

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 30, 2018
First Sunday After Christmas

*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 (10:45 am outside) performed by Naoko Tsujita, student carillonneur

ORGAN PRELUDE *Noël: Où S'en Vont Ces Gais Bergers*
Les Bergers from *La Nativité*
The Old Year Now Is Passed Away

Claude Balbastre
Olivier Messiaen
J. S. Bach

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #76 *See Amid the Winter's Snow*

See Amid the Winter's Snow

INVITATION TO WORSHIP (Opening liturgy adapted from Psalm 148)

One: Praise the Lord, from the heavens, from the angel hosts.

All: From sun and moon, and all the shining stars. From the highest heights, and all the mysteries beyond the horizon of our seeing.

One: Let all these praise the Lord, for they are God's holy creations, and praise is their mother tongue.

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray. (all seated)

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

One: We earthbound creatures praise you too. Though we breathe here, we live in worlds within us and beyond ourselves.

All: Beauty calls in forest and garden, in sunset, and in a mountain view.

One: Ages and generations praise you in their own ways, in some wild dance or in a quiet reflection.

All: To praise you is to see ourselves as creatures in need of belonging, as instruments capable of blessing the world, and as visionaries bearing panoramas within mortal seedlings.

One: In Jesus, the newborn king, you have sounded a horn for your people. Bid us follow its voice into the land of ministry and adoration.

SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

KYRIE ELEISON(ALL) #69 More Voices

Kervin

Kyrie Eleison (God have mercy)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: There is a lamp lit in the window of Heaven. God is at home for us and we are at home in God. Let us live in the light of our forgiven life.

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

♪ACT OF PRAISE (All)



Glo-ry, glo-ry, glo-ry, glo-ry be to God on high!



And on earth peace to the peo-ple in whom God is well pleased.

READINGS I Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Colossians 3:12-17

ANTHEM *Ding Dong, Merrily on High* French carol, arr. M. Cook

GOSPEL READING Luke 2:41-52

ASCRPTION 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.**

♪**HYMN #75** *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks* Winchester Old

SERMON "TOUCH OF DESTINY"
The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair

ANTHEM *New Year* John Rutter
Turn your eyes to the light; cast away the works of darkness, let them go: turn your eyes to the light, turn your face to the sun; feel the warmth, the hope of new beginnings with each new year. The light was always there, if we could but see it; and warmth was in the air, if we'd known how to feel. New light, new year....

♪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

OFFERTORY MUSIC Benjamin Stein and Stephanie Parkin

♪THE OFFERTORY HYMN #518, verse 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.**

♪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 #68 *All Poor Ones and Humble*

Olwen

♪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 *In Thee Is Gladness*

J. S. Bach



LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning are **The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair** and **Dr. Linn Holness**, Chair of Worship. Reading the lessons is **Dr. Linn Holness**. The ministry of music is offered by Carillonneur **Roy Lee** and the **Metropolitan Choir** conducted by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright** and by Junior Organ Scholar **Timothy Wisnicki**.

CARRYING THE BANNER is **Ian Mahaffy**.

GREETER is **Deborah Davis**.

USHERS are **Eva Breeze, Jennifer McDonald, Denise Moore, and Karen Scott**.

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

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, January 2

5:30 p.m. Visual and Creative Arts Committee

Library

6:00 p.m. Taize

Chancel

Thursday, January 3

7:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast

Fran's Restaurant

Friday, January 4

10:00 a.m. Art Program

Metropolitan Centre

Saturday, January 5

8:30 a.m. Breakfast Bible Study

Board Room

NEXT SUNDAY: January 6 *Epiphany Sunday*

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

"Walk in the Dream" 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

"So, What's the Plan?" The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

METROPOLITAN CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS: In honour of our 200th anniversary we commissioned a special pewter ornament of the church. There are still some available. Contact the church office to get yours. \$20 each.

MINISTRY OF INTEGRATED ARTS

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.*

THE METROPOLITAN SILVER BAND: Silver Band has a new CD! Get your copy of the band's much anticipated new recording today - *Sacred Brass !!* This recording includes all the gorgeous sacred standards for brass band that you have enjoyed over the years at our services. Contact Michele at mccallm@rogers.com for your copy or let the main office know.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

NEXTGEN: Let's reconnect at the Imperial Pub for a Beer & Bible night on **January 21** at **6:00 p.m.** RSVP with Rebecca at (schoenhardtbecca@gmail.com).

OUTREACH

OOTC THANKS YOU: A sincere thanks to all the congregation members who answered our request for gifts at our Christmas luncheon.

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**.

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: Celebrate New Year with your children and grandchildren by reading to them "The Chronicles of Narnia" books written by C.S. Lewis. The Library is open from 10:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:15-1:00 p.m. every Sunday.

FAITH IN ACTION

RENEW! RESTORE! REJOICE! OUR THIRD CENTURY CAMPAIGN: Momentum is gathering for our forthcoming capital campaign. Thanks to all for your interest and encouragement to date. Please pray for the enthusiastic support from every household when our campaign launches next year. Together, we can do it! A very happy New Year to all from your Campaign Steering Committee.

READY FOR YOU: Offering envelopes and offering cards for 2019 are ready for pick up in the Narthex. If you have not taken yours already, thank you for doing so. And thank you—sincerely—for your generosity to the ministries of Metropolitan United Church.

PLEASE CONSIDER PAR: Please consider Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) as your personal means of giving to Metropolitan Church. You determine the amount that comes from your bank account monthly. In this way, your gifts continue regularly, even if you are away. You may change the amount you give at any time. Please call Elena in the church office at (416) 363-0331, ext. 29 or email elenap@metunited.org. Thanks for considering this!

STAYING THE COURSE: For over 200 years, our church has ministered from the heart of Toronto. Thanks to our loyal support, we will have yet another 200 years and more of opportunities to transform lives. One way to ensure this is by remembering Metropolitan Church with a gift in your estate plans. A gift of any amount can make a real difference. To explore opportunities, please contact Doug Flanders (416) 769-2746; email dougflanders@sympatico.ca ***A legacy — It's ours to leave.***

Whether we live in poverty or prosperity, we can still live generously.
— Dillon Burroughs

Office closure:

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

Emergency Pastoral Care: Malcolm Sinclair (416) 432-3536

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

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

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