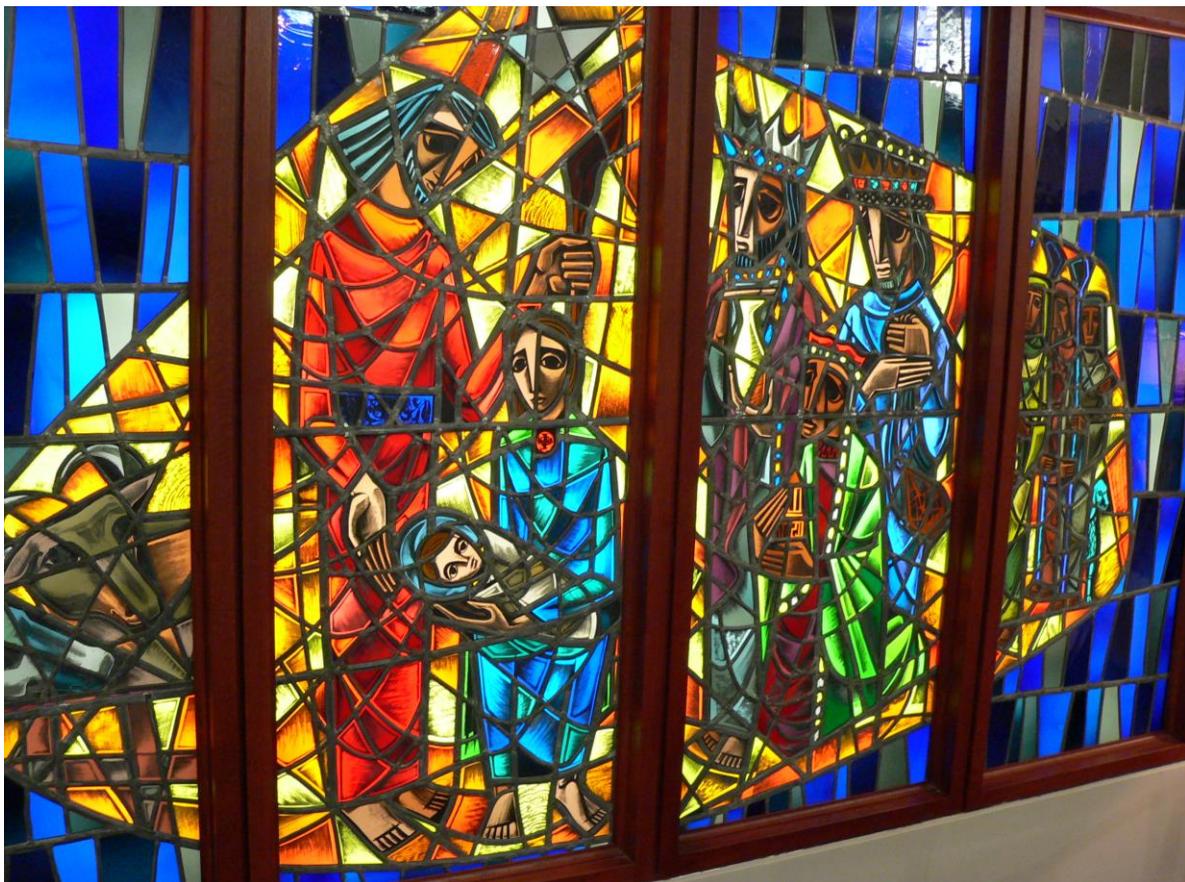


# Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

*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, January 6, 2019**

**Epiphany**

*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)** *The First Nowell*

arr. William De Turk

**ORGAN PRELUDE** *How Brightly Beams the Morning Star*  
*Les Mages from La Nativité du Seigneur*  
*The Three Kings*

Dieterich Buxtehude  
Olivier Messiaen  
Paul Manz

♪ **PROCESSIONAL HYMN #81** *As with Gladness Men of Old*

Dix

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP** (Opening liturgy is adapted from Psalm 72)

One: We come to worship the One who endures beyond the sun's span, and who holds dominion from sea to sea, from the smallest grains of sand to the ends of the earth.

**All: May that One be like rain that falls on mown grass, like showers that refresh the earth.**

One: Blessed be the Holy One, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be your glorious name forever.

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us pray.

**PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION**

One: We who are wise by your grace, render tribute to you, O Living God. We bow before you, for the journey has been long and the nights dark, but now we are here to adore you, and to render service. God of every nation, by the light of a wondrous star you led wandering magi to Jesus, revealing to them your salvation for the world.

