

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 16, 2018

Third Sunday in Advent

The Christmas Pageant

*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) performed by student carillonners Naoko Tsujita and Mateusz Olechnowicz

ORGAN PRELUDE *The World Awaiting the Saviour*
Christmas Scherzo
Lo, How a Rose

Marcel Dupré
June Nixon
Johannes Brahms

♪ **PROCESSIONAL HYMN #30** *Hail to God's Own Anointed*

Crüger

♪ **INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray. (all seated)

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

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: Joy brightens the day. The third candle reminds us that eternal gifts arrive through birth, nurture and commitment. There is joy to be found in daily living.

All: May Joy among us make for busy hands, clearer thoughts and the empowerment of blessed days for all. (*The candle is lit by Brianne McVeigh, Ben Joyce, Marcus and Megan.*)

Family: "Even so, come Lord Jesus."

SUNG ADVENT RESPONSE (All) from Hymn #7

Away in a manger

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world that the Saviour is born.

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.

ANTHEM *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*
Great Heart

Mark Hall / Dale Oliver / Bernie Herms

THE PAGEANT (Congregation, please remain seated during the carols)

SOLO O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel....

Gisele Kulak

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

THE PROPHECY

THE ANNUNCIATION

Great Heart Breath of Heaven

Chris Eaton and Amy Grant

THE ARRIVAL OF MARY AND JOSEPH

Choir and Congregation: #62 *Once in Royal David's City*
Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle-shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

Irby

He came down to earth from heaven who, with God, is over all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
There among the poor and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.

THE BIRTH

Choir and Congregation: #69 *Away in a Manger*
Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Cradle Song

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

THE ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS

Choristers, Sparklers, Handbells: *Fum, Fum, Fum*

arr. John D. Miller

Choir and Congregation:
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!

Choir *My Lord Has Come*

Will Todd

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels; no place for them but a stable. My Lord has come. Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven; no place... His love will hold me, his love will cherish me, love will cradle me. Lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels, no place for me but a stable. My Lord has come.

THE THREE KINGS

Choir and Congregation: *We Three Kings*

**Verse 1: We three kings of orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

Refrain after each verse:

**O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guiding to Thy perfect light.**

**Verse 5: Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder....**

THE STORY CONTINUES

Choir *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day*

Trad arr. Willcocks

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance: Sing O my love, this have I done for my true love...

♪ **CAROL #59** *Joy to the World*

Antioch

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

♪ **OFFERTORY CAROL #91** *The First Nowell*

The First Nowell

During the singing of the carol, please come forward, as you are able, and present your white gifts.

♪ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

♪ **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)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 #36** *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

Regent Square

♪ **COMMISSIONING**

♪ **BLESSING (All) #429 (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 AND CANDLE EXTINGUISHING *Noël Suisse*

Louis-Claude Daquin



LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning is **Dr. Linn Holness**. The ministry of music is offered by the **Metropolitan Choir** and **Choristers** conducted by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, the Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Michael Oldaker**, Junior Organ Scholar **Timothy Wisnicki**, the **Metropolitan Sparklers** conducted by **Dr. Jennifer Martyn**, and by *Great Heart* conducted by **Benjamin Stein**.

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

GREETERS are **Fran Parkin** and **Jean Robison**.

USHERS are: **Terry Kelly, Wilbert Ward, Jennifer McDonald** and **Carolyn Pack**.

All are welcome to share in coffee and conversation after the service.

TODAY we have a chance to dress in our Great Story. **Patricia Orr** has enriched our tale with her wonderful words. We thank our **Director:** Gary Brennan; **Costume Director:** Hazel Gorley; **Costume Assistant:** Catherine Spence; **Lighting:** Karlos Griffith and Andrew McGee; **Narrators:** Gary Brennan, Sharon MacFarlane, Malcolm Sinclair; **Prophet:** John Joseph Mastandrea; **Angel Gabriel:** Debbey Van Beek; **Midwife:** Irmina Ayuyao; **Holy Family:** Caroline Yandle as Mary, Alex Yandle as Joseph, Meredith Yandle as the baby Jesus, Philip Yandle as a lamb; **Prophet Dancer:** Hannah Stein; **Three Kings:** Mary Campbell, Bruce Peckover, Marc Tremblay; **Roman Soldiers:** Ali MacDonald; Evan Knight **Shepherds:** Jay Wagner, Greg Martyn, Ben Joyce, Alison Keeley, Bill Keeley, Joe Landon, Heather Landon, Anya Lakota, Evan Lakota, Eli Landon, Eve Gilady, Madeline Gilady, Hermione Martyn, Lochlan Keeley, **Lamb:** Eli Landon; **Herod:** John Joseph Mastandrea; **Star Bearer:** Asha Ayuyao Woolrich; **Angels:** Claire Keeley, Malaya Landon, Ruby Walker, Elise Lakota, Tessa Lakota, Clementine Pinsonneault, Eliot Stassis Terrio; Mary Ann McPherson **Lamb:** Marcus Joyce; **Great Heart:** Asha Ayuyao Woolrich, Finn Ayuyao Woolrich, Georgia Brady, Iain Brady, Nicholas Brady, Charlotte Mallia, Andrew McGrenere, Seamus McGrenere, Cyrus Walker; **Choristers:** Eve Gilady, Anya Lakota, Elise Lakota, Lexie Landerkin, Eli Landon, Malaya Landon, Charlotte Quenneville, Emily Quenneville, Ruby Walker; **Sparklers:** Madeline Gilady, Tessa Lakota, Marcus Joyce, Evan Lakota, Lochlan Keeley, Clementine Pinsonneault, Eliot Stassis Terrio. These “working Saints” of ours bring the joy of Christmas closer to all.

