



CHRISTMAS EVE

Metropolitan United Church
December 24, 2018

“What keeps the wild hope of Christmas alive year after year in a world notorious for dashing all hopes is the haunting dream that the child who was born that day may yet be born again even in us and our own snowbound, snowblind longing for him.”

- Frederick Buechner

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church, an Affirming Congregation. We hope that tonight's Christmas Eve Service will be a joyful time for you.

Leading us in worship for tonight's Christmas Eve service are **The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair** and **The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea**. The Communion servers are **The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair, Elspeth Sinclair, Liz Kiff, The Rev. Peter McNaughton, Jennifer McDonald, Dennis Donovan, The Rev. Walter Ridley, Ali McDonald, The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea, Bill Calkins, The Rev. Kenneth Moy, Linn Holness, Denise Moore, and Meilana Dickenson**. Reading the lessons is **Dr. Linn Holness**, Chair of Worship.

The Ministry of Music is offered by the Metropolitan Choir, by the Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, by the Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Michael Oldaker**, and Carillonneur **Roy Lee**.

GREETER is Fran Parkin.

USHERS are **Karen Scott, Terry Kelly, Kenneth Younie, Jennifer McDonald, Ali McDonald** and **Joseph Curry**.

Please note: Metropolitan United provides the following service supports that may be obtained from our ushers, including mobile hearing aids, large print bulletins and hymns, and individual pew cushions.

Clergy Greetings

Merry Christmas! Welcome to Metropolitan United Church. Our roots are anchored in a small log church built where Commerce Court now stands. The year was 1818. Methodists trekked through the snow of Old York to fire up the wood stove and sing the songs of Christmas. Over the last 200 years, many downtown churches were seeded by our Methodist ancestors.

The first building on the current site, raised in 1872, seated 2,200 people on the main floor and horseshoe-shaped gallery. In 1928, a fire destroyed the structure. Two hundred firefighters fought the cold of a Toronto winter to save the tower and the great carillon you heard tonight. In 1929, this second building, modelled after Doncaster parish church in England, was dedicated to the Glory of God. Its magnificent Casavant pipe organ, the largest in Canada, with over 8,300 pipes, provides the loom for weaving public worship.

We continue to strive for excellence, to inspire greatness in others, and to heal the wounds of urban life. We are grateful to the foundations, corporations, government agencies, civic and community leaders, interest groups and volunteers who join us in this work. You are welcome here.

The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair

The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea

Order of Service

CARILLON RECITAL (10:30 p.m. outside) *Introit for Christmas Eve*

Ronald Barnes

GREAT HEART ALUMNI and friends PRELUDE (10:30 p.m. inside)

Guests: Alice Sellwood, Ron Sellwood, Gisele Kulak, Hannah Stein, Benjamin Stein, John Schneider, Solmas Baibordi

PRELUDE (10:45 p.m.) *Offertoire sur Deux Noëls*

A. Guilmant

Away in a Manger

June Nixon

Prelude on "Quem Pastores"

Healey Willan

Noël sur les Flûtes

L.-C. Daquin

INTROIT: *Quem pastores*

15th -16th c. Carol

Shepherds left their flocks a-straying, God's command with joy obeying, when they heard the angels saying, "Christ is born in Bethlehem". Let us now in every nation sing his praise with exultation. All the world shall find salvation in the birth of Mary's son.

Soloists: Gisele Kulak, Valeria Kondrashov, Chelsea Van Pelt, Chris Taeyoung Kim

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

One: O sing to the Lord a new song: tell of salvation from day to day. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. Honour and majesty flow from the Sacred Presence, strength and beauty fill the sanctuary.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #60 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Adeste Fideles

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:

Come and behold Him, born the King of angels:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, light of light,

Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;

Very God, begotten, not created:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him... Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;

Glory to God in the highest:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him...Christ the Lord.

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,

Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;

We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;

Refrain: O come, let us adore him...Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:

Jesus, to thee be glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him...Christ the Lord.

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

THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND POURING OF THE CUP

AGNUS DEI (Choir) from *Missa Brevis #4*

Healey Willan

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace.

DISTRIBUTION

All are welcome to the gifts of the Lord's table. Please arrive by the centre aisle. Our ushers will direct you to one of the serving stations across the front of the church. Please move to the first available servers. Those seated in the balcony will be served in the balcony. Take a wafer and dip it into the chalice, partake, then return to your pew by the side aisles. (Those on the main floor wishing to receive the elements in their pews will be served there.)

CHOIR CAROLS DURING COMMUNION

Away in a Manger - Handbells; Infant Holy; Ding Dong, Merrily on High; No Crowded Eastern Street

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

RECESSIONAL HYMN #59 *Joy To The World*

Antioch

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns: let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the earth with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

THE CHORAL RESPONSE *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

harm. J. S. Bach

ORGAN POSTLUDE *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

Johann Pachelbel



CARRYING THE ADVENT TORCH FOR THE PROCESSIONAL, AND THE BANNER FOR THE RECESSIONAL is Janice Andrews.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Tuesday, December 25 *Christmas Day*

11:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship Service
"Day of Delight" 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" The Rev. 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

Office closure:

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

Pastoral Care Emergencies: The Rev. Dr. Malcolm Sinclair (416) 432-3536

FAITH INACTION

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. 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

Thank you for your thoughtful and generous support.

REMEMBERING: Thank you for remembering Metropolitan United Church with a gift in your estate plans. Our congregation's future is in our hands.

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

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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

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**Cover photo taken by:
The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea.**