**All: In the miraculous and the mundane, in the traditional family and the curious and hungry stranger, with all who have glimpsed the light of your grace, we seek Christ, that we may offer our life gifts and serve him sincerely.**

One: Merciful God, Light of the world, we confess that we have invested in the darkness, gloried in it. You long to deliver the shadowed poor and the helpless, but we ignore your voice in their cry.

**All: You take pity on the weak and destitute, but our hearts seem hard. Forgive us, we pray. Awaken in us sincere repentance that we may freely smile upon the innocence of Jesus, and be awakened to the riches of faith.**

**SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER**

**KYRIE ELEISON (ALL) #69** *More Voices*  
*Kyrie Eleison (God have mercy)*

Kervin

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: O God, nations shall come to your light and rulers to the brightness of your dawn. By the compelling radiance of your Spirit, draw us near, reveal your truth.

♪(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

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

## ANTHEM

*Behold a Star*

Felix Mendelssohn

Behold a star from Jacob shining, and a scepter from Israel rising, to reign in glory over the nations. Like some bright morning star is He, the promise of the coming day, beyond the night of sorrow. Break forth, O Light! We, our joyful hearts uplifting with thanksgiving, hail the brightness of Thy rising.

## GOSPEL READING Matthew 2:1-12

## 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 #96 *Will You Come and See the Light*

Kelvingrove

## SERMON

**“SO, WHAT’S THE PLAN?”**

**The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair**

## ANTHEM

*Gems of Day*

French carol, 1553

All the gay gems of day – pearls the morning sky adorning, manifold gems of gold, golden getting now day’s setting, are the sun’s pretty ones of his shining or declining, are his joys, birthday toys – these God’s very babe make merry; When Sir Sun his course done, westward stooping home’s gone drooping, it is naught. Look! New wrought joy and beauty bear his duty – planets peep down night’s deep, softly seeming gold and dreaming jasmine o’er heaven’s door. Lest God’s only babe fall lonely. Newly-born King of morn, noon and night time, dark and light time, be our light, day and night, ne’er withholden, greatlier golden than the boon sun at noon, than the garland sheen of starland; Saviour small, light us all.

## ♪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 ANTHEM** *The Three Kings*

Peter Cornelius

John Schneider, bass

Choir: How brightly shines the morning star! (Hymn #98)

### ♪THE OFFERTORY HYMN (All)

Old 100th

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures high and low;  
Give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

### ♪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 #93 *When Heaven's Bright with Mystery*

Sussex Carol

### ♪COMMISSIONING

### ♪BLESSING (All-please sing twice and please turn toward the centre)

Izumi Shiota



May the peace of Christ be with you. May the love of God dwell deep in your heart. May the



Spi-rit en-light-en your way. May you walk in the com-fort of God's care.

## ORGAN POSTLUDE AND CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

*Dieu Parmi Nous (God With Us) from La Nativité du Seigneur*

Olivier Messiaen



**LEADING IN WORSHIP** this morning are **The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair** and **The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea**. Reading the lessons is **Linn Holness**. The ministry of music is offered by the **Metropolitan Choir** conducted by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright** and by the Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Michael Oldaker**.

**CARRYING THE BANNER** is **Ian Mahaffy**.

**GREETERS** are **Leesa Kopansky** and **Chris Hoover**.

**USHERS** are **Eva Breeze**, **Greg McMaster**, **Shari McMaster** and **Ed Oikawa**.

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

**TODAY'S MUSIC** includes several pieces featuring the Epiphany chorale "How brightly beams the morning star" (Hymn #98). Buxtehude's work is an extended prelude on this chorale, and the chorale is sung by the choir in the Cornelius solo. The prelude includes a movement of the 20<sup>th</sup> century French composer Olivier Messiaen's suite "The Nativity of our Lord" which depicts the journey of the wise men. Listen as the wise men seem to take a brief rest about half way through the movement! The postlude is the concluding movement from Messiaen's suite. In "God among us", listen for the use of descending musical passages – both in the manuals and in the pedals – to symbolize God's descent to earth in the form of Jesus. Also, in the middle section, God seems to come to a very busy world, complete with the sound of Parisian car horns!

