

WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH



Start a new Christmas tradition at Metropolitan

Comfort Ye, My People (Vera Taylor)

CHRISTMAS DAY **December 25, 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 most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. It is still home to Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We are grateful to work, live and worship on this land.

NOTES FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

♪ indicates “please stand as you are able.” Our services are livestreamed, so please be aware that you may appear on camera. Please note that there is no Sunday School today but there is a quiet play area at the back of the sanctuary.

ORDER OF SERVICE

CARILLON PRELUDE

ORGAN PRELUDE *First Book of Noëls*

Claude Balbastre, 1724-1799

WORDS OF WELCOME

♪ **OPENING CAROL 76** *See Amid the Winter’s Snow*

SEE AMID THE WINTER’S SNOW

♪ INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: Christmas is a time for rejoicing!

All: Arise and shine for our light has come. The time of waiting is over.

One: Amid all that is still wrong in the world,
we proclaim that daring hope that comes to us in Jesus.

All: Arise and shine for our light has come. The glory of God is revealed.

One: We gather on this joyful day, to celebrate the love that will never let us go.

**All: Arise and shine for our light has come. The glory of God is revealed.
Our Saviour is born.**

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 *(Congregation and choir)* **More Voices 69**
Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)

William S. Kervin

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

♪ **ACT OF PRAISE 38** *(All)*

GLORIA

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!

READINGS

Luke 2:1-7

The Birth of Jesus.

John 1:1-14

The Word became flesh.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *The Infant King*

Basque Carol, arr. David Willcocks, 1919-2015

CHRISTMAS STORY

♪ **CAROL 75** *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

WINCHESTER OLD

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



OFFERTORY *Sussex Carol*

Traditional, arr. David Willcocks

♪ **OFFERTORY CAROL: 35, v.1** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice!

Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today.

Ox and ass before him bow, for he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

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.

CLOSING CAROL 59 *Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

BLESSING 47 vs. 3 (*quartet only*)

STILL, STILL, STILL

Joy, joy, joy, glad tidings of great joy! For through God's holy incarnation Christ is born for our salvation. Joy, joy, joy, glad tidings of great joy!

ORGAN POSTLUDE *Noël Parisien, op. 26 no. 4*

Charles Quef, 1873-1931



Leading in worship is **The Rev. Jason Meyers**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm**; a quartet of Met's choral lead singers **Noelle Slaney, Ania Suri, Alexander Cappellazzo**, and **Martin Gomes**; and Guest Carillonneur **Andrea Yau**. Our sound and livestream technician is **Nishaanth Siva** and **Preshan Puvanendran**. Metropolitan's livestreaming equipment was made possible thanks to the generosity of Wayne C. Vance.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

Please note that the offices at Metropolitan will be closed until the morning of January 5th.

NEXT SUNDAY: DECEMBER 28 - The First Sunday after Christmas

11:00 a.m. Worship - The Rev. Mark Aitchson leading worship

Readings: Isaiah 63: 7-9; Matthew 2:13-23

COMMUNITY NEWS

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

If this is your first time here today and are interested in learning more about our services, programs and events, please consider signing up for our weekly Met Connect email. You can do this by filling in the "Let's Connect" card in the pews and leaving it in the offering plate or giving it to a minister/usher.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION

Met is a sanctuary for the soul. Each week we host two online Bible studies: Wednesdays at noon and Thursday mornings at 8:45 am. A group meets on Zoom every Monday evening at 8:00 pm for Centring Prayer. Each Tuesday at 12:30pm a Celtic Communion Service is offered in the chapel and on Zoom. For more information, please visit our website: metunited.ca. Newcomers are always welcome.

RIMBALA | MUSIC & MOVEMENT

Rimbala combines live, improvised music with simple and fun movement activities to help seniors improve balance, mobility and memory. Rimbala meets in person in the Chancel Room and on Zoom on Thursdays from 10:45 to 11:45 am, beginning again on January 8.

HYBRID KNITTING | CREATIVITY & CONVERSATION

On Thursdays from 1 to 2 pm our knitting group meets in person in the Learning Room and on Zoom for creativity and conversation. All knitters, stitchers, and crocheters of all skill levels are most welcome to join. Hybrid knitting resumes on January 8.

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.

GIFTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY: 2026 CALENDARS

Thank you for your contributions of warm woollies and hot meals to those in need! If you have any 2026 calendars you are not going to use, please consider dropping them off in the narthex as our guests at the community meal appreciate the opportunity to have a calendar.

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.

PLAN AHEAD

- Sunday, January 4th - Sunday Lunch at McVeigh's Pub after worship
- Thursday, January 15th at 4pm - Wild Church inside in the Chancel with labyrinth walk
- Sunday, January 25 - "Invite a friend to church" with potluck meal after worship, then a Congregational Meeting to review Met's capital/operating budgets and materials related to the ministerial search.

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.



A photograph of a Christmas tree with a large white ornament and a stained glass window in the background. The text "Merry Christmas from Metropolitan!" is overlaid on the image in a white, gothic-style font.

Merry Christmas
from Metropolitan!

DIRECTORY

Chair of the Official Board: Peter Johnston (boardchair@metunited.ca)
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Minister of Pastoral Care: The Rev. Mark Aitchison, ext. 254 (marka@metunited.ca)
Minister of Music: Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm, ext. 226 (jonathano@metunited.ca)
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Nursery Attendant: Johnavac Abraham
Library: Marion Lick and Maureen Maguire (library@metunited.ca)
Seniors Support Worker: Allen Mathewkutty (allenm@metunited.ca)



Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm, ext. 226 (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

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