

# WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH

ADVENT AT METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH

How can  
this be?

Luke 1:34



ASKING BETTER QUESTIONS  
IN AN AGE OF DISINFORMATION

**PAGEANT SUNDAY**

**December 14, 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** (ending with:) Meditation on Veni Creator Spiritus arr. John R. Knox

**ORGAN PRELUDE** *Es ist ein’ Ros entsprungen, op. 122 no. 8* Johannes Brahms, 1833-1897  
*Christe Redemptor omnium* Healey Willan, 1880-1968  
*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659* J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

~ We are gathered in Christ ~

## WORDS OF WELCOME

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

ST THEODULPH

## 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

4

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: In these days overwhelmed by information but starving for truth,

**All: we slow now to the rhythm of the soul to ask better questions.**

One: We light this candle of joy as an act of resistance against the forces of despair and as a sign of the Truth that sets us free.

**SUNG ADVENT RESPONSE (All) More Voices 20** music: Alfred V. Fedak; text: Carl P. Daw

God of still waiting, God of deep longing, God of the heart's true rest:  
hold us in fathomless peace, guard us with unwanting love.

*~ We encounter the Word ~*

**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.

**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

**CHORISTERS** *Star Carol*

John Rutter, b. 1945

The Metropolitan Choristers, directed by Alessia Signorella

**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** *Come, Rock His Cradle*

Richard Knight

### 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

**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**

*~ 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 AND OFFERING

*Please bring forward your offering or scan the QR code to the right with your phone. Any gifts of winter woollies or food items can be placed under the tree.*

## OFFERTORY CAROL 91 *The First Nowell*

THE FIRST NOWELL

## 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 43 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

GO, TELL IT

## 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.

## **POSTLUDE** *Toccata on Veni Emmanuel*

Andrew Carter, b. 1939



Leading in worship is **The Rev. Jason Meyers**. Participants in the Christmas Pageant include: Narrators, **Patti Orr** and **Shawn Winsor**; The Holy Family, **Gabi White**, **Adrian Bakker** and **Elowyn Bakker**; Elder Shepperd and Child, **Rachelle** and **Danielle Mandel**; Prophet, **Jay Wagner**; Herod, **Peter Johnston**; Centurions, **Anton Wong** and **Aayushi Gabe**; Wise Ones/Kings: **Naomi Struik**, **Wilbert Ward** and **Jeff Laitar**; Shepherds and Angels, **Lynne Steenkamp**, **Terry Kelly**, **Megan Joyce**, **Rachel Jobling-Scoles**, **Sarah Jobling-Scoles**, **Rebekah Jobling** and **Christina Oldengarm**; Costume coordinators, **Ael Spence** and **Amanda O'Halloran**, Spotlight operator, **Fred Teng**; Director, **Derrick Hempel**.

The ministry of music is offered by Guest Carillonist **Naoko Tsujita**, Minister of Music **Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm**, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholars **Ethan Duan** and **Edward Xu**, the **Metropolitan Choir**, and the **Metropolitan Choristers** (conducted by **Alessia Signorella**). Our dancers (from the **Citadel Dance Program**) include **Théodore Banfield**, **Quintavia Brideau**, **Mannat Kankariya**, **Autumn Richie**, and **Amberly Tong**; their instructor is **Christina Litt Belch**. Members of our Care Staff are **Siva Selva** and **Krissy Borsa**. 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.

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

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

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 15**

8:00 p.m. Centring Prayer\*

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16**

12:30 p.m. Celtic Communion\*

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17**

12:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study\*

5:00 p.m. Blue Christmas in the Chancel

7:00 p.m. Met Care Team

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18**

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

4:00 p.m. Chop Chop

7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Choir

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19**

10:30 a.m. Community Meal Program - Christmas Meal

## **NEXT SUNDAY: DECEMBER 21 - 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 Reverend Jason Meyers preaching\*
- 11:15 a.m. Sunday School

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **AFTER WORSHIP: CHRISTMAS MOVIE**

All are welcome to join with the Met Sunday school families after the service today to watch *The Muppet Christmas Carol* in the Learning Room in the basement. There will be a pizza lunch, lots of fellowship and fun!