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### Monday, January 7

10:00 a.m. Art Program

Metropolitan Centre

### Tuesday, January 8

6:00 p.m. Trustees meeting

Library

7:00 p.m. Congregational Care

Board Room

7:00 p.m. Silver Band rehearsal

Sanctuary

### Wednesday, January 9

7:00 a.m. OOTC Chop Chop Group

Met Kitchen

5:00 p.m. Worship Committee

Boardroom

### Thursday, January 10

7:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast

Fran's Restaurant

11:00 a.m. OOTC Met Luncheon

Metropolitan Centre

6:30 p.m. Metropolitan Handbells

Nursery

7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Choir

Chancel Room

### Friday, January 11

10:00 a.m. Art Program

Metropolitan Centre

### Saturday, January 12

8:30 a.m. Breakfast Bible Study

Nursery

## NEXT SUNDAY: January 13 *Baptism of Jesus*

9:30 a.m. Communion Service in the Founders' Chapel  
"Walk Through Fire"

The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea

9:45 a.m. Metropolitan Sparklers, Choristers and *Great Heart* Chancel Room/Met Centre/Morley  
Punshon Room

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

11:00 a.m. Morning Service and Church School

"Voice of the Waters"

The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea

Isaiah 43:1-7; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-2

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

## **MINISTRY OF INTEGRATED ARTS**

The **Metropolitan Handbells and Metropolitan Choir** resume rehearsals on **Thursday, January 10**. The **Sparklers, Choristers, and Great Heart** resume on **Sunday, January 13** at their regular times, and we welcome all new children and teens to these Sunday groups.

**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.*

**Music at Metropolitan** brochures are available in the Narthex and on the Met Connect table. We have five concerts in the winter/spring season, and our next concert is on Saturday, March 9 at 7:30 with Ariel Harwood-Jones, Valeria Kondrashov, and instrumentalists including *Musicians on the Edge* presenting Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* and other Neapolitan masters. Admission is \$20.

## **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](mailto:schoenhardtbecca@gmail.com))**.

**MET CARE:** We are a group of 8 people who meet regularly to keep in touch with those in our congregation who may need special care. We would be pleased if someone else wished to join this committee. We meet on the third Wednesday afternoon of each month, September – June. Contact William Wright ([wrightmcawley@gmail.com](mailto:wrightmcawley@gmail.com)).

## ***OUTREACH***

**YOUR HOMEMADE COOKIES ARE NEEDED FOR OOTC - Cookie Bakers** make possible a much-loved addition to the Thursday meals. Tins are available in the Narthex and your cookie donations can be returned there. Thank you!

**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**.

## ***SPIRITUAL LEARNING FOR LIFE***

**FLANDERS LIBRARY:** "Toronto Theatres and the Golden Age of the Silver Screen" is one of the books, written by Doug Taylor. This book explores Toronto's old movie theaters and contains many photographs of the theaters. You can find the book in our library. The Library is open from 10:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:15-1:00 p.m. every Sunday.

## ***FAITH THROUGH ACTION***

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

**FAITHFUL 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 [dougflanders@sympatico.ca](mailto:dougflanders@sympatico.ca) ***A legacy — It's ours to leave.***

*The best thing to do with the best things in life is to give them away. —  
Dorothy Day*

# 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](mailto:karlosgriffith@rogers.com)), Johnnavac Abrahams ([johnnavac.abraham@tcdsb.org](mailto:johnnavac.abraham@tcdsb.org))  
Library: Marion Lick ([library@metunited.ca](mailto:library@metunited.ca)) and Maureen Maguire ([vigrass78@gmail.com](mailto:vigrass78@gmail.com))

## *Community Outreach Ministry*

Manager of Community Services: Laura Awosanya ([lauraa@metunited.ca](mailto:lauraa@metunited.ca))  
Outreach and Housing Worker: Megan Carver, ext. 21 ([housingworker@metunited.ca](mailto:housingworker@metunited.ca))

## *Ministry of Music*

Minister of Music: Dr. Patricia Wright, ext. 26 ([patw@metunited.ca](mailto: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](mailto:janelt@metunited.ca))  
Office Administrator: Jaclyn Kumer, ext. 10 ([jacik@metunited.ca](mailto:jacik@metunited.ca))  
Financial Manager: Elena Pejcinovska, ext. 29 ([elenap@metunited.ca](mailto:elenap@metunited.ca))  
Property Manager: Frank Cairns, ext. 31  
Custodians: Nadan Kandiah, Puvi Kanagalingam, ext. 39/40

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To hear the sermon: [www.metsermons.com](http://www.metsermons.com)  
Website: [www.metunited.org](http://www.metunited.org)



Photo Cover: Stained glass located in  
Metropolitan's Flanders Library.  
Artist: Gerald Tooke.