TONIGHT at 7:00 p.m. – our annual Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols featuring traditional readings, carols, and anthems.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, December 17

7:00 p.m. *Celtic Christmas* Labyrinth Walk Chancel

Wednesday, December 19

7:00 a.m. OOTC Chop-Chop Group Met Kitchen

Thursday, December 20

11:00 a.m. Out of the Cold Met Luncheon Metropolitan Centre
* (closing at 2:00 p.m. and welcoming you back on January 10, 2019.)

7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Choir Chancel Room

Saturday, December 22

12:00 p.m. *Christmas at Queen* rehearsal Narthex

NEXT SUNDAY: December 23 *Fourth Sunday in Advent*

9:30 a.m. Communion Service in the Founders' Chapel
“Look with Favour” The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea

10:00 a.m. Library Open (re-opens 12:15 p.m.)

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service

“Seeds of Wonder” The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair

Micah 5:2-5a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55

A Ceremony of Carols The Metropolitan Choir with Janice Lindskoog, harp

Monday, December 24 *Christmas Eve*

5:00 p.m. Christmas at Queen

Front Steps

“Hope Is a Star” The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea

See the Living Nativity on our steps with live animals.

11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service

“Miracle of Permanence” The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair

Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

Tuesday, December 25 *Christmas Day*

11:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship Service

“Day of Daylight” The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair

Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-4; John 1:1-14

Sunday, December 30 *First Sunday after Christmas*

9:30 a.m. Communion Service in the Founders' Chapel

“A Great Light” Dr. Kari Tolppanen

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service

“Touch of Destiny” The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair

I Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

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.

MINISTRY OF INTEGRATED ARTS

CHRISTMAS GIFTS! Give the gift of Metropolitan Music. Following the service, our various CDs will be for sale for the price of \$10.

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 favourites. 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

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 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

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 Sunday, Dec. 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: The book "All About Christmas" by Maymie Richardson Krythe recounts history of Christmas traditions around the world. Four chapters are devoted to Christmas carols and their composers. 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. 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

FORMALIZE IT! Are you using the green visitor envelopes for your weekly offering or putting money directly on the plate? Please consider formalizing your giving to Metropolitan by using a box of weekly offering envelopes, giving by bank deduction or by credit card. Giving will be easier for you and you will also receive a receipt for income tax purposes at year end. Please contact Elena at (416) 363-0331, ext. 29; elenap@metunited.org. Thank you for your kind support.

LOOK TO THE FUTURE: Over the years, our church has faced many transitions — in ministerial leadership, in volunteers and in programs. Regardless, our church's ministry has remained constant and effective. Legacy gifts can help to ensure our church's future vitality through ongoing change. Thank you remembering Metropolitan Church with a gift in your estate plans. To explore opportunities, please contact Doug Flanders (416) 769-2746; email dougflanders@sympatico.ca ***A legacy — It's ours to leave.***

Those who give what they would as readily throw away, give without generosity for the essence of generosity is in self-sacrifice. — Henry Taylor

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

Office closure:

The church office will be closed for the holidays on Dec 25th and re-open on January 2nd, 2019.

Pastoral Care: Malcolm Sinclair (416) 432-3536

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

Church School Teachers: Karlos Griffith (karlosgriffith@rogers.com), Johnnavac Abraham

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

Community Outreach Ministry

Manager of Community Services: Laura Awosanya (lauraa@metunited.ca)

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.org)

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

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

Property Manager: Frank Cairns, ext. 31

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

Metropolitan United Church

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To hear the sermon: www.metsermons.com

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**Cover photo is of the 2012 Christmas Pageant.
Photo taken by Paul Kropp.**