

WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH

Hope, healing and beauty in Jesus' name.



From Ashes to New Life

AN INITIATIC JOURNEY THROUGH LENT & EASTER

Photo by Alfred Schrock on Unsplash

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT | PIE DAY

March 15, 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 *Aubade & Aria, from Three Pieces*
Andantino

Lennox Berkeley, 1903-1989

~ We are gathered in Christ ~

HONOURING THE MINISTRY OF REV. CORA KROMMENHOEK

♪ **PROCESSIONAL HYMN 270** *Dear Mother God*

HIGHWOOD

♪ **INVITATION TO WORSHIP** (Source: Affirm United)

One: This community joyfully affirms God’s love for LGBTQ2SIA people.

All: The presence of God welcomes the fullness of who we are.

One: We affirm that the Holy takes on flesh in every gender and sexual orientation, every race and ability, every body-size and body-type.

All: Each embodied difference is a unique glimpse of Holy Wonder.

One: Blessed are those who search for God among the lives of the oppressed, the betrayed, the turned-away, and the condemned.

All: Blessed are those who receive with joy the gifts of God enfleshed among us.

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray. (*please be seated*)

PRAYER OF APPROACH

LENTEN CONFESSION

Iona Community

(*Lent is a season to encounter ashes in preparation for new life. Each week we share in this prayer of confession.*)

One: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness,
to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, the life of the world.

All: May God forgive you, Christ renew you and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

One: Amen.

**All: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness,
to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, the life of the world.**

One: May God forgive you, Christ renew you and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

All: Amen.

SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

TENEBRAE WORDS OF LAMENT

One: Seeking new life in Christ, as we extinguish the fourth Lenten candle, we recall the times when we have been quick to pass judgements and make assumptions about people different from ourselves.

RESPONSE *More Voices 85 Take, O Take Me as I am*

John Bell, Iona Community

~ We encounter the Word ~

READINGS

1 Samuel 16:1-13

David is chosen and anointed

Ephesians 5:8-14

Live as children of light

ANTHEM *Sicut cervus*

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1525-1594

GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

A man born blind receives sight

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

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN *Jesus, You Have Truly Called Us*

tune: *BEACH SPRING*

Jesus, you have truly called us. Still, today, we hear your voice.

Lead us onward, lead us upward, till all people can rejoice.

Meet us in our time of trial, Fill us with your Spirit's power.

As we stand before oppression, give us courage for this hour.

Jesus, save us from poor choices. Hatred, running like a thread through the fabric of our history, mars our faith and leaves us dead.

Meet us in our time of trial...

Jesus, save us from our weakness, from deceit and from despair.

Move us on to new creation in a world that's free and fair.

Meet us in our time of trial...

Words by Daniel Charles Damon

From *Hymns for the Holy Other*

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

SERMON **"The Importance of PIE"**

Amanda O'Halloran

ANTHEM *I Cannot Attain Unto It*

The Text from Psalm 139.

Nico Muhly, b. 1981

~ *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 *Pavane, from Capriol Suite*

Peter Warlock, 1894-1930

OFFERTORY HYMN 543, v.1 *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

We give thee but thine own, what e'er that gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O God, from thee.

FRANCONIA

♪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 642 *Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

BLESSING 423 *(All - please turn toward the centre)*

RANDOLPH

God be with you till we meet again; Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.

ORGAN POSTLUDE *Passacaglia, from Suite in G minor*

Georg Frideric Handel, 1685-1750

arranged for organ by William Thomas Best, 1826-1897



Leading in worship are **Amanda O'Halloran** and **The Rev. Jason Meyers**. Reading the lessons is **Morgan Prescott**, member of our Affirm Committee. 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**, 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

On this PIE Day, we lift up works by members of the LBGTQ2S+ community. Lennox Berkeley was a student of Nadia Boulanger in Paris, absorbing the mysteries of French Impressionism and the clarity of neo-Classicism; he was also a protégé of Benjamin Britten, whose influence we feel keenly in the clean lines of this morning's prelude. The American Nico Muhly is one of today's more prominent choral composers, currently in residence at Christ Church and King's College, Oxford. In "I cannot attain", he explores minimalism and some almost-extended vocal techniques within an advanced harmonic language that is a vivid illustration of Psalm 139's intangibles. Peter Warlock (b. Philip Heseltine) lived under constant threat of Britain's sodomy laws, perforce presenting a public persona far different from his true life. His "Capriol Suite" has an air of Renaissance-revival mystery about, with rich harmonies and bracing rhythms. GF Handel is today strongly supposed to have been gay, although that could not have been made public in 18th-century England. His Passacaglia in G minor (finale of the 8th Harpsichord Suite) is an irresistible set of variations over a descending-fifths bass sequence.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

Lenten Daily Office is offered each weekday morning at 8:00 a.m. on *Zoom*

MONDAY, MARCH 16

7:00 p.m. Steps on the Initiatic Journey (*Chancel and Zoom*)

8:00 p.m. Centring Prayer (*Zoom*)

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

12:30 p.m. Celtic Communion (*Founders Chapel and Zoom*)

