

WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH



Cross created by Judy Phillips

REIGN OF CHRIST | STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY November 23, 2025

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.” Our services are livestreamed, so please be aware that you may appear on camera. If you have children with you, there is Sunday School and a quiet play area at the back of the sanctuary.

CARILLON PRELUDE

ORGAN PRELUDE	Herzlich tut mich erfreuen, op. 122 no. 7	Johannes Brahms, 1833-1897
	Adoration	Florence Price, 1887-1953
	Andante religioso, from Sonata IV	Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

~ *We are gathered in Christ* ~

POEM: SONG FOR THE CRUCIFIED KING

Andrew King

♪ PROCESSIONAL HYMN 213 Rejoice, the Lord is King

DARWALL'S 148TH

♪ INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: On this final Sunday of the year, we do not crown a king of power and palaces.
All: **We are called to a hill, to a cross, to a different kind of throne.**
One: Here, at the end of all things, we find our beginning.
All: **Here, in a moment of seeming defeat, we find our only hope.**
One: So let us worship not a distant deity,
but the One who draws near in suffering and solidarity.
All: **Let us gather and rejoice, for our King is Christ, and his reign is love.**
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 (*Sung by All*) **More Voices 67**

John Bell

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

♪ ACT OF PRAISE (*All, sung 2x*) **Voices United 37** Gloria

Jacques Berthier

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo. Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.

~ *We encounter the Word* ~

GOSPEL

Luke 23:33-43

Jesus crucified with two thieves

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

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN 391 *God, Reveal Your Presence*

ARNSBERG

Children are invited to go down to Sunday School with Ael during the hymn.

SERMON **“The fourth T and a big, scary E”**

Rev. Jason Meyers

ANTHEM *Rejoice in the Lamb*

Benjamin Britten, 1917-1976

~ We respond with love ~

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.

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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Jamie Naessens

OFFERING *(To make a donation, you can use the envelopes in the pews or scan the QR code to the right with your phone.)*



OFFERTORY Morning Hymn

music by Patrick Murray, words by Patricia Orr

The Metropolitan Choir, conducted by Minister of Music Emerita Dr Patricia Wright

DOXOLOGY 541

OLD 100TH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Give thanks to God in love made known:

Creator, Word and Spirit, One. Amen.

♫ 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.

~ We are sent to offer hope, healing and beauty in Jesus' name ~

♫ RECESSIONAL HYMN 533 When in Our Music God is Glorified

ENGELBERG

♫ COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

♫ BLESSING (*sung by all*)

Don Besig

9
Go now in peace, ne-ver be a-fraid. God will go with you each hour of ev-'ry day.

17
Go now in faith, stead-fast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do.

25
Go now in love, and show you be-lieve. Reach out to oth-ers so all the world can see.

God will be there, watch-ing from a-bove. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

ORGAN POSTLUDE *Finale, from Symphonie I*

Louis Vierne, 1870-1937



Leading in worship are **The Rev. Jason Meyers**, **The Rev. Mark Aitchison**, and **Ael Spence**. Reading the lesson is **Terry Kelly**. The ministry of music is offered by Wayne C. Vance Carillonneur **Dr. Elisa Tersigni**, Minister of Music **Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm** and Minister of Music Emerita **Dr. Patricia Wright**, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholars **Ethan Duan** and **Edward Xu**, and the **Metropolitan Choir**. Members of our Care Staff are **Siva Selva** and **Mohammad Wahedi**. Our sound and livestream technicians are **Paya Dehghani** and **Nishaanth Siva**. Metropolitan's livestreaming equipment was made possible thanks to the generosity of **Wayne C. Vance**. Music reprinted with permission under One Licence #707-069. All rights reserved.

MUSIC NOTES

Benjamin Britten is probably the most important 20th century English composer—his output spans art song, opera, choral, symphonic and chamber music, all of which he addressed with mastery and originality. His harmonic language is distinctive, and combines the austere quartal sonorities of the Neo-Classical revival, the colourful harmonic third-relationships of the French Impressionists, the love of folk song and ancient church melody of Vaughan Williams, and the strict formal discipline of the German-trained English Victorian Stanford. Freed from the Victorians' obligation to regular metres, Britten's freewheeling time signatures follow the natural rhythms of the English language with a perfection matched only by plain chant intonation. ***Rejoice in the Lamb*** is a 17-minute mini-cantata for four-part chorus and organ, enriched by soprano, alto, tenor, and bass solos. The poetry is by Christopher Smart, an English prodigy who had mastered the Classical languages by age 10, and was named professor at Oxford at age 21. For reasons that remain somewhat unclear, Smart was confined to St Luke's Hospital in London as a psychiatric patient for four years; in the midst of that terrible suffering, he composed the epic lyric poem *Jubilate Agno* (over 1,200 lines long). The poem celebrates nature as the voice of God, with passing references to the scientific work of Locke and Newton (Enlightenment influence); in the parallel line structures it evokes Hebrew poetry (think of the psalms); Biblical and mythological characters are paired with animals who appear in their stories; alliteration and onomatopoeia are abundant; and the depiction of Smart's internal spiritual and psychiatric struggle is heartbreakingly real. The marriage of Britten's music with Smart's poetry is one of the most vivid, affecting and memorable works in the English choral canon.

