

WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH



Be still and know...

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT METROPOLITAN

PAGEANT SUNDAY



PAGEANT SUNDAY

December 15, 2024

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 in body or in spirit”

CARILLON PRELUDE (ending with:)
Tomorrow shall be my dancing day

Wayne C. Vance Carillonist Dr. Elisa Tersigni
arr. Austin Ferguson

ORGAN PRELUDE	<i>Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ, BWV 639</i>	J.S. Bach, 1685-1750
	<i>Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659</i>	J.S. Bach
	<i>Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her</i>	Johann Pachelbel, 1653-1706

WORDS OF WELCOME

♪ **PROCESSIONAL HYMN 2** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

STUTTGART

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: The Prophet Isaiah spoke of God’s promise, of a time when the darkness of the world would be replaced by light and when that light would bless all people.

**All: Into the darkness comes Jesus, The Christ Child,
not just once, long ago, but again and again.**

One: We gather this morning, when the world seems to be a dark and dangerous place to hear the story, our story, a story of courage and hope.

**All: We gather with open hearts so that we may hear again the promise
of God’s love coming into the world for us as one of us.**

One: O come, let us worship God. 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

ADVENT KYRIE (Congregation and choir)

NUN KOMM, adapted by Jonathan Oldengarm

Musical notation for the Advent Kyrie, featuring two staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the lyrics: Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Chri - te e - lei -. The second staff contains the lyrics: son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The first staff has a 4-measure rest at the beginning, and the second staff has a 4-measure rest at the beginning. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, the prophet reminds us that in our passionate pursuit of God's coming kingdom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3).

All: Faced with the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful response to God and each other. We will not turn away from the pain and hurt, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose love flows through us into our troubled world with hope, healing, and beauty.

One: In stillness, we light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbours, knowing that by sharing our vulnerable lives, we share in the joy of God's salvation together.

SUNG ADVENT RESPONSE (All) *More Voices 77*

John Bell

Be still and know that I am God.

CHOIR AND CONGREGATION 29 *Hark the Glad Sound*

RICHMOND

THE PAGEANT

(Congregation, please remain seated during the carols)

CHOIR O come, O come Emmanuel....

The Prophecy & The Annunciation

CHOIR *Breath of Heaven*

Amy Grant, arr. Lloyd Larson

The Arrival Of Mary And Joseph

CHOIR AND CONGREGATION 62 *Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle-shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who, with God, is over all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
There among the poor and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.

The Birth

CHOIR AND CONGREGATION 69 *Away in a Manger*

CRADLE SONG

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care, And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

JOY CHOIR AND CONGREGATION 42 *Down to Earth, as a Dove, vv. 1,2*

PERSONENT HODIE

Down to earth, as a dove, came to dwell holy love:

Jesus Christ from above bringing great salvation meant for every nation.

Let us sing, sing, sing, dance and spring, spring, spring;

Christ is here, ever near! Gloria in excelsis.

This is love come to light, now is fear put to flight.

God defeats darkest night, giving for our sorrows hope of new tomorrows. **R**

The Angels And Shepherds

METROPOLITAN CHORISTERS AND KRU CREW *Gloria Deo*

David Ouchterlony

CHOIR AND CONGREGATION 38 *Angels We Have Heard on High, v. 1*

IRIS

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,

And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

CHOIR *A Spotless Rose*

Herbert Howells, 1892-1983

Parker Clements, baritone soloist

The Three Kings

CHOIR AND CONGREGATION *We Three Kings*

Refrain after each verse:

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guiding to Thy perfect light.

Verse 5 (*all*): Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:

Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

O star of wonder....

The Story Continues

CHOIR *Tomorrow shall be my dancing day*

arr. David Willcocks, 1919-2015

JOY CAROL 60 *O Come, All Ye Faithful, v. 1,4*

ADESTE, FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem: come and behold him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: **R**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OFFERING *(Please bring forward your offering, or scan the QR code to the right to make a donation with your phone.)*



♪ **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 31** *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

ST THEODULPH

♪ **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 *Noël* X

Louis-Claude Daquin, 1694-1772



Leading in worship are **The Rev. Jason Meyers**, and **Dr. Linn Holness**. The ministry of music is offered by Wayne C. Vance Carillonneur **Dr. Elisa Tersigni**, Minister of Music **Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm**, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholars **Ethan Duan** and **Sean Lee**, the **Metropolitan Choir**, the **Metropolitan Choristers** and **KRU Crew** conducted by **Michael Denomme**, and dancers from the **Compagnie de la Citadelle's** Dance Programme (**Quintavia Brideau**, **Lydia Elgsaether-Fox**, **Ainara Juarez**, **Aniyah Martin**, **Ava Smirknob**), and their teacher/choreographer **Christina Litt Belch**. Members of our Care Staff are **Siva Selva** and **Gerold Mayer**. Our sound and livestream technicians are **Paya Dehghani** and **Nishaanth Siva**.

