

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.



Tuesday, December 25, 2018
Christmas Day

*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

This Christmas Day service offers a gentle, quiet time for gathering your life together, and opening yourself to God. We are happy to share these sacred moments with you. May you be filled with light. May God richly bless you as you move out into the rhythm of this very special day.

CARILLON PRELUDE (10:30 a.m. outside) ending with

O Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. Ronald Barnes

ORGAN PRELUDE *In dulci jubilo*

Sussex Carol

In dulci jubilo

Away in a Manger

J. S. Bach

Dale Wood

Dieterich Buxtehude

June Nixon

♪**CAROL #48** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Mendelssohn

♪**INVITATION TO WORSHIP (ADAPTED FROM PSALM 98)**

One: Sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvellous things, guarding the lives of the faithful, rescuing our newborn dreams from the threat of winter.

All: Clouds depart, stars shine, watchers hear of victory, and the earth is warmed.

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray. (all seated)

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

One: Hear our joyful Christmas noise. You have turned the heavens into storytellers. Night winds blow a mystery. Stars and comets speak of vaster realms. Even the darkness hints of more amazing things to come.

All: You have made your children story-lovers, anxious to hear good things to thrill the soul.

One: You love those who love goodness. You protect those who live in the kindness of mercy. We give you trumpets and percussion, squeals of delight and tears of gratitude.

All: Idols fall away from your joyful truth. Evil slinks away from your beauty.

One: Now, in Christ, rise up and walk the earth. Turn water into wine, coax bounty from mere wrapping and ribbon. Empower the outcast and humble the arrogant.

All: Touch us too with the softness of your Christmas promise and the strength of your presence.

SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: O come, all you faithful, joyful and triumphant. What is born in Bethlehem to redeem, lives in us to restore. Angels are singing because we are forgiven.

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

♪**ACT OF PRAISE #38**

Gloria

***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!***

READINGS Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-4

GOSPEL READING John 1:1-14

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Thanks be to God.

♪**CAROL #74** *What Child Is This?*

Greensleeves

SERMON “Day of Delight” The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair

WELCOME AND ANNOUCEMENTS

OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

ORGAN OFFERTORY *Noël sur les Flûtes*

Louis-Claude Daquin

♪**CAROL #55** *In the Bleak Midwinter, v. 4*

Cranham

**What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him – give my heart.**

♪**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*)

♪**CAROL #59** *Joy to the World*

Antioch

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

ORGAN POSTLUDE *God Rest You Merry*

Wilbur Held



LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning are **The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair** and **The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright** and by Carillonneur **Roy Lee**.

GREETER is **Gunn Wongsuwan**.

USHERS are **Carolyn Pack, Toba Bryant, Ed Oikawa, and Wilbert Ward**.

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

METROPOLITAN CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS: In honour of our 200th anniversary we have commissioned a special pewter ornament of the church for \$20 each (cash only). Speak with The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea to pick yours up.

UPCOMING SERVICES

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: Malcolm Sinclair (416) 432-3536

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

Thank you for your thoughtful and generous support.

GIFTS FOR OUR FUTURE: Thank you for remembering Metropolitan United Church with a gift in your estate plans. Metropolitan's future is in our hands; legacy gifts can and will make a difference. For information, please contact Doug Flanders: (416) 769-2746; dougflanders@sympatico.ca
A legacy — it's ours to leave.

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**Cover photo: Mary and Jesus,
located in the East Gallery.**