In 2017, our Minister of Music Emerita Dr Patricia Wright was granted an honorary fellowship by the Summer Institute of Church Music. In celebration of this occasion, SICM commissioned Canadian composer and conductor **Patrick Murray** to set a poem by our own Met poet **Patricia Orr**. ***Morning Hymn*** celebrates music as a divine gift that binds all things unto God. An apt work for the day following the November 22 Feast of St Cecilia, patron of music - and also the birthday of Benjamin Britten!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

8:00 p.m. Centring Prayer*

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

12:30 p.m. Celtic Communion*

7:00 p.m. Member Engagement

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

12:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study*

6:00 p.m. Property Committee

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

8:45 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study*

10:45 a.m. Rimbala*

12:00 p.m. Noon at Met*

1:00 p.m. Knitting Group*

4:30 p.m. Chop Chop

6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir

7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Choir

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

10:30 a.m. Community Meal Program

NEXT SUNDAY: NOVEMBER 30 - The First Sunday of Advent

10:00 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 Reverend Jason Meyers preaching

Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44

11:15 a.m. Sunday School

12:30 p.m. Sunday Lunch at McVeigh's Irish Pub, 124 Church St

COMMUNITY NEWS

STEWARDSHIP: TRUTH

This week in Stewardship Month, we invite you to share the truth of Metropolitan with others. Tell your family, friends, and colleagues about the hope, healing, and inspiration you've found here. Invite them to join us at Met to experience the transformational work happening every day here in our community of faith.

NOON AT MET

This Thursday, November 27, Noon at Met features violinist Astrid Nakamura. This is the last NAM concert until February 6.

ADVENT STARTS NEXT SUNDAY

In days of division and disinformation, it can be hard to discern what the truth is. Advent is a season of intentional waiting that prepares our hearts to encounter the deepest truth: that God is with us. We start the season next week with a string quartet to supplement our wonderful music program.

SUNDAY LUNCH RETURNS NEXT WEEK AT...

After extensive research of local public houses, McVeigh's Irish Pub has been selected as the location of our monthly informal lunches after worship. Don't miss the opportunity to be among the first group from Met to venture a block South on Sunday, Nov. 30th after worship. A great way to kick off the Church's New Year!

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Each weekday from Dec 1st to Dec 24th we will be sending out by email reflections from members of the Metropolitan community. To be added to the list, please email elisabethb@metunited.ca.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR CHRISTMAS

- Dec 7 at 12:30pm: Christmas Lunch; and at 2:00pm: 'Deck the Halls' with the Metropolitan Silver Band
- Dec 14 at 11:00am: Christmas Pageant; and at 1:00pm a screening of a Christmas movie
- Dec 14 at 7:30pm: Candlelight Carol Service: The sacred story of the season under flickering candlelight
- Dec 17 at 5:00pm: Blue Christmas: Gentle service for those who find this season challenging
- Dec 24 at 4:00pm - Christmas Eve: All-ages service that will end with a tree lighting & apple cider outside
- Dec 24 at 11:00pm - Christmas Eve: "Christmas by Candlelight with Holy Communion"
- Dec 25 at 11:00am - Christmas Day: Cozy and relaxed service with a choral quartet

COMING SOON IN BROADVIEW MAGAZINE:

Christmas Keepsakes: Famous Canadians reveal their most cherished ornaments; Modern Mystics Why today's seekers are flocking to the ancient practices of contemplative Christianity A Word with the New Moderator Rt. Rev. Kimberly Heath on the United Church's role in this time. And much more. Interested in reading this timely magazine? Please contact Doug Flanders at dougflanders@sympatico.ca or 416-769-2746

CONTINUED GIVING

Scan the QR code to be directed to our online giving page. You can also send an e-transfer to donations@metunited.ca, or mail in envelopes and/or cheques to the church. If you would like to arrange a pre-authorized remittance for regular giving (PAR) from your bank account or credit card, please contact Elena Pejcinovska at elenap@metunited.ca or 416-363-0331 ext. 229.



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