### **TONIGHT AT 7:30PM! CANDLELIGHT LESSONS & CAROLS**

A Metropolitan tradition! We gather tonight at 7:30pm to tell the sacred story of the season with music and scripture under flickering candlelight. Bring your friends and family members for a special evening.

### **PLAN AHEAD**

- 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 starting inside and ending 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

### **GIFTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

A festive Christmas lunch dinner will be served to our Community Meal Program guests on December 19th, and each guest will receive a Christmas stocking filled with practical items and other goodies. Your gift of \$40 will enable us to provide a meal and stocking to each guest. Donating a stocking in the name of an individual or a family is a great way to pay tribute while helping those in need. Donation forms may be found at the information table at the back of the sanctuary. There is also a link to the form in Met Connect.

### **GIVING TO METROPOLITAN, 2026**

Thank you to the many households who have returned their estimate of giving for next year. There is still time to complete yours and return it to the church before year end. Thank you for your generous support. And if you could increase your giving to Metropolitan by at least one dollar a day, it would greatly help our church meet its opportunities for ministry in 2026.

### **OUR CHRISTMAS THANK OFFERING**

Two weeks ago you would have received by email your invitation to support our Christmas Thank Offering. Thank you for your generosity as you make your Christmas gift to Metropolitan. If helpful, you may find hard copies of our Thank Offering letter on the Information Table at the back of the sanctuary.

### **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](https://metunited.ca/donate). Please contact Elena Pejcinovska, Financial Manager at [elenap@metunited.ca](mailto:elenap@metunited.ca) or 416-363-0331 ext. 229 with any questions.



## DIRECTORY

Chair of the Official Board: Peter Johnston ([boardchair@metunited.ca](mailto:boardchair@metunited.ca))  
Minister of Worship & Faith Formation: The Rev. Jason Meyers, ext 224. ([jasonm@metunited.ca](mailto:jasonm@metunited.ca))  
Minister of Pastoral Care: The Rev. Mark Aitchison, ext. 254 ([marka@metunited.ca](mailto:marka@metunited.ca))  
Minister of Music: Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm, ext. 226 ([jonathano@metunited.ca](mailto: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](mailto:officiant@metunited.ca))  
Voluntary Associate Minister: The Rev. Warren McDougall ([officiant2@metunited.ca](mailto:officiant2@metunited.ca))  
Children & Youth Coordinator: Ael Spence ([ael@metunited.ca](mailto:ael@metunited.ca))  
Nursery Attendant: Johnavac Abraham  
Library: Marion Lick and Maureen Maguire ([library@metunited.ca](mailto:library@metunited.ca))  
Seniors Support Worker: Allen Mathewkutty ([allenm@metunited.ca](mailto:allenm@metunited.ca))



## Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm, ext. 226 ([jonathano@metunited.ca](mailto:jonathano@metunited.ca))  
Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholars: Ethan Duan & Edward Xu  
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, Metropolitan Choristers: Alessia Signorella  
Wayne C. Vance Carillonist: Dr. Elisa Tersigni  
Director, Metropolitan Silver Band: Fran Harvey



## Administrative Ministry

Executive Director: Dr. David Harrison, ext. 222 ([davidh@metunited.ca](mailto:davidh@metunited.ca))  
Office & Communications Administrator: Elisabeth Beattie, ext. 210 ([elisabethb@metunited.ca](mailto:elisabethb@metunited.ca))  
Financial Manager: Elena Pejcinovska, ext. 229 ([elenap@metunited.ca](mailto:elenap@metunited.ca))  
Property Manager: Frank Cormier, ext. 231 ([frankc@metunited.ca](mailto:frankc@metunited.ca))  
Custodians: Puvi Kanagalingam, Siva Selva, Gerold Mayer, Mohammad Wahedi, Austin Tran, Krissy Borsa, ext. 320

**56 Queen Street East, Toronto, ON M5C 2Z3**

**Tel. 416.363.0331 | Email: [office@metunited.ca](mailto:office@metunited.ca)**



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