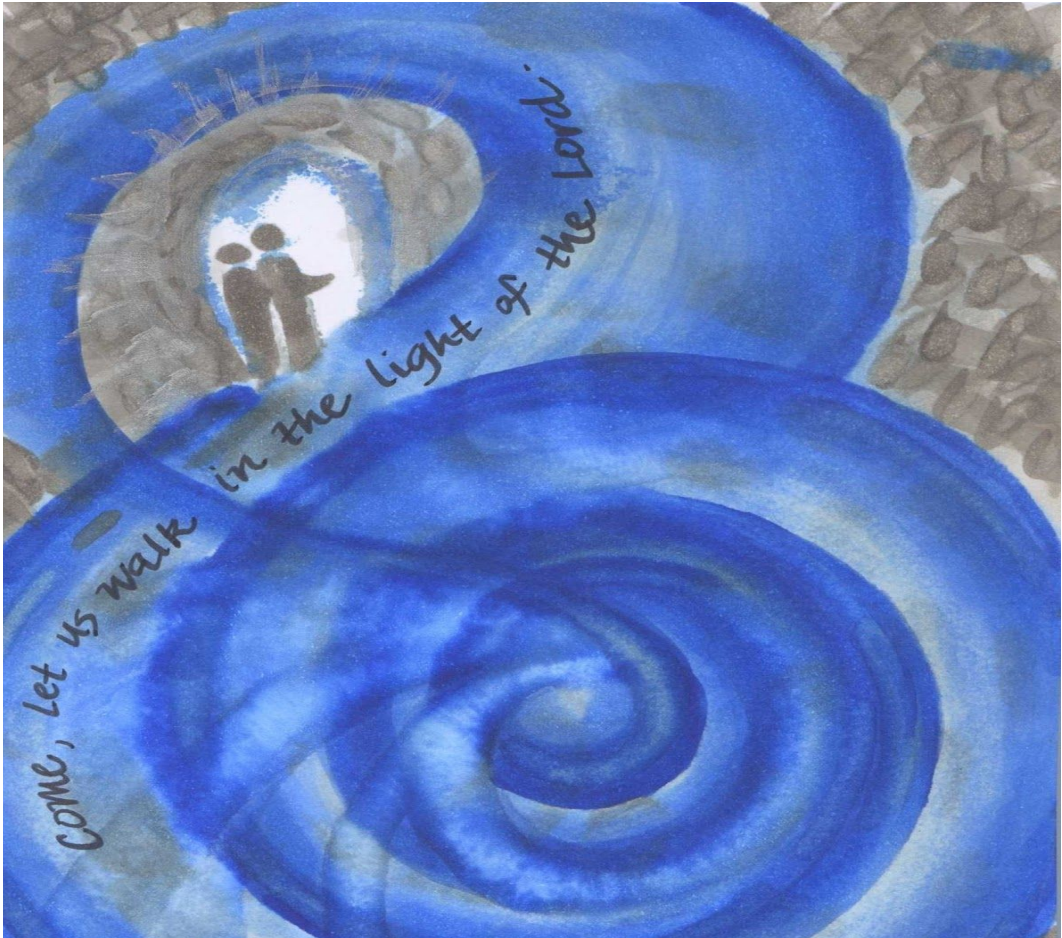


# Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



## First Sunday in Advent/Sacrament of Communion New Member Reception/Sacrament of Baptism

**Sunday, December 1, 2019**

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

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

### CARILLON PRELUDE (outside)

ORGAN PRELUDE	<i>Sleepers, Wake! The Watch Are Calling</i>	J. S. Bach
	<i>Redeemer of the Nations, Come</i>	J. S. Bach
	<i>Conditor Alme Siderum (Creator of the Stars of Night)</i>	Gerald Near
	<i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i>	Paul Manz

INTROIT: CHOIR, CHORISTERS AND SPARKLERS *People Look East (Hymn #9)* French Carol

♪PROCESSIONAL HYMN #1 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Veni Emmanuel

### ♪INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: Children and elders, friends and strangers,

**All: We come to God's house.**

One: In darkness and light,

**All: We will walk with God.**

One: In living and in dying,

**All: We will walk with God.**

One: We will live in God's light,

**All: We will walk in God's ways.**

One: God be with you.

