

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

The downtown church for a diverse city

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.



Sunday, December 9, 2018 **Second Sunday in Advent**

*We hope that you will find in the Worship Service food for faith and a doorway to God. Metropolitan is an **Affirming Congregation**. We welcome people of all sexual orientations to worship and minister among us.*

ORDER OF SERVICE

CARILLON PRELUDE (10:30 am outside)

Preparamos Los Caminos (Prepare the Way)

Carmelo Erdozain, arranged by Carole Anne Taylor

BAND PRELUDE

*The Wonder of Christmas
With Clouds Descending*

Leslie Condon
Philip Sparke

♩ PROCESSIONAL HYMN #29 *Hark the Glad Sound!*

Richmond

♩ INVITATION TO WORSHIP (ADAPTED FROM LUKE 1:68-79)

One: Blessed be the God of the Great Summons, who looks favourably on the people and rescues us from the drift and unfaithfulness of the passing world.

All: **God has raised up a mighty Saviour for us from the house of David. The Great Promise is kept. We are secure from our enemies, and from the power of all who cast spells and seek to do us harm.**

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Let us pray. (all seated)

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

One: Mighty Messenger of the mightiest message, you remember your commitments, the ribs around which the world is built. You break the grip of fear that we may sing boldly, dream broadly and love deeply. Holy things rise to the fore now. Ugly, awful things fall to the ground and perish as dust.

All: **Your child will be called the Prophet of the Most High God. This One will open the way for your nearer presence.**

One: By grace, the dawn will break into its dazzling light. All those who sit in darkness will see it and know it belongs to them and they to it.

All: **Visited, ransomed, restored and forgiven, we, at last, shall be guides, and be guided, into the ways of peace.**

SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

ADVENT KYRIE (ALL)



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: "Come, Almighty, to deliver. Let us, all, your grace receive." The promise of incarnation returns the child to its joy and the penitent to their peace. We are restored to God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: The second candle shines for Peace, not just the absence of war, but a genuine easing of the mind that all people may live welcomed, valued, and sacred lives.

♩ (indicates a congregational response - please stand as you are able).

All: Let Peace from Heaven fill the sky with angel light. Let Peace on Earth bid all the angels smile in flight. (*Manhal Shamasha (father), Nawal Tohy (mother), their son Fadi and their daughter, Nada.*)
Family: "Even so, come Lord Jesus."

SUNG ADVENT RESPONSE (ALL): from Hymn #7

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth, giving a promise of safety and worth.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.**

READINGS Malachi 3:1-4; Philippians 1:3-11

ANTHEM *And He Shall Purify* from *Messiah* G. F. Handel
And He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

GOSPEL READING Luke 3:1-6

DESCRIPTION OF GLORY: These are the tidings of God. If you would touch the sacred, touch it here. The truth is in the words, and the power in the inspiration.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Thanks be to God.

ENCOUNTERING THE CHILD WITHIN

All children and youth are invited to make their way to Sunday School. Please follow the teachers.

HYMN #20 *On Jordan's Bank* Winchester New

SERMON "CAULDRON OF CLEANSING"
The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair

ANTHEM *Creator Blest of Every Star (Conditor Alme Siderum)* G. P. Da Palestrina
Creator blest of every star, eternal light of Christians' way; Saviour of all, near and far, Blest Jesu, come to us, we pray. When earth was near its evening hour, thou didst in love's redeeming power, like bridegroom from his chamber, come forth from a maiden mother's womb. To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, three in one, praise, honour, might and glory be from age to age eternally.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

BAND OFFERTORY *The Huron Carol (Brian Moyer, Cornet)*

Kevin Norbury

♪THE OFFERTORY HYMN #540 (All)

Stuttgart

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving, with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living we may offer faithfully.**

**Grant us time and inspiration, with a vision old and new,
that our goal in all our loving may be reached in loving you.**

♪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. (all seated)

LORD'S PRAYER (all) (*Voices United*, p. 921)

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.

♪RECESSIONAL HYMN #28 *Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness*

Neander

♪COMMISSIONING

♪BLESSING (All) #429

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.**

BAND POSTLUDE AND CANDLE EXTINGUISHING *The Christmas Miracle*

Kevin Manners



LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning are **The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair** and **The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea**. Reading the lessons is **Walter Ridley**. The ministry of music is offered by Carillonneur **Roy Lee**, the **Metropolitan Choir** conducted by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, by the Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Michael Oldaker**, and by the Metropolitan Silver Band conducted by **Fran Harvey**.

CARRYING THE ADVENT TORCH is **Ian Mahaffy**.

GREETERS are **Muriel Griffith** and **Andrew McGee**.

USHERS are **Vicki Harris**, **Jennifer McDonald**, **Joseph Curry** and **Gunn Wongsuwan**.