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 4:00 p.m. Children's Choir
- 8:00 p.m. Centring Prayer*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 6:00 p.m. Visual & Creative Arts
- 7:00 p.m. Metropolitan Silver Band

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study*
- 5:00 p.m. Blue Christmas

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 8:45 a.m. Breakfast Bible Study*
- 4:00 p.m. Chop Chop (Preparation for Friday Community Meal Program)
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
- 7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Choir
- 8:30 p.m. Online Blue Christmas*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 10:30 a.m. Community Meal Program

NEXT SUNDAY: DECEMBER 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 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. Jim Harbell preaching
Readings: Micah 5:2-5a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55
- 8:00 p.m. Great Heart Rehearsal

COMMUNITY NEWS

CANDLELIGHT LESSONS & CAROLS | TONIGHT AT 7:30 PM

Immerse yourself in the Candlelight Lessons and Carols service at Met, a highlight of the Christmas season for many Torontonians. Seasonal choral classics sung by the Metropolitan Choir, with selections by the Met Choristers (our children's choir), Metropolitan Handbells, and Great Heart youth ensemble, solos on Canada's largest pipe organ, and lots of congregational carol singing make this a must-go evening. This service will also be livestreamed and available on YouTube.

ADVENT FAMILY SOCIAL | TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

Today after worship families are warmly invited to a festive gathering in the Sunday School Room to spread holiday cheer by creating Christmas cards for seniors in the congregation. There will be fun and meaningful

Christmas crafting for all ages, a kid-friendly lunch featuring pizza and other treats, and time to connect and celebrate the season together.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICES | THIS WEEK

Christmas can be a very difficult time for many. Feelings of loneliness, depression, and hopelessness can come raging to the surface. There are two opportunities this week to gather for gentle and supportive services which recognize these feelings and which offer understanding, support, and comfort. On Wednesday at 5:00 pm, an in-person service in the Chancel at Metropolitan United. And on Thursday at 8:30 pm, a service will be held on Zoom. (See Met Connect or the Met website for link.) Be still and know ... that you are loved.

CALLING ALL READERS

We are looking for readers to participate in the Christmas Eve Family Service at 4 pm. If you are interested please speak with Rev Jim or Rev Jason.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2025

One way that you can make regular donations to Metropolitan United is by using weekly offering envelopes. For those who had envelopes in 2024, your 2025 envelopes are now available in the Narthex. If you wish to receive your own set of weekly offering envelopes, please email accounting@metunited.ca or call (416) 363-0331 x 232 and we will provide a set for you.

OUR CHRISTMAS THANK OFFERING

Letters inviting our support are in the narthex ready for pick up. Thank you for your always generous support of our traditional Christmas Thank Offering in support of local ministries. It's our chance to make a special over and above Christmas gift for Metropolitan.

GIFTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY | STOCKINGS, FOOD & WINTER WOOLIES

A wonderful tradition continues with Christmas stockings, which will be distributed at our Community Meal Program on December 20th, filled with practical items, gifts and goodies. A donation of \$30 per stocking makes a great gift on another's behalf! Forms can also be picked up in the narthex. Donors can choose to give a stocking in tribute or gift for a particular individual. Please indicate this on the form.

We also invite you to donate non-perishable food and winter woolies. These will be put under the Christmas tree as part today's service and will be distributed at the Community Meal Program on Friday, December 20th.

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

David Harrison has been appointed Interim Director of Administration at Metropolitan. Many of you may already know him since David has been working at Met as a contractor for two years supporting accounting, communications, and stewardship. David is a seasoned leader in the not-for-profit sector with over three decades of experience in leading people and enabling change. He holds a Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Development, and brings with him extensive church experience. David is also a church organist and singer, and has enjoyed singing in Met's Festival Choir over the last two years.

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.



DIRECTORY

Chair of the Official Board: Joseph Curry (boardchair@metunited.ca)
Minister of Worship & Faith Formation: The Rev. Jason Meyers, ext 224. (jasonm@metunited.ca)
Minister of Congregational Care & Outreach: The Rev. James (Jim) Harbell, ext. 223 (jimh@metunited.ca)
Minister of Pastoral Care: The Rev. Mark Aitchison, ext. 254 (marka@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 (officiant@metunited.ca)
Voluntary Associate Minister: The Rev. Warren McDougall (officiant2@metunited.ca)
Children & Youth Ministries Animator: Cybele Galindez (cybele041@hotmail.com)
Library: Marion Lick and Maureen Maguire (library@metunited.ca)



Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm, ext. 226 (jonathano@metunited.ca)
Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar: Ethan Duan & Sean Lee
Metropolitan Choir Lead Singers: Noelle Slaney, Gisele Kulak, Valeria Kondrashov, Michelle Simmons, Alexander Cappellazzo, Alain Paquette, Ian Speck, Matheus Coelho, Parker Clements
Director, Great Heart Youth Ensemble: Dr. Benjamin Stein
Conductor, KRU Crew and Metropolitan Choristers: Michael Denomme
Wayne C. Vance Carillonist: Dr. Elisa Tersigni
Director, Metropolitan Silver Band: Fran Harvey



Administrative Ministry

Interim Director of Administration: Dr. David Harrison, ext. 232 (davidh@metunited.ca)
Office Administrator: Elisabeth Beattie, ext. 210 (elisabethb@metunited.ca)
Financial Manager: Elena Pejcinovska, ext. 229 (elenap@metunited.ca)
Property Manager: Frank Cormier, ext. 231 (frankc@metunited.ca)
Communications: (communications@metunited.ca)
Custodians: Puvi Kanagalingam, Siva Selva, Daniel Goggin, Dylan Shropshire, Gerold Mayer, ext. 320

56 Queen Street East, Toronto, ON M5C 2Z3

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



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