

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

The downtown church for a diverse city



Sunday, May 26, 2019

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Food for faith and a doorway to God.

An Affirming Congregation.

We welcome people of all orientations to worship and minister among us.

*For thousands of years this land has been the traditional home of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and
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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

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

Praise to the Lord (Lobe den Herren)

arr. Roy Lee

BAND PRELUDE *Rusalka's Hymn to the Moon*

cornet soloist Brian Moyer

Antonin Dvorak, arr. Gordon Langford

The Pioneers

Philip Sparke

♩ PROCESSIONAL HYMN #220 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Lobe den Herren

♩ INVITATION TO WORSHIP (Psalm 67)

One: Be gracious unto us, O God, and bless us;

All: And let the light of your face shine upon us,

One: That your ways may be known upon earth,

All: Your saving power among all nations.

One: Let the nations be glad, and sing for joy,

All: For you judge the peoples righteously

One: And guide the nations of the earth.

All: The earth has yielded its harvest,

One: And you, our God, have blessed us.

ALL: Your blessing, O God, be upon us.

May all the ends of the earth revere you.

One: God be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

One: Let us pray. (all seated)

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

KYRIE ELEISON (ALL) #68 *More Voices*

Guarani song, arr. Sosa

O God have mercy, O God have mercy, O God have mercy, have mercy on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we are assured that there is no sin so terrible that God cannot forgive, no hurt so terrible that God cannot heal. God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free. Receive and give thanks for the forgiving love of God.

♩ ACT OF PRAISE (All) #59 *More Voices*

Yoruba song (Nigeria)

Alleluia, praise to God (twice); Praises, high praises we bring you, O God.

Alleluia praise to God.

Songs of joy sing out to God (twice); Dancing and singing, we praise you, O God.

Songs of joy sing out to God.

Beat the drums, sing out to God (twice); Praises, high praises, we bring you, O God.

Beat the drums sing out to God.

♩ (indicates a congregational response - please stand in spirit or in fact).

READINGS

Acts 16:9-15

Paul resumes his travels and encounters Lydia, a worshipper of God and a dealer in purple cloth.

Revelation 21:10, 22-27, 22:1-5

We are invited away unto a mountain top to witness the descent of the Holy City.

ANTHEM *There Is a Stream*

Richard DeLong

There is a stream which issues forth from God's eternal throne, and from the Lamb, a living stream, clear as the crystal stone, the stream doth water Paradise; it makes the angels sing; one cordial drop revives my heart; hence all my joys do spring. Eye hath not seen nor ear hath heard from fancy 'tis concealed, what Thou Lord, hast laid up for Thine, and hast to me revealed.

GOSPEL READING John 14:23-29

Words of comfort and promise from the Prince of Peace

One: This is the witness of the good news of Jesus Christ.

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 #367** *Come Down, O Love Divine*

Down Ampney

SERMON "Headlines"

The Rev. Karen Bowles

ANTHEM *If Ye Love Me*

Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever, even the spirit of truth.

♪ **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

BAND OFFERTORY *Waverley Abbey (from The Haslemere Suite)*

Peter Graham

♪ **FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY** (“*Lasst uns erfreuen*”, Hymn #217)

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

♪ **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 #333** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Hyfrydol

♪ **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.**

BAND POSTLUDE AND CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

Joshua Fit the Battle (Last Tango in Jericho)

arr. William Gordon



LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning are **The Rev. Karen Bowles** and **Dennis Donovan**. Reading the lessons is **Toba Bryant**. The ministry of music is offered by the **Metropolitan Choir** and **Choristers** conducted by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, the **Metropolitan Sparklers** conducted by **Dr. Jennifer Martyn**, the Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Michael Oldaker**, Junior Organ Scholar **Timothy Wisnicki**, and the **Metropolitan Silver Band** conducted by **Fran Harvey**.

CARRYING THE BANNER is **Ian Mahaffy**.

GREETERS are **Jean Robison** and **Deborah Davis**.

USHERS are **Alan Cotterill**, **Sarah Cotterill**, **Roy Tomlinson**, and **Kenneth Younie**.

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

THE METROPOLITAN SILVER BAND presents a free concert for Doors Open **today** at **1:30 p.m.**

Today marks the final day for the Choristers and Sparklers until September. We thank the children for their beautiful singing and the parents/grandparents for their dedication and support.

NOTICE OF FILMING Please note that services are considered to be public events – unless otherwise stated – and you are choosing to enter a space where your image may be captured as part of event proceedings that may be made public as part of our website or social media. We make every effort to ensure your personal information is kept and used in compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA). If you have any questions please contact janelt@metunited.org.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Monday, May 27 | | |
| 10:00 a.m. | Art Program | Met Centre |
| 7:30 p.m. | Music Committee Meeting | Flanders Library |
| Tuesday, May 28 | | |
| 6:30 p.m. | Open Art Studio | Met Centre |
| 7:00 p.m. | Silver Band rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| Wednesday, May 29 | | |
| 5:30 p.m. | Official Board Meeting | Met Centre |
| Thursday, May 30 | | |
| 8:00 a.m. | Prayer Breakfast | Fran's Restaurant |
| 7:30 p.m. | Metropolitan Choir | Sanctuary |
| Friday, May 31 | | |
| 10:00 a.m. | Art Program | Met Centre |
| Saturday, June 1 | | |
| 8:30 a.m. | Breakfast Bible Study | Flanders Library |

NEXT SUNDAY: June 2 Ascension Sunday/Sacrament of Communion

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 9:30 a.m. | Communion Service in the Founders' Chapel The Rev. Dr. Kari Tolppanen "Wash the Wounds" |
| 10:00 a.m. | Library Open (re-opens 12:15 p.m.) |
| 11:00 a.m. | Morning Service and Church School |

“Heaven Gazing”

The Rev. Karen Bowles

Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

12:15 p.m. *Great Heart*

12:15 p.m. Outreach Town Hall

Sanctuary

Met Centre

MINISTRY OF INTEGRATED ARTS

SUMMER CARILLON RECITALS - Hear our historic 54-bell carillon before the repairs begin! Free noon recitals will be held in our front park on Friday, June 7 with Jonathan Lehrer from Vancouver; Friday, June 21 with Mateusz Olechnowicz and Naoko Tsujita, both of whom who are University of Toronto student carillonneurs; and Friday, June 28 with Andrée-Anne Doane from St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal.

MUSIC AT METROPOLITAN announces its 2019-20 season of concerts. A flyer outlining most of the concerts is available in the Narthex. The brochure with full information will be available sometime in the summer.

THIS IS US DOING CHURCH: THANK YOU to all who have purchased a copy - the first print run is virtually sold out. For those who have yet to buy, a second printing is now available. Get one while they last! \$20

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

ANNUAL OUTDOOR SERVICE AND PICNIC, BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS - On Sunday, June 9 we celebrate the wonder of God's creation with our outdoor service, BBQ church picnic, Blessing of the Animals ceremony, and music from the Metropolitan Silver Band. Bring your pet: all that creepeth or crawlth is welcome. Please bring a mayonnaise-free salad or dessert (but not in your finest china) and a lawn chair.

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).

USHERS NEEDED: We need one more usher for our ushering team. You would be committing yourself to being present one Sunday a month: namely the third Sunday of each month. Please speak to William Wright (416-576-7228) about this if you are interested.

OUTREACH

NEXTGEN EVENT – Attention young people (and the young-at-heart): Join us at **6:30 p.m.** on **Monday, May 27** for a BBQ hosted by Ali McDonald. Come for food, fellowship and a few beverages. Email RSVP to andrew.mcgee@crowesoberman.com and jenmcd@rogers.com.

COMMUNITY SERVICES: will be having their next quarterly town hall meeting on June 2 after the service. Please bring your coffee and questions. You will leave with more answers and information about the initiatives that are underway in Outreach-Community Services. A light lunch will be provided.

PRIDE PARADE – Sunday, June 23, 2019: You can join us by boarding the bus at **10:00 a.m.** at **St. Luke's United**, travelling to Rosedale Valley Road. Or later at **1:30 p.m.** on Bloor Street and Jarvis. Please wear purple attire.

HYGIENE KITS - As we move towards engaging vulnerable individuals on the streets, we need your assistance with the collection of items for the hygiene kits. Your travel soaps, lotions, shampoo, tooth brush or toothpaste would be appreciated to assist us in preparing packages to be handed out on the streets. This form of outreach engagement allows the housing worker a point of entry to a conversation with a vulnerable individual. If you have any items, please drop them off at the community services office or with someone from the care services.

SPIRITUAL LEARNING FOR LIFE

FLANDERS LIBRARY: Anne Lamott is a novelist, non-fiction writer, essayist, and memoirist, known for her self-deprecating humour. Lamott's writings cover among others such subjects as alcoholism, single-motherhood, depression, and Christianity. We have 4 books, written by Lamott, in our library. One of them is "Stitches : a handbook on meaning, hope and repair". 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 (communications@metunited.ca).

FAITH THROUGH ACTION

OUR THIRD CENTURY CAMPAIGN: Commitment forms continue to flow in. Your church is grateful for your generous support. This fall we will begin the much-needed repairs and restoration work to our carillon, thanks to you. Next, we will restore our sanctuary. If you have yet to make your commitment, thank you for doing so soon. **To God be the Glory!**

STOCKS, BONDS, MUTUAL FUNDS: A gift of securities is an easy and effective way to support *Our Third Century* Campaign. You receive a tax receipt for the full value of the securities given and pay no capital gains. A double tax saving. For assistance, contact Doug Flanders at (416) 769-2746; dougflanders@sympatico.ca ***A legacy — It's ours to leave.***

METROPOLITAN'S MEMORIAL FUND: Thank you for remembering your loved ones with a gift to our Memorial Fund. Gifts are used to enhance our sanctuary and to build the church's endowment fund.

WHY DON'T YOU? Broadview, formerly The United Church Observer, is award winning, interesting, relevant, and a pertinent resource for Christians to explore faith, ethics and life issues. We have new subscribers coming on board so why not you as well? **June is Broadview month at Metropolitan** when subscriptions come due through our congregation's group subscription plan. For \$25 a year, you will receive 10 great issues by post. You may renew or subscribe by placing place your subscription money on the offering plate clearly marked "Broadview"; by contacting Doug Flanders at dougflanders@sympatico.ca, or on line at www.metunited.org, Donate, Fund, Broadview. Not a subscriber? Try it and see!

You cannot do a kindness too soon, because you never know how soon it will be too late. — Ralph Waldo Emerson

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DIRECTORY

Intentional Interim Lead Minister: The Rev. Karen Bowles, ext. 27 (karenb@metunited.ca)

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)

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To hear the sermon: www.metsermons.com
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