TODAY

MET VOLUNTEERS: You can help bring Christmas Joy to a Metropolitan member who is shut-in or has difficulty attending service. Do you live within driving distance of one of these areas? **Met Care** would appreciate your assistance in delivering the plants. They are at the back of the church and may be picked up before or after the service (preferably before lunch). (Christie Gardens - **600 Melita Cres.**; Providence Villa - **3276 St. Clair Ave. East**; Davenhill **877 Yonge Street** - three plants to be delivered there; **1381 Everall Road, Mississauga**; Main St. Terrace, **77 Main St.** between Gerrard and Kingston Rd.; **1 Lomond Dr.** - Bloor & Islington; **38 Medalist Road** - south of 401 off Bayview; **921 Millwood Road** - north of Moore).

CHRISTMAS LUNCH: This festive occasion will take place immediately following the morning service in the Met Centre. The menu for this year will be roast turkey with all the trimmings. All are welcome.

DECK THE HALLS: A Downtown Carol Sing (the former 'Carols United') with the Metropolitan Silver Band and Patricia Wright, organist, will be held on TODAY at 1:30 p.m. This year, all donations will benefit Metropolitan's Home and Health Fund.

METROPOLITAN CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS: In honour of our 200th anniversary we have commissioned a special pewter ornament of the church available in the Narthex for \$20 each.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, December 10

10:00 a.m. Art Program

Metropolitan Centre

Tuesday, December 11

6:00 p.m. Trustees meeting

Library

7:00 p.m. Congregational Care

Board Room

Wednesday, December 12

7:00 a.m. OOTC Chop Chop Group

Met Kitchen

12:15 p.m. Advent Adorations: A reading of "A Child's Christmas in Wales"

Founders' Chapel

6:00 p.m. Official Board

Metropolitan Centre

6:00 p.m. Peace and Social Justice

Board Room

Thursday, December 13

7:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast

Fran's Restaurant

11:00 a.m. OOTC Christmas Lunch

Metropolitan Centre

6:30 p.m. Metropolitan Handbells

Nursery

7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Choir

Chancel Room

Friday, December 14

10:00 a.m. Art Program

Metropolitan Centre

10:00 a.m. Pre-Board

Board Room

Saturday, December 15

8:30 a.m. Breakfast Bible Study

Board Room

10:00 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal

Sanctuary

12:00 p.m. Christmas at Queen Rehearsal

Narthex

2:00 p.m. Memorial Service – Helen Stockton

Sanctuary

5:00 p.m. Blue Christmas Service

Sanctuary

NEXT SUNDAY: December 16 *Third Sunday in Advent/Christmas Pageant*

9:30 a.m.	Communion Service in the Founders' Chapel "Renew Your Love" The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea	
9:45 a.m.	Metropolitan Sparklers, Choristers and <i>Great Heart</i>	Met Centre/Morley Punshon Room
10:00 a.m.	Library Open (re-opens 12:15 p.m.)	
10:00 a.m.	One Question Bible Study	Board Room
11:00 a.m.	Morning Service - The Christmas Pageant	Sanctuary
7:00 p.m.	Annual Service of Lessons and Carols	Sanctuary

MINISTRY OF INTEGRATED ARTS

VISUAL AND CREATIVE ARTS FALL HAPPENINGS: Open Studio Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the **Metropolitan Centre**, (acrylics, pencil, pastels, some supplies provided!) all levels welcome! A friendly encouraging space facilitated by local artist Luis Estores.

DONATIONS NEEDED: The Visual and Creative Arts Committee is accepting donations of wool and yarn, knitting needles, patterns or other supplies. If you should find yourself with extra, please consider dropping it off in the church office. *Thank you.*

METROPOLITAN SILVER BAND NEW CD RECORDING: Is now available, pick up your copy of *Sacred Brass* - the band's new CD that features all your sacred brass band favorites. Also available is the recent *Amazing Grace*, and of course our jolly Christmas CD - *Silver Christmas*. Available in the narthex after the service.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

NEXTGEN: Caroling & Christmas Market night on **Tuesday, December 11**. We will meet at the church at **7:00 p.m.** dressed for the weather. RSVP with Rebecca Schoenhardt (schoenhardtrebecca@gmail.com)

MEMORIAL SERVICE: We express our sympathy to the family of **Helen Stockton**. Helen died last week in Guelph. She was a missionary in Africa for the United Church and a strong leader among us. Her memorial service will be held here on **Saturday, December 15**. Visitation is at 1:00 p.m., funeral is at 2:00 p.m.

BLUE CHRISTMAS: A quiet service during the season of Advent on Saturday, **December 15 at 5:00 p.m.** Bring your broken memories for a time to restore, to heal and to mend with The Rev. Dr. Malcolm G. Sinclair, The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea and Dr. Patricia Wright.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – On **Sunday, December 16**. You are invited to join the Nativity Pageant team! The next rehearsal is Saturday, December 15 from 10:00 a.m.-noon. **RSVP The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea.**

CELTIC CHRISTMAS LABYRINTH WALK: Join us on Monday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m. with the Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea and the music of Benjamin Stein. **THE WINTER SOLSTICE –** This is the shortest day of the year. This event has been celebrated by ancient peoples since the dawn of humanity. A time to look for the light in the shadows of the Yule Night

CHRISTMAS AT QUEEN – On **Monday, December 24**. You are invited to join the Outdoor Nativity Pageant team! Rehearsals are Saturdays, December 15 and 22, 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. **RSVP The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea.**

OUTREACH

WHITE GIFT SUNDAY NEXT WEEK – During the offering after the Christmas Pageant, we present our white gifts under the tree. Please be generous!

