

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, April 7, 2019

Fifth Sunday in Lent/Sacrament of Baptism

*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 a.m. outside, ending with)

Chorale Partita on “O How Fleeting”

John Knox

ORGAN PRELUDE

Partita on “O How Fleeting”

O World, I Now Must Leave You

O Lamb of God and I Call to You

Georg Böhm

Johannes Brahms

J. S. Bach

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #271 *There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy*

to Stuttgart #2

INVITATION TO WORSHIP (inspired by Isaiah 43 and Psalm 126)

One: As people formed by God, we give praise to God: Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert, Christ among us, God is doing a new thing! As people restored by God: Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert, Christ among us, God is doing a new thing!

All: As people pressing on in faith, we give praise to God: Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert, Christ among us, God is doing a new thing!

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

One: Let us pray. (all seated)

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

One: Creator God, you have formed us as your own, so whether we are weeping or laughing, or shouting for joy, we are always coming home to you.

All: Purifying God, we grow comfortable with the way things are in our lives, in the church, and in the world.

One: We do not always welcome the new life you offer in Christ, for you overturn our notions of power and protocol. Sure of our own righteousness, we are critical of others. Wanting to control our assets, we hoard the gifts you give us.

All: Forgive us, we pray, for seeking our gain at the expense of others. Help us bend our lives toward your own life of self-giving and sacrifice.

One: Fill us, our homes and churches, the whole world, with the abundant love of Christ until all are made new.

SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

LENTEN LITURGY (In a liturgical season of increasing darkness, we extinguish a candle each week.)

One: On these very special Sundays we think more deeply about Jesus. Sometimes it is hard to know what to do to be a loving person. As we tell the story of Jesus, we learn how to be guided and kept safe in God’s care.

Family: We extinguish the fifth candle. We remember how hard it is to keep faith strong in a troubled world. (Extinguishing of one Lenten candle)

All: As we watch the smoke rise, we remember that God is with us, all the way.

(The candle is extinguished by William, Irmina Ayuyao, Asha Woolrich, and Finn Woolrich.)

RESPONSE *More Voices #85 Take, O take me as I am*

John Bell, Iona Community

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

A CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Kingston Edward Hayward child of Alana Betts and Mark Hayward, Jessica Oatley child of Alexandra Oatley and Eric Jensen, Zadie Mary Black Ayoola Guyatt, child of Jennifer Black and Adam Guyatt

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

PROMISES OF PARENTS

PROMISE OF GODPARENTS

PROFESSION OF FAITH

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT

One: By the grace of God, will you, the members of the Metropolitan United Church, commit to support and nurture within a community which worships God, resists evil and seeks justice?

Congregation: We will, God being our helper.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE POURING OF WATER

THE ACT OF BAPTISM

MARKING OF THE SIGN OF THE CROSS WITH WATER

BLESSING

CHORAL BLESSING

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

READINGS Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:4b-14

ANTHEM *Miserere* (from Psalm 51)

Gregorio Allegri

Have mercy on me, Lord God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God,....

Solo quartet: Gisele Kulak, Valeria Kondrashov, Charles Davidson, Nicholas Higgs

GOSPEL READING John 12:1-8

One: Bring your word near to us, O God. May it rest not only on our lips, but also reside in our hearts.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Thanks be to God.

ENCOUNTERING THE CHILD WITHIN

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

♪**HYMN #119** *When We Are Tempted to Deny Your Son*

Faith

SERMON "THE SECRET TO AN UNINHIBITED LIFE"
The Rev. Pamela Bauer

ANTHEM *It Is a Thing Most Wonderful*

Richard Busch

It is a thing most wonderful, almost too wonderful to be, that God's own Son should come from heaven, and die to save a child like me. And yet I know that it is true: He chose a poor and humble lot, and wept, and toiled, and mourned, and died, for love of those who loved him not. I sometimes think about the cross, and shut my eyes. Poem by Bishop W. W. How

♪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 *Cum Dederit from Nisi Dominus*

Antonio Vivaldi

For He brings rest to those He has chosen. Behold, they are legacy and a testament of the Son of God.

