1875-1958

GOSPEL READING **Luke 24:44-53**

Jesus blesses the disciples and brings them joy.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

LIGHTING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LANTERN

HYMN 190 *The Head That Once Was Crowned*

ST MAGNUS

SERMON **“Walking on Wounded Feet”**

The Rev. Jason Meyers

ANTHEM *Lead Me, Lord*
Gisele Kulak, soprano

Will Todd, b. 1970

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 SOLO *Thou Art Gone up on High, from Messiah*

G.F. Handel, 1685-1759

Michelle Simmons, alto

♪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 595 *We Are Pilgrims*

SERVANT SONG

♪COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

♪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 *Transports de joie, from L'Ascension*

Olivier Messiaen, 1908-1992

"Transports of joy of a soul before the glory of Christ, who is his own"

Let us give thanks unto God the Father, who has judged us worthy to share in the heritage of the saints in light... Who has resurrected us and brought us to sit in the heavens, in Jesus Christ. - Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians



Leading in worship are **The Rev. Jason Meyers, Jim Harbell** and **Ael Spence**. Reading the lessons are **Shawn Winsor** and **Sara Cohen**. The ministry of music is offered by Guest Carillonneur **Deborah Hennig**, 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 Deghani, Nishaanth Siva** and **Alastair McDonald**. Metropolitan's livestreaming equipment was made possible thanks to the generosity of **Wayne C. Vance**.

MUSIC NOTES

J. S. Bach's contributions to the organ repertoire remain unsurpassed. During his last years he revised a set of eighteen chorale preludes he had written earlier in his career, of which this morning's two settings of Luther's German versification of the Gloria in excelsis (*Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr*) are stellar examples. The first setting, **BWV 662**, is a profound meditation on the mystery of the Incarnation. The lower voices carry out a slow-moving but elaborate imitative treatment of the melody, which eventually enters in a soaring, ornamented soprano part. The second setting, **BWV 663** is influenced by the 17th-c French "en taille" genres, in which the chorale melody (lavishly decorated) appears on a solo registration in the left hand, surrounded by an intricate contrapuntal web of two right hand and one bass (pedal) voice.

Georg Frideric Handel's famous *Messiah* is not a linear account of the life of Christ, but is rather a series of small windows into the advent, suffering, sacrifice, resurrection, and redeeming work of Jesus. The libretto or text is unlike that of any other Handel oratorio, in that it sets only words of scripture, carefully assembled by the poet Charles Jennens. The aria *Thou art gone up on high* is taken from Part III, and is very often omitted from modern performances for reasons of time—a full performance of *Messiah* takes well over three hours, even at brisk tempi!

In 1932-33 the French ornithologist, organist, teacher and composer **Olivier Messiaen** wrote an orchestral suite entitled "*L'Ascension*", and made an organ version a year later, replacing the third movement with the newly-composed "*Transports de joie*", a mighty toccata in the best French Symphonic tradition. As in most of Messiaen's music, "absolute" and "programmatic" elements meet, and the work is inspired by a liturgical event; the music is precisely crafted on a technical level, but at the same time depicts four facets of an important moment in the Easter season, the ascension of Christ's resurrected body into heaven.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

MONDAY, MAY 22 - Church Closed (Victoria Day)

8:00 p.m. Centring Prayer*

TUESDAY, MAY 23

7:00 p.m. Metropolitan Silver Band

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

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

12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study*

THURSDAY, MAY 25

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. Handbell Choir

7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Choir

FRIDAY, MAY 26

9:00 a.m. Footcare Clinic

9:30 a.m. Summer Breakfast Program

SATURDAY, MAY 27

8:30 a.m. Saturday Bible Study*

9:00 a.m. Doors Open Toronto (church open until 5pm)

NEXT SUNDAY: MAY 28 - Pentecost Sunday

9:00 a.m. Doors Open Toronto (church open until 5pm)

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: Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Acts 2:1-21

11:15 a.m. Sunday School

12:30 p.m. Bus to Jim's Ordination Ceremony in Brampton departs

COMMUNITY NEWS

PILGRIMAGE TODAY!

Our first local pilgrimage is today! After the service we will travel together via TTC to Keele Station, walk through High Park, along the waterfront trail, and back to the church (approx 11km - with opportunities to shorten via transit access). Our journey will include opening and closing rituals, communion, intentional silence and a special snack stop. Please let Rev. Jason know if you plan to join.

JIM HARBELL'S ORDINATION SERVICE

Following worship on May 28, a bus will depart Met for North Bramalea United Church in Brampton where a Celebration of Ministries Service, including Jim Harbell's ordination, will take place. To reserve a seat, please email Jane Tuomi at janelt@metunited.ca. Seating is limited. The service will also be livestreamed.

SAVE THE DATE - REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP CONCERT

Thursday, June 8 at 7:00 p.m. join us for an evening of world music, including musicians from Afghanistan, Syria and beyond, in support of our Refugee Sponsorship program. We continue to raise funds in our life-saving mission to bring a family currently living in Pakistan under threat from the Taliban, to Canada. Visit metunited.ca/refugee for more info.

DOORS OPEN WEEKEND: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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.

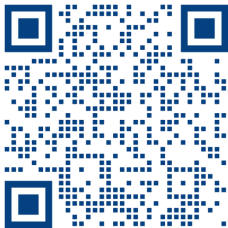
Please contact Frank Cormier with any questions at frankc@metunited.ca.

THURSDAY NOON AT MET

On May 25 we welcome Yorkminster Park Baptist Church's Director of Music, William Maddox, playing an organ recital with works of Elgar, Guilman, Handel, Massenet and Weaver. A carillon prelude takes place at 11:30 a.m.

TORONTO: THEN AND NOW

Looking forward to Doors Open and exploring the city? Check out 'Toronto: Then and Now' by Doug Taylor, offering photographs and maps helping you find historic buildings of Toronto. Visit the Flanders Library downstairs before and after worship each Sunday!



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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