6:00 p.m. Official Board

7:00 p.m. Metropolitan Silver Band

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

12:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study (*Zoom*)

7:00 p.m. Met Care

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

8:45 a.m. Thursday Morning Bible Study (*Zoom*)

10:45 a.m. Rimbala (*Chancel Room and Zoom*)

12:00 p.m. Noon at Met concert (*Sanctuary and Livestream*)

1:00 p.m. Hybrid Knitting Group (*Learning Room and Zoom*)

4:00 p.m. Chop Chop

6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir

7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Choir

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

10:30 a.m. Community Meal Program

NEXT SUNDAY: MARCH 22 - The Fifth Sunday in Lent

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 (*Sanctuary and Livestream*)

12:30 p.m. Lunch and Learn on Communion, led by the Rev. Dr. William Kervin (*Met Centre and Zoom*)

1:30 p.m. Festival Choir Rehearsal

COMMUNITY NEWS

TODAY! PIE DAY LUNCH & LEARN

The Affirm group would like to invite everyone to attend a Lunch & Learn downstairs in the Met Centre after the service. Lunch in pie-form will be served and the topic will be Queer refugees.

GOOD FRIDAY CHORAL CONCERT

On Good Friday, April 3 at 7:30 p.m., the Met Festival Choir and Orchestra present J.S. Bach's St. John Passion, BWV 245. We will be joined by Evangelist Nicholas Nicolaidis, our own Parker Clements as Jesus, and soloists from the choir. Jonathan Oldengarm, direction and continuo; talk at 6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$40/\$15 on sale now through the Royal Conservatory Box Office, or in person after services.

STEPS ON THE INITIATIC JOURNEY - MONDAYS IN LENT AT 7PM

Through the season of Lent, Monday evening sessions will be offered for candidates for baptism, those looking to re-affirm their baptismal vows at the Easter Vigil, and all who seek to deepen into their spiritual life. This Monday, March 16, at 7pm we will gather in the Chancel and on Zoom to explore our “Commitment to Follow the Way of Jesus Christ.”

NEXT SUNDAY - LUNCH & LEARN ON COMMUNION

On March 22 the Worship Committee will be hosting a Lunch & Learn after the service in the Met Centre. Our guest speaker will be The Rev. Dr. William Kervin and his topic will be the sacrament of Communion.

YOUNG ADULTS @ MET GAMES NIGHTS

Are you in your 20's, 30's or 40's? Come to connect, laugh & build community the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Flanders Library and the 4th Tuesday of the month on Zoom. Contact ael@metunited.ca for more info.

NOON AT MET

This week's Noon at Met concert features cellist Julia Moroz and pianist Benjamin Smith performing works by César Franck and Pablo de Sarasate.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD — EASTER MEMORIALS

Metropolitan United Church invites you to make a memorial gift of any amount for Easter, 2026. We will list your name and the name(s) of those you wish to remember in the print bulletin and online on Easter Sunday. All gifts to our Memorial Fund are divided equally between sanctuary restoration and our congregation's endowment fund. You may make your gift in the following ways:

- Online: www.metunited.ca/donate. The “Donate” button is at the top of our web home page.
- *E-transfer*: Send an e-transfer to donations@metunited.ca.
- *Weekly offering*: Include your gift as part of your Sunday offering, clearly marked “Easter Memorial”.
- *By Mail*: Metropolitan United Church, 56 Queen Street East, Toronto, Ontario M5C 2Z3
- *QR code*: Point your mobile phone's camera at the code at the bottom of this page.

After making your gift, please forward the names of the person(s) you would like memorialized to Doug Flanders at dougflanders@sympatico.ca no later than noon, Tuesday, March 31. Easter blessings to all.

PLAN AHEAD

- Sunday, March 22 - Fifth Sunday in Lent | Lunch and Learn after the service about the sacrament of communion led by the Rev. Dr. William Kervin
- Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday with a continental breakfast before the service
- Thursday, April 2 at 7:00pm - Maundy Thursday service with communion and foot washing
- Friday, April 3 at 11am - Good Friday service
- Friday, April 3 at 7:30pm - Good Friday Concert: Bach's St. John Passion (talk at 6:30 p.m.)
- Saturday, April 4 at 9pm - Easter Vigil with baptisms, reaffirmation of baptism and communion
- Sunday, April 5 - Easter Sunday! Sunday Lunch at McVeigh's Pub
- Sunday, May 31st at 12:30pm - Metropolitan's Annual General Meeting

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: Peter Johnston (boardchair@metunited.ca)
Minister of Worship & Faith Formation: The Rev. Jason Meyers, ext 224. (jasonm@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 Coordinator: Ael Spence (ael@metunited.ca)
Nursery Attendant: Johnavac Abraham
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 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)
Office & Communications 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)
Finance Clerk: Brian Watkins, ext. 232 (accounting@metunited.ca)
Care Staff: 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



[@MetropolitanUnitedChurch](https://www.youtube.com/@MetropolitanUnitedChurch)



[/MetUnited](https://www.facebook.com/MetUnited)



[/MetropolitanUnitedTO/](https://www.instagram.com/MetropolitanUnitedTO/)