

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 13, 2019
Baptism of Jesus

*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)

Settings of *Salzburg*

Beverly Buchanan and Roy Hamlin Johnson

ORGAN PRELUDE *Prelude and Fugue in C Major*
Christ Our Lord to Jordan Came
Shall We Gather at the River

Johann Sebastian Bach
Johann Sebastian Bach
arr. Dale Wood

♪ **PROCESSIONAL HYMN #101** *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*

Salzburg

INVITATION TO WORSHIP (Opening liturgy is adapted from Psalm 29; Luke 3; Isaiah 43))

One: The voice of God resounds upon the water. The God of glory thunders over mighty waters.

All: The Spirit of the Lord hovers over the stream. When we pass through the waters, God says, "I will be with you, and the rivers shall not overwhelm you." The Son of God is named, "Beloved." And all who worship shout out, "Glory!"

One: Ascribe to the Lord majesty and strength. Let us worship God in holy splendour.

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray.

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

One: Holy God, when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan the heavens opened, the Spirit descended, and your voice affirmed your love in Jesus for the healing of the human race and all creation.

All: By water and word you lovingly invite us into this same life-giving mission. May your Spirit, moving like a stream of water flowing from its source, work in us this day to realize your vision of a world made new.

One: We are precious in your sight, yet we often forget that we are your beloved. We confess that our love is fickle and inconstant.

All: We follow selfish goals and deny that our way of life harms others and hurts your world. We are sorry and we want to change. Create in us a clean heart, strengthen our resolve, reconcile us one to another, and bless us with your peace.

SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

KYRIE ELEISON (ALL) #69 *More Voices*

Kervin

Kyrie Eleison (God have mercy)

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 43:1-7; Acts 8:14-17

ANTHEM *O Lord, Give Thy Holy Spirit*

Thomas Tallis

O Lord, give thy Holy Spirit into our hearts, and lighten our understanding, that we may dwell in the fear of thy Name, all the days of our life: that we may know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.

GOSPEL READING Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

One: Here then is light: old light from glory, bright light from wisdom, fair light from faithful following. Here is Christ, alive in text and expectation.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Thanks be to God for the light.

ENCOUNTERING THE CHILD WITHIN

All children and youth are invited to make their way to Sunday School. Please follow the teachers.

♪**HYMN # 99** *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*

St. Bernard

SERMON "VOICE OF THE WATERS"

The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea

ANTHEM *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*

Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit, and always green: the trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree. His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree. I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile: under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive; which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

♪**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 SOLO *Lord God of Abraham* from *Elijah*
Nicholas Higgs, baritone

Felix Mendelssohn

♪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 #418 *Go Forth for God*

Old 124th

♪COMMISSIONING

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

Izumi Shiota



ORGAN POSTLUDE AND CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

Choral Song

Samuel Sebastian Wesley



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

CARRYING THE BANNER is **Ian Mahaffy**.

GREETERS are **Muriel Griffith** and **Andrew McGee**.

USHERS are **Vicki Harris, Jennifer McDonald, Joseph Curry** and **Gunn Wongsuwan**.

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

Please join the congregation on **January 20th** immediately following the service to honour Malcolm's retirement. We will have a light lunch, followed by the celebration and then dessert. As Malcolm will leave the sanctuary immediately after the service on January 27th, our celebration on the 20th will be your opportunity to chat with him and wish him well.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, January 14

10:00 a.m. Art Program

Metropolitan Centre

Tuesday, January 15

7:00 p.m. Silver Band rehearsal

Sanctuary

Wednesday, January 16

7:00 a.m. OOTC Chop Chop Group

Met Kitchen

Thursday, January 17

7:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast

Fran's Restaurant

11:00 a.m. Out of the Cold Met Luncheon

Metropolitan Centre

6:30 p.m. Metropolitan Handbells

Nursery

7:30 p.m. Metropolitan Choir

Chancel Room

Friday, January 18

10:00 a.m. Art Program

Metropolitan Centre

Saturday, January 19

8:30 a.m. Breakfast Bible Study

Nursery

NEXT SUNDAY: January 20 *Second Sunday after Epiphany*

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

“Crown of Beauty”

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-opens 12:15 p.m.)

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

"Topsy Laird"

The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair

Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

12:15 p.m. Celebration of Malcolm's retirement

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 Sparklers, Choristers, and Great Heart** resumed today at their regular times, and we welcome all new children and teens to these Sunday groups. Anyone interested should speak with Dr. Patricia Wright.

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 9th 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

BEREAVEMENT CIRCLE: Join us today after the service at **12:15 p.m.** in the Heritage Room with Sarah Cotterill and The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea.

NEXTGEN: Let's reconnect at the Imperial Pub for a Beer & Bible night on **January 21st at 6:00 p.m.** RSVP with Rebecca at (schoenhardtrebecca@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 (wrightmcauley@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 Wendell Berry is a recipient of Dayton Literary Peace Award and National Humanities Medal. You can find three of his books in our library – “Leavings: Poems”, “New Collected Poems”, “A Timbered Choir: The Sabbath Poems 1979-1997”. The Library is open from 10:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:15-1:00 p.m. every Sunday.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. “Justice, only justice you shall pursue.” 106 King St. East at **St. James Cathedral** with the Arch Bishop Colin Johnson. RSVP The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea.

FAITH IN ACTION

THANK YOU FROM OUT OF THE COLD: Your Out of the Cold Steering Committee is deeply grateful for those kind souls who knitted or crocheted toques, scarfs and mitts for our Thursday meal guests. Gifts were distributed just before Christmas and recipients were very appreciative. Thank you for your continued handiwork. Men's sizes are needed most; solid colours preferred.

RENEW! RESTORE! REJOICE! OUR THIRD CENTURY CAMPAIGN: Momentum is gathering for our major capital campaign to be launched this year. Thanks to all for your interest and encouragement to date. Please pray for the enthusiastic support from every household when our campaign launches this year. Together, we can do it!

READY FOR YOUR GENEROSITY: Offering envelopes and cards for 2019 are ready for pick up in the Narthex. If you have not taken yours already, thank you for doing so. If you have been using our green visitor envelopes and would like a set of your own offering envelopes, please contact Elena in the church office at (416) 363-0331, ext. 29; elenap@metunited.ca. Sincere thanks to everyone for your loyalty and generous support of the ministries of Metropolitan United Church.

TRANSITIONS. CONSTANTS: Life is about change and soon there will be significant changes to our staff complement. The church itself, however, remains constant just as we have been for 200 plus years. Help our light continue to shine through transitions now and in future by remembering Metropolitan United Church with a gift in your will. Our congregation is so worthy of our support both annually and through our legacy gifts. For information, please contact Doug Flanders (416) 769-2746; email dougflanders@sympatico.ca

A legacy — It's ours to leave.

The heart that gives, gathers. — Tao Te Ching

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), Johnvac Abrahams
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.ca)
Office Administrator: Jaclyn Kumer, ext. 10 (jacik@metunited.ca)
Financial Manager: Elena Pejcinovska, ext. 29 (elenap@metunited.ca)
Property Manager: Frank Cairns, ext. 31
Custodians: Nadan Kandiah, Puvi Kanagalingam, ext. 39/40

Metropolitan United Church
56 Queen Street East, Toronto, ON M5C 2Z3
Tel. 416.363.0331 Fax. 416.363.7586

Email: metunited@metunited.ca
To hear the sermon: www.metsermons.com
Website: www.metunited.org