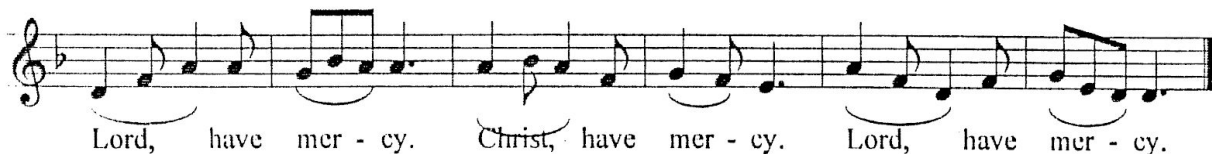
**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us pray. (all seated)

### PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

#### SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

#### ADVENT KYRIE (ALL)



### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: We light this candle for all God's people  
struggling to be bearers of hope in a troubled world.

**All: God, as we wait for your promise, give light, give hope.**

*(The candle is lit by the Griffith family.)*

#### SUNG ADVENT RESPONSE (ALL): Hymn #6, verse 1

**A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright, a candle of hope in December's dark night. While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky, our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.**

All children and youth are invited to follow their teachers to Sunday School in the MET Centre.

## WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

#### PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Christopher Hoover

One: On behalf of the congregation, I present the following persons whom we welcome into the membership of this community of faith:

*New members by Transfer: Andrew McGee and Andrew Tiffin*

*New members by Profession of Faith: Tabitha Holman and Ivan Simic*

#### COMMITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

#### ♪ CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT

One: Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge our support and care for these new members.

**All: As your siblings in Christ, we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. We pledge our love and our support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church.**

### WELCOME

## CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

#### PRESENTATION OF CHILD

Kenneth Younie

One: On behalf of the congregation, I present Ronin Dale Gordon De-Botte, son of Tabitha Holman and Sean De-Botte, to be baptized. I would ask Tabitha and Sean and the godparents to come forward now.

#### PROMISES OF PARENTS

#### PROMISES OF GODPARENTS

#### PROFESSION OF FAITH

#### ♪ CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT

One: Brothers and sisters in Christ, do you receive this child in Christ's name, as you also have been received? Will you, the members of Metropolitan United Church, commit to support and nurture them within this community, worshipping God, seeking justice and resisting evil? Are you willing to accept this holy work?

**All: We are, God being our helper.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE POURING OF WATER

## THE ACT OF BAPTISM, MARKING WITH THE CROSS

### WELCOME

#### 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,**



## SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT (Congregation and choir)




Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san-na in the high-est! Bles-sed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high-est! Ho - san-na in the high-est!

## 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.**

## AGNUS DEI (Congregation and choir)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world. Have mer - cy up - on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world. Have mer - cy up - on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world. Grant us your peace.

**DISTRIBUTION** *All are welcome to receive the sacrament of Communion at Metropolitan United Church. Communion will be served by "Intinction" (dipping the wafer into the chalice), at the front of the nave. Those wishing to receive communion may leave their pews by the centre aisle and return by the side aisles. Those in the front will come forward first, with others following in sequence, row by row. Servers will come to those in the balcony. Please follow the direction of the ushers. If you wish to remain seated, a server will come to you.*

**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION:** *Creator of the Stars; Comfort Ye; Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

♩ **RECESSIONAL HYMN #711** "Sleepers, Wake!" *the Watch Are Calling*

Wachet Auf

## ♪ COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

### ♪ BLESSING (All) #429 (Please turn toward the centre)

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 *Sleepers, Wake!*

Paul Manz

LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning are **The Rev. Karen Bowles** and **The Rev. Jason Meyers**. Reading the lessons is **Fran Parkin**. 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**, and by the Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Timothy Wisnicki**.