Valeria Kondrashov, mezzo-soprano

♪**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 #623** *Dear Weaver of Our Lives' Design*

Repton

♪COMMISSIONING

♪BLESSING (All) #429 (All-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

My Lord, What a Morning

Spiritual, arr. Raymond H. Haan



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

CARRYING THE CROSS is **Marc Tremblay**.

GREETERS are **Jean Robison** and **Chris Hoover**.

USHERS are **Eva Breeze**, **Greg McMaster**, **Shari McMaster**, and **Wilbert Ward**.

The Rev. Pamela Bauer is a spiritual care practitioner and registered psychotherapist. She moved from NS to ON in 1994 in order to live out her calling as a minister. She was ordained in the Wesleyan Methodist church in 1996 and has served as pastor in several churches over the years. In 2010, during what she calls her great awakening or midlife crisis she felt prompted to move from parish ministry to hospital ministry. She met Mike, her husband, here in Toronto while he was her guitar teacher. They have two teenage boys and a very loving dog named Roxy.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, April 8		
10:00 a.m.	Art Program	Met Centre
Tuesday, April 9		
5:30 p.m.	Trustees Meeting	Flanders Library
6:30 p.m.	Open Art Studio	Met Centre
7:00 p.m.	Congregational Care Committee	Heritage Room
7:00 p.m.	Silver Band rehearsal	Sanctuary
Wednesday, April 10		
5:00 p.m.	Worship Committee Meeting	Sanctuary
Thursday, April 11		
7:30 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast	Fran’s Restaurant
6:30 p.m.	Metropolitan Handbells	Sanctuary
7:30 p.m.	Metropolitan Choir	Sanctuary
Friday, April 12		
8:00 a.m.	Easter Brunch Prep	Met Kitchen
10:00 a.m.	Art Program	Met Centre
Saturday, April 13		
8:00 a.m.	Easter Brunch Prep	Met Kitchen
8:30 a.m.	Breakfast Bible Study	Flanders Library
12:00 p.m.	Prayer Meeting	Heritage Room

NEXT SUNDAY: April 14 *Palm Sunday/Reception of New Members*

9:30 a.m.	Communion Service in the Founders' Chapel "Open the Gates" The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea	
9:45 a.m.	Metropolitan Sparklers and Choristers	Met Centre
10:00 a.m.	Library Open (re-opens 12:15 p.m.)	
11:00 a.m.	Morning Service and Church School "Love Is/Is Not a Victory March" The Rev. Karen Bowles Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40	
12:15 p.m.	<i>Great Heart</i>	Sanctuary
1:30 p.m.	Festival Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary

MINISTRY OF INTEGRATED ARTS

ANNUAL GOOD FRIDAY CONCERT on April 19 at 7:30 p.m.: *Pieta: Music and Poetry for Good Friday.*

The Metropolitan Festival Choir, instrumentalists, and poet Patricia Orr present music by J. M. Bach, J. C. Bach, Dieterich Buxtehude, John Tavener, Sergei Rachmaninoff, and several audience hymns. Admission is \$20/10 ages 18 and under.

L'Aigle Noir: The Music of Barbara with Charles Davidson, tenor, and Jesse Corrigan, accordion has been changed to **Saturday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m.** Admission is \$20/10 ages 18 and under.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

EASTER FLOWER DELIVERY - The Met Care Team is looking for 13 volunteers to deliver plants to some of our congregational members. The plants will be available for pick up on Palm Sunday, April 14, at the back of the church. An Order of Service along with the recipient's address will be included with the plant. Please consider helping us with this important task. Please speak to Sarah Cotterill if you are able to assist the Met Care Team in this important work of the church.

EASTER BRUNCH PREPARATION takes place **Friday, April 12** and **Saturday, April 13** from **8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** in the **Met Kitchen**. Come join the team to help prepare food for this occasion.