OUT OF THE COLD VOLUNTEERS: We're asking for volunteers to help with early morning food preparation on Wednesdays and also on Thursdays at noon to help with clean-up, dishes, etc. Please contact **Kathy Priestman** at **416-691-5808**.

CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY AT OUT OF THE COLD: To celebrate Christmas with our guests, for December 20 we are planning a special menu, music and, with your help, a gift for everyone. Please consider leaving a gift in the OOTC GIFTS boxes in the Narthex on Sundays (Dec, 2, 9, 16). Suggested items: gift cards (dollar or grocery stores), toiletries, towels, hats, gloves/mittens, scarves, socks, t-shirts, underwear, reusable water bottles, coffee mugs, backpacks.

COOKIE BAKERS make possible a much-loved addition to the Thursday Out of the Cold meals. Tins will be left in the Narthex Sunday mornings; cookie donations may be left there.

SPIRITUAL LEARNING FOR LIFE

FLANDERS LIBRARY: Anne Lamott is a novelist, non-fiction writer, essayist and memoirist. Marked by their self-deprecating humour, Lamott's writings cover among others such subjects as alcoholism, single-motherhood, depression, and Christianity. We have 4 books written by Lamott in our library. One of them is "Stitches: a handbook on meaning, hope and repair". The Library is open from 10:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:15-1:00 p.m. every Sunday.

FAITH IN ACTION

OUR CHRISTMAS THANK OFFERING: Throughout the year on special occasions, we are invited to make an additional gift to support our many ministries and programs here at Metropolitan Church. Thank you for your prayerful and generous support. Our gifts enable hearts to be moved and lives to be transformed. **Please pick up your Christmas letter today after the service from the Narthex.** Your donation can be provided as follows:

- Online giving: Go to www.metunited.ca. Click "Donate Now"
- Credit card donations: Call Elena at the church office at (416) 363-0331, ext. 29
- Mail your cheque to Metropolitan United Church, 56 Queen Street East, M5C 2Z3
- Use the Christmas Offering envelope placed in the pews for your cheque or cash offering

RENEW! RESTORE! REJOICE! OUR THIRD CENTURY CAMPAIGN: Our park in McGill Square is badly in need of upgrading and restoration—new sidewalks, better lighting, new landscaping and overall greater accessibility. Gifts to our Third Century Campaign will ensure our heritage building is renewed for future generations. Please pray for the enthusiastic support from every household when our campaign launches next year. To God be the Glory, great things God has done!

FAITH-FILLED SUPPORT: Metropolitan Church has been a beacon in our community for 200 years. Leaders and ministers may change but our church remains constant. Ours is a congregation worthy of our support both annually and through our legacy gifts. A gift in your will can make a real difference to our church in future. For assistance, please contact Doug Flanders (416) 769-2746; email [douglflanders@sympatico.ca](mailto:douglfanders@sympatico.ca) ***A legacy — It's ours to leave.***

Scented Products can aggravate health problems for some people. Please avoid the use of perfume or other scented products. Thank you for your cooperation.

DIRECTORY

Minister of the Congregation: The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair, ext. 27

Minister of Congregational Care and Development: The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea, ext. 24

Teachers: Karlos Griffith (karlosgriffith@rogers.com), Johnavac Abrahams (johnavac.abraham@tcdsb.org)

Library: Marion Lick (library@metunited.ca) and Maureen Maguire (vigrass78@gmail.com)

Community Outreach Ministry

Outreach and Housing Worker: Megan Carver, ext. 21 (housingworker@metunited.ca)

Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Dr. Patricia Wright, ext. 26 (patw@metunited.ca)

Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar: Michael Oldaker

Junior Organ Scholar: Timothy Wisnicki

Metropolitan Choir Lead Singers: Gisele Kulak, Chelsea Van Pelt, Valeria Kondrashov, Chris Taeyoung Kim, Charles Davidson, Benjamin Stein, Nicholas Higgs, John Schneider

Director, *Great Heart* Youth Ensemble: Benjamin Stein

Conductor, *Metropolitan Sparklers*: Dr. Jennifer Martyn

Carillonneur: Roy Lee

Carillonneur Emeritus: James Slater

Director, Metropolitan Silver Band: Fran Harvey

Administrative Ministry

Director of Administration: Jane Tuomi, ext. 35 (janelt@metunited.ca)

Office Administrator: Jaclyn Kumer, ext. 10 (jacik@metunited.ca)

Financial/Membership Administrator: Elena Pejcinovska, ext. 29 (elenap@metunited.ca)

Property Manager: Frank Cairns, ext. 31

Custodians: Nadan Kandiah, Puvi Kanagalingam, ext. 39/40

Metropolitan United Church

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**Cover Photo: Metropolitan's paramounts,
featuring the Jesse Tree.
Taken by: Dr. Patricia Wright**