

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

The downtown church for a diverse city



Sunday, September 15, 2019 Flora and Fauna Sunday

We are an Affirming Congregation, offering welcome and companionship to all, regardless of orientation or designation.

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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

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

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

arr. Beverly Buchanan

ORGAN PRELUDE *Fantasia in G Major*

Blessed Jesus, We Are Here

J. S. Bach

J. S. Bach

♪ **PROCESSIONAL HYMN #217** *All Creatures of Our God and King*

Lasst uns erfreuen

♪ INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: Our God is a God of power and strength!

All: God has created each of us with tender care.

One: Our God is a God of majesty and awe!

All: God walks with each of us every step of the way.

One: Our God is a God of glory and wonder!

All: God loves each of us with tenderness and passion.

One: Our God calls us each by name.

All: God calls each of us to unite in worship together!

One: Let us pray. (all seated)

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

KYRIE ELEISON (ALL) #69 MORE VOICES *Kyrie eleison (God have mercy)*

Kervin

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

♪ **ACT OF PRAISE (All) #42 More Voices Verses 1 and 3**

John Bell

Praise God for this holy ground, place and people, sight and sound.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God's goodness is eternal.

Praise God who through Christ makes known all are loved and called God's own.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God's goodness is eternal.

READINGS

Job 39:1-8,19-21,26-28,40:1-2; Psalm 29

ANTHEM *Look at the World*

John Rutter

Look at the world, everything all around us: look at the world, and marvel every day. Look at the world: so many joys and wonders, so many miracles along our way. Praise to Thee, O Lord, for all creation, give us thankful hearts, that we may see: all the gifts we share, and every blessing, all things come of Thee....

GOSPEL READING Luke 12:22-31

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

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Thanks be to God.

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

CHILDREN AND YOUTH TIME

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

Jeffrey Dale

♪ **HYMN *MORE VOICES #37 Each Blade of Grass***

Rhode Island

SERMON “Ask Earth”

The Rev. Karen Bowles

ANTHEM *Cantique de Jean Racine*

Gabriel Fauré

O Redeemer divine, our sole hope of salvation, eternal light of the earth and the sky, we kneel in adoration, O Saviour, turn on us Thy loving eye! Send down on us the fire of Thy grace all-consuming, whose wondrous might dispersed the powers of hell, and rouse our slumbering souls with radiance all-illuminating, that they may waken Thy mercy to tell! O Christ bestow Thy blessing on us, we implore Thee, who here are gathered on penitent knee, accept the hymns we chant to Thine everlasting glory, and these Thy gifts we return unto Thee.

♪ **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 “With Verdure Clad” from *Creation*

Chelsea Van Pelt, soprano

F. J. Haydn

♪ **OFFERTORY HYMN #540 (All)**

Stuttgart

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving, with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living we may offer faithfully.**

**Grant us time and inspiration, with a vision old and new,
that our goal in all our loving may be reached in loving you.**

♪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 #303 *For Beauty of Prairies*

St. Basil

♪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

Toccata

Georgi Mushel

CARILLON POSTLUDE (OUTSIDE)

LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning are **The Rev. Karen Bowles** and **The Rev. Jason Meyers**. Reading the lessons is **Kenneth Younie**. 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 **Timothy Wisnicki**.

CARRYING THE BANNER IS **Marc Tremblay**.

GREETERS are **Jean Robison** and **Fran Parkin**.

USHERS are **Terry Kelly**, **Wilbert Ward**, **Michael Connelly**, and **Carolyn Pack**.

Roy Lee will play a special **carillon postlude** today to bid farewell and safe return to some of our historic bells. This week, Meeks & Watson will remove the 31 treble bells and take them to their foundry in Ohio for retuning and refitting over the winter months. The 23 heaviest bells will stay put, and permit the playing of simple tunes. (This was the original size of the carillon between 1922 and 1960.) The renovation project is scheduled to wrap up next spring, in time for Pentecost.

TODAY: After the service there will be a **Lunch and Learn** in the MET Centre on Eco Justice led by Rev. Jason Meyers. Bring your ideas on how we can 'green' our church! Soup lunch, coffee and tea provided.

THE MET CONNECT E-BLAST: Our weekly email blast keeps you up-to-date on worship services, latest news and exciting events in the Metropolitan community. Sign up by scrolling to the bottom of any page on our website: www.metunited.ca

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday, September 16

10:30 a.m.	Art Program	MET Centre
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Tuesday, September 17

8:30 a.m.	Bible Study	Flanders Library
12:10 – 12:30 p.m.	Midday Service of Prayer and Healing	Sanctuary
6:00 p.m.	Visual and Creative Arts	MET Centre
6:00 p.m.	Contemplation Circle	Heritage Room
6:30 p.m.	Open Studio and Knitting Circle	MET Centre
7:00 p.m.	Congregational Care Committee	Flanders Library
7:30 p.m.	Silver Band rehearsal	Sanctuary

Wednesday, September 18

1:30 p.m.	MET Care Team	Flanders Library
6:00 p.m.	Renovation Meeting	Sanctuary

Thursday, September 19

7:30 a.m.	Contemplation Circle	Heritage Room
9:00 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast	200 Victoria Street
12:10 – 1:00 p.m.	Yoga Church	Sanctuary
6:30 p.m.	Metropolitan Handbells	Sanctuary
7:30 p.m.	Metropolitan Choir	Sanctuary

Friday, September 20

10:30 a.m.	Art Program	MET Centre
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Saturday, September 21

9:00 a.m.	Breakfast Bible Study	Flanders Library
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NEXT SUNDAY: September 22 - Creation Time in the Season of Pentecost 3

9:00 a.m.	Communion Service	Founders' Chapel
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	
	The Rev. Karen Bowles	
	“Faith Seeking Wisdom”	
	Job 28:20-27; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Luke 8:22-25	
12:15 p.m.	Great Heart	Sanctuary

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

OUR CHILDREN/YOUTH MUSIC GROUPS began today: Sparklers (ages 4-6) and Choristers (ages 7-11 meet in the MET Centre at 9:45 a.m. Great Heart – ages 12 up meet at 12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We love new members, and no musical experience is needed. Anyone interested should speak with Dr. Patricia Wright for more information.

MUSIC AT METROPOLITAN: Brochures outlining concerts and other special events are available at the MetConnect table and in the Narthex.

VISUAL AND CREATIVE ARTS COMMITTEE: Wanting to explore spirituality through the arts? Help us provide sparks of imagination! The committee meets again on Tuesday, September 17 at 6 p.m. in the Met Library. New Members Welcome. If you have ideas for the visual and creative arts for the coming year and/or want to share a talent and lead a creative project and not join a committee - contact Lisa at hemslisa@gmail.com.

OPEN STUDIO ARTS: (drawing, painting with acrylics, pencil, pastel - some supplies provided) Mondays and Fridays - 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the MET Centre
Tuesdays - 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the MET Centre.– *All are Welcome!*

KNITTING CIRCLE STARTS THIS WEEK: (basic supplies provided) A novice or seasoned pro - you are welcome. Ideas for the inaugural fall session include knitting teddy bears, prayer shawls and perhaps even a yarn bomb... and of course, you can knit a scarf as well! Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., in the MET Centre.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

SAVE THE DATE: The MET Care team invites you to a Lunch and Learn on September 29 in the MET Centre to receive the healing gift of music with Debbie Danbrook. Back by popular demand!

AFFIRMING LIFE: The Affirming Life Committee is looking for new ways to be involved in LGBTQ related issues and projects in the coming year. If you would like to join in this vital work, please email jasonm@metunited.ca.

SPIRITUAL LEARNING FOR LIFE

Worship Hosts and Candle Lighters Wanted

Commitment: One Sunday per month (same Sunday each month) from September to June. Must be in the Sanctuary by 10:30 a.m.

Worship Host will set up the worship space for the Sunday 11:00 a.m. service ensuring that items required for the service are in place and will mark the Bible readings for the service. The Worship Host will fine tune the details that enable worship services to appear seamless.

Candle Lighters (in pairs) will light and extinguish candles for the 11:00 worship service. The Worship Host is often one of this pair. These functions can be done by a couple or individual. Please contact Dennis Donovan at ddonovan1@rogers.com.

MET PODCASTS: “Were you away during the summer?” Are you visiting today for the first time? Please visit our website to find expanded podcast versions of the sermon, including meditative music, the weekly Gospel reading, and take-home exercises.

NEW SPIRITUAL OFFERINGS

SUNDAY MORNING COMMUNION SERVICE will continue this fall at 9:00 a.m. Bread and Cup will be offered and prayer shared.

HIT THE RESET BUTTON! On Tuesdays from 12:10 - 12:30 there will be a **Midday Prayer** service in the Sanctuary. An opportunity for contemplation and quiet community in the middle of the day. On Thursdays from 12:10 – 1:00 p.m. there will be **Yoga Church** in the Sanctuary. A time of movement and meditation. No previous experience necessary. Mats can be provided.

DEEPEN YOUR SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: Beginning this week: **Circles of Contemplation** Tuesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m. or Thursday mornings from 7:30-8:30 a.m. for a time of silent meditation, intentional reading and contemplative dialogue.

SCRIPTURE CONSIDERED AND DISCUSSED WEEKLY! Saturday morning (9:00–10:00 a.m.) Breakfast Bible study will continue under the leadership of Christopher Hoover in the Flanders Library. And Tuesday mornings (8:30-9:30 a.m.) there will be a Bible Study led by the coming Sunday preacher in the Library.

FLANDERS LIBRARY: We are open after summer holidays at 10:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:15-1:00 p.m. every Sunday. Met librarians are always glad to help you.

THE SHARING OF OUR ABUNDANCE

OUR THIRD CENTURY CAMPAIGN AND OUR CARILLON: Thanks to you and your generous gifts, we are able to begin the restoration work of our carillon this week that will continue throughout the fall and winter. When the work is finished late next spring, we will be able to play our renewed carillon to the glory of God for years to come. **Thank you** for your financial support of **Our Third Century Campaign**.

NEW TO THE CONGREGATION? Welcome to Metropolitan. We are glad to have you here in this the first year of our third century of ministry and witness to downtown Toronto. Please consider formalizing your connection with the congregation by joining our mailing list. To make giving easier, would you also please consider using weekly offering envelopes or arranging to give by bank deduction or credit card. Please call Elena at (416) 363-0331, ext. 29 and thank you for your support. Again, welcome! You belong.

OUR LEGACY. OUR FUTURE: “Congregations and Christians everywhere are discovering that the best giving flows not from heads informed about the budget, but from hearts that are tuned to the will of God.” (*Thomas C. Reike*) As we begin a new church season, thank you for remembering Metropolitan Church with a gift of any amount in your estate plans. To explore opportunities, please contact Doug Flanders at (416) 769-2746; email dougflanders@sympatico.ca **A legacy — It's ours to leave.**

Please watch your valuables! Your security is important to us. Please keep an eye on your personal belongings while you are on church property and keep your valuables close to you as you move around the building.

Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others. – Barbara Bush



DIRECTORY

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

Community Outreach Ministry

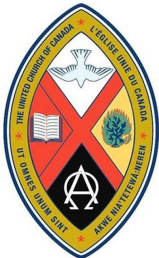
Manager of Community Services: Laura Awosanya ext. 43 (lauraa@metunited.ca)
Outreach and Housing Worker: Megan Carver, ext. 21 (housingworker@metunited.ca)
Community Service Worker: Stephanie Cunti (csw@metunited.ca)

Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Dr. Patricia Wright, ext. 26 (patw@metunited.ca)
Wayne C. Vance 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)
Office Administrator: Sheela Taylor, ext. 10 (sheelat@metunited.ca)
Financial Manager: Elena Pejcinovska, ext. 29 (elenap@metunited.ca)
Technical Administrator: Vinoth Thanganadan (vinotht@metunited.ca)
Property Manager: Frank Cairns, ext. 31
Custodians: Nadan Kandiah, Puvi Kanagalingam, ext. 39/40



Metropolitan United Church

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www.metunited.ca



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