

WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH



Photo by Ryan Loughlin on Unsplash

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD **January 11, 2026**

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

Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam, BWV 684 & 685

J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

Theme and Variations, op. 150 no. 1

Josef Gabriel Rheinberger, 1839-1901

Elizabeth Loewen-Andrews, violin

~ We are gathered in Christ ~

WORDS OF WELCOME

♪ PROCESSIONAL HYMN 100 *When Jesus Comes to be Baptized*

WINCHESTER NEW

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: Water is the stuff of life.

All: It held us before we were born and met us again at the font of grace.

One: The voice of God is upon the waters.

All: A voice that names us beloved and calls us into peace.

One: When our spirits feel parched and our hope is blown thin by the wind,

All: May our lives become living water for one another.

One: Come, let us set our feet on the path of true life,

All: And draw deeply from the well of God's generous 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 (Congregation and Choir) 946

from the Russian Orthodox Liturgy

Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

♪ FACT OF PRAISE (All) 81, v.5

DIX

In the heavenly country bright none shall need created light,

You, its light, its joy, its crown, you its sun which goes not down,

There forever may we sing hallelujah to our King.

~ *We encounter the Word* ~

READINGS

Isaiah 42:1-9

The servant of God brings justice.

Psalms 29

The voice of God upon the waters.

ANTHEM *The White Dove*

Derek Healey, b. 1936

Gisele Kulak and Noelle Slaney, sopranos

Alleluia. The White Dove hovered in the still, clear air with such celestial beauty, while God's dear Son stood in the water cool. The White Dove hovered in the still, clear air with such ethereal beauty, and there did John baptize our Lord Jesus. The Dove descended through the still, clear air with such transcendent beauty and rested on our Savior, Lord Jesus.

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:13-17

Christ revealed as God's servant

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

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN 84 *O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word*

CANONBURY

During the hymn children are invited to meet Ael at the front to go down to Sunday School.

SERMON

"Resurfacing"

The Rev. Emily Gordon

ANTHEM *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day*

Traditional, arr. David Willcocks, 1919-2015

~ *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. *(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 *Wenn Trost und Hilf ermangeln muß*, from Cantata 117

J.S. Bach

Parker Clements, baritone; Elizabeth Loewen-Andrews, violin

If comfort and aid be lacking, which is apparent in the entire world, then the abundance shall come and help, the Creator himself, and bend his paternal eyes on them, who otherwise would never find rest. Give honor to our God!

OFFERTORY HYMN 93, v.4 *When Heaven's Bright with Mystery*

SUSSEX CAROL

When heaven's bright with mystery and stars still lead an unknown way,
When love still lights a gentle path where courts of power can hold no sway,
There with the Magi, let us kneel, our gifts to share, God's world to heal.

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 448 *We Know That Christ is Raised*

ENGELBERG

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 *Dieu parmi nous*, from *La Nativité du Seigneur* Olivier Messiaen, 1908-1992



Leading in worship are **The Rev. Emily Gordon** and **The Rev. Mark Aitchison**. Reading the lessons is **Shawn Winsor**. 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 **Edward Xu**, guest violinist **Elizabeth Loewen-Andrews**, and the **Metropolitan Choir**. Members of our Care Staff are **Siva Selva** and **Gerold Mayer**. 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 NOTES

J.S. Bach's settings of the Baptism of Christ hymn *Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam* is taken from his four-volume published collection of keyboard exercises, the *Clavierübung*. Bach's understanding of "exercise" included the musical, devotional and metaphysical, since this collection of "exercises" includes the Goldberg Variations, among other masterworks. We hear the rippling water in the left hand while the cross motive sounds in the right hand, foreshadowing Christ's sacrificial death. The melody is in the tenor voice, but sometimes dips under the left hand's rippling waves. **Josef Rheinberger** was 19th-century Germany's most sought-after counterpoint teacher. Professor in Munich, his 20 organ sonatas and numerous liturgical and concert works set a new and high standard for Catholic church music, after a period of long decline. The op. 150 violin and organ works are character pieces, in the warm, lyrical spirit of Mendelssohn's *Songs Without Words* for piano. **Derek Healey** studied composition with Herbert Howells at the Royal College of Music, and with Goffredo Petrassi in Italy. In 1969 Healey moved to Canada where he received his doctorate from the University of Toronto. He subsequently taught at the Universities of Victoria, Toronto and Guelph. *The White Dove* sets a poem by the composer himself, and is written for choir, two soprano soloists and organ. The elegant suspensions and soaring lines evoke the descent of the white dove that descended from heaven upon the baptism of Jesus by St. John the Baptist. **Olivier Messiaen** is arguably the greatest French composer of the 20th century, who developed a personal systematic, disciplined language of modes and tonality that he maintained throughout his long compositional career. *Dieu parmi nous* ("God among us") is the exuberant finale from the 1936 suite *La Nativité du Seigneur*—in the opening descending series of chords we have a symbol of the Incarnation; the number 7 appears frequently as a symbol of perfection; and we end with the characteristic added sixth chord that is the rich, sonorous hallmark of Messiaen's harmonic world.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 12

- 3:00 p.m. Visual & Creative Arts
- 8:00 p.m. Centring Prayer*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

- 12:30 p.m. Celtic Communion*
- 7:00 p.m. Metropolitan Silver Band

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

- 12:00 p.m. Wednesday @ Noon Bible Study*
- 4:00 p.m. Worship Committee

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

- 8:45 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study*
- 10:45 a.m. Rimbala*
- 1:00 p.m. Hybrid Knitting Group*
- 4:00 p.m. Wild Church
- 4:00 p.m. Chop Chop
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir
- 7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Choir

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

- 10:30 a.m. Community Meal Program

NEXT SUNDAY: JANUARY 18 - The Second Sunday after Epiphany

- 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*
Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42
- 11:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 12:30 p.m. Met Book Club*

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. 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

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.

PLAN AHEAD

- Thursday, January 15th at 4pm - You are invited to Wild Church inside in the Chancel with labyrinth walk, on the theme of Revelation 21:5 “Behold I make all things new.” Finger labyrinths available.
- 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 discussion of the proposed job description and Living Faith story for the upcoming search for a new minister.

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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Director, Great Heart Youth Ensemble: Dr. Benjamin Stein
Conductor, Metropolitan Choristers: Alessia Signorella
Wayne C. Vance Carillonist: Dr. Elisa Tersigni
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