EASTER BRUNCH: Sunday, April 14 Join us for Easter Brunch at **12:15 p.m.** in the **Met Centre**. "Pay what you can, with a suggested donation of \$5 to \$15 per person". **RSVP Jay Wagner, or The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea.**

SEDER SUPPER: Join us on **Wednesday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m.** for a time to remember the Passover, tell the story and share the Feast with roast lamb, chicken, vegetables and apple crisp in the **Met Centre**. **RSVP The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea.**

MAUNDY THURSDAY EVENING SERVICE: Thursday, April 18, at 7:00 p.m. Stripping the Church, the Upper Room remembered.

HOLY SATURDAY – EASTER VIGIL SERVICE: April 20 at 8:00 p.m. *Let there be Light.*

NEXT GEN EVENT – Attention young people (and the young-at-heart): Join us on **Tuesday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m.** at the **Imperial Pub** (on Dundas) for fellowship, discussions and a few beverages. Email RSVP to **Andrew** andrew.mcgee@crowesoberman.com.

NEW DIRECTORY: There will be a new directory coming out in September 2019 and we want to make sure your information is correct. Muriel Cairns or Hazel Gorley will be in the Narthex for the next few weeks with a draft copy. Please stop by to ensure your address and telephone number are up to date. Or you could send your information by email to: murielcairns39@gmail.com and she will check to make sure it is correct in the directory.

OUTREACH

THE FAITH-HUB: Volunteers needed for the Faith-Hub network's circles of support project. Training will be on **May 4, 2019** with circles (4 volunteers and the participant in need) beginning later in May and continuing every other week for about 6 months. Volunteers last time said they learned a lot as a supporter of the participant. Consider this opportunity to help. Please contact Laura Awosanya who is organizing our volunteers lauraa@metunited.ca.

SPIRITUAL LEARNING FOR LIFE

FLANDERS LIBRARY: "For the Least of My Brethren: A Centenary History of St. Michael's Hospital" by Irene McDonald tells the story of St. Michael's Hospital, founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1892. The author was closely associated with St. Michael's for more than thirty years. This book is available in our library. The Library is open 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and 12:15 - 1:00 p.m. every Sunday.

COMMUNICATIONS

Met has new social accounts: Vimeo (Metropolitan United) and Instagram (@metropolitanunitedto). Please follow, and of course stay up to date through the main Metropolitan United page and Met United Music on Facebook, in addition to our website. Have a photo from an event, meeting or service perfect for Instagram? Email it to metunitedsocial@gmail.com.

FAITH THROUGH ACTION

OUR THIRD CENTURY CAMPAIGN: Campaign commitments continue to flow in and your church is grateful. See us on line at www.metunited.org/renovations--13/our-third-century--60 and thank you for your support!

EASTER MEMORIALS — IN GRATEFUL MEMORY: Thank you for your gift to our Memorial Fund in memory of a loved one this Easter. We will list donor names and the person(s) to be remembered in our bulletin on Easter Sunday or you may remain anonymous if you wish. Please mark your gift "Memorial Fund" and include your name and the names of those you wish to remember.

Your Name: _____

In Memory of: _____

Please leave this tear off on the offering plate or forward your information to Sheela in the church office. sheelat@metunited.ca; (416) 363-0331, ext. 10. To be included in our Easter bulletin, **we need your information by noon on Tuesday, April 16.**

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

Intentional Interim Lead Minister: The Rev. Karen Bowles, ext. 27 (karenb@metunited.ca)
Minister of Congregational Care and Development: The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea, ext. 24
Voluntary Associate Minister: The Rev. Bruce Misener (officiant@metunited.ca)
Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair
Teachers: Karlos Griffith (karlosgriffith@rogers.com), Johnavac Abraham
Library: Marion Lick (library@metunited.ca) and Maureen Maguire (vigrass78@gmail.com)

Community Outreach Ministry

Manager of Community Services: Laura Awosanya ext. 43 (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
Director, Metropolitan Silver Band: Fran Harvey

Administrative Ministry

Director of Administration: Jane Tuomi, ext. 35 (janelt@metunited.ca)
Administrative Assistant: Sheela Taylor, ext. 10 (sheelat@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
www.metunited.ca



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Metropolitan Tower painted by The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea