

WELCOME TO METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH

Hope, healing and beauty in Jesus' name.



Atop the Khongoryn Els Sand Dunes in Mongolia's Gobi Desert (Photo by Alan Hall)

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 26, 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. There is no Sunday School today, so children are encouraged to stay and enjoy the service.

CARILLON PRELUDE

ORGAN PRELUDE 11 Chorale Preludes, op.122, nos.1, 2, 5, 6, 7 Johannes Brahms, 1833-1897

WORDS OF WELCOME

♪ **OPENING HYMN 223** *Eternal, Unchanging, We Sing*

ST DENIO

♪ **INVITATION TO WORSHIP** (based on Psalm 105: 1 - 5)

One: O give thanks to God; call on God's name;
make known God's deeds among the peoples!

**All: Sing to God, sing praises to God;
tell of all God's wonderful works.**

One: Glory in God's holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice.

**All: Seek God and God's strength;
seek God's presence continually.**

One: Remember the wonderful works God has done,
God's miracles and the judgments God uttered!

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 (*All*) **More Voices 69**

William S. Kervin

Kyrie eleison (God, have mercy).

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

♪ **ACT OF PRAISE** (*All*) **342, v.4**

LYONS

Then let us adore and give as is right, all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
all honour and blessing with angels above, and thanks never ceasing and infinite love.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Parables of the Kingdom/Realm of God

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

All: Thanks be to God.

♪ **HYMN 296** *This is God's Wondrous World*

TERRA BEATA

SERMON ***"The Realm of God: Here, Gone, and Here Again"***

The Rev. Alan Hall

ANTHEM ○ *Come, Ye Servants of the Lord*

Christopher Tye, c1500-1572

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 HYMN 518, v.3**

FOREST GREEN

With gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to you,
Not just to serve your cause, but share your love with neighbours too.
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your son,
Help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

♪ **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 HYMN 232 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You*

HYMN TO JOY

✪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 *Fanfare en Rondeau*

Jean-Joseph Mouret, 1682-1738



Leading in worship is **The Rev. Alan Hall**. The ministry of music is offered by Wayne C. Vance Carillonneur **Dr. Elisa Tersigni**, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Ethan Duan**, and Met Choir section leads **Rayna Crandlemire**, **Valeria Kondrashov**, **Adam Wicks**, and **Parker Clements**. The musical leadership of the quartet during the summer months is made possible by the financial support of **Wayne C. Vance**. Members of our Care Staff are **Siva Selva** and **Austrin Tran**. 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.

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