CARRYING THE ADVENT TORCH is **Marc Tremblay**.

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

USHERS are **Jennifer McDonald**, **Wilbert Ward**, **Terry Kelly** and **Ed Oikawa**.

**CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING** – held today after the service in the MET Centre. This meeting is to present and endorse the church budget for 2020. That is the only item on the agenda. Light snacks and refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome.

**GOOD SAMARITAN FUND** envelopes will be in your bulletin today. This fund enables us to support our own people in times of need. Please be generous.

## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

### Monday December 2

7:30 p.m.	Music Committee Meeting	Flanders Library
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### Tuesday, December 3

12:10 – 12:30 p.m.	Midday Prayer Service	Sanctuary
6:00 p.m.	A Contemplative Christmas	Heritage Room
6:30 p.m.	Open Art Studio and Knitting Circle	MET Centre
7:30 p.m.	Metropolitan Silver Band rehearsal	Sanctuary

### Wednesday, December 4

7:00 a.m.	Out of the Cold Chop Chop	MET Kitchen
8:30 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast at Fran's	200 Victoria Street
10:00 a.m.	Bible Study	Flanders Library

### Thursday, December 5

11:00 a.m.	Out of the Cold Luncheon	MET Centre
12:10 – 1:00 p.m.	Yoga Church	Sanctuary
6:30 p.m.	Metropolitan Handbells	Sanctuary
7:30 p.m.	Metropolitan Choir	Sanctuary

## Friday, December 6

10:30 a.m. Open Art Studio MET Centre

## Saturday, December 7

9:00 a.m. Christmas Lunch Prep MET Kitchen

9:00 a.m. Breakfast Bible Study Flanders Library

10:00 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal (small cast) Sanctuary

## NEXT SUNDAY: December 8 *Second Sunday in Advent*

9:00 a.m. Communion Service in the Founders' Chapel

9:45 a.m. Metropolitan Sparklers, Choristers MET Centre

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

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

Rev. Karen Bowles "Into the wilderness with John"

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72; Matthew 3:1-12

12:15 p.m. Christmas Lunch MET Centre

12:15 p.m. Great Heart Sanctuary

1:30 p.m. Deck the Halls Sanctuary

## MINISTRY OF INTEGRATED ARTS

**SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT** at Roy Thomson Hall on Tuesday, December 17 at noon features the Metropolitan Choir and organists Timothy Wisnicki and Patricia Wright. Admission is free.

## OUTREACH

**WINTER WOOLLY CHALLENGE!** Challenges have been issued by Reverends Bowles and Meyers to their former congregations (Rosedale United Church and Jubilee United Church, respectively) to participate in a friendly competition for a very good cause. All three churches, plus the Living Presence ministry in East Gwillimbury, will collect NEW or HANDMADE socks, mittens/gloves, toques and scarves to be distributed at Met's Out of the Cold luncheons and other similar programs. Larger sizes and solid colours are most desirable. **The 'Winter Woolly' collection will happen as part of Pageant Sunday on Dec 15.** Note that Community Services will also welcome underwear, hygiene items and 'hot paws', but no other clothing besides socks, mittens/gloves, toques and scarves can be accepted at this time.

**A CALL TO COOKIE BAKERS:** Our Out of the Cold luncheons are now running again for the season. If you provide homemade cookies you will be an important part of the love that we try to extend to our guests. Tins are in the Narthex this morning. Next Sunday, leave your cookies there. Many thanks.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

**POINSETTIA DELIVERY** to those who cannot attend services will happen on Sunday, December 15 after the service. We need people to deliver plants. Please see the list of addresses on the MetConnect table and sign up if you can assist the Met Care Team.

**A 'GREEN' CHRISTMAS LUNCH:** An exciting collaboration between the newly formed Met Green Team and the Hospitality Committee will be putting an environmentally friendly twist on this year's Christmas Lunch on December 8. Your help with meal prep and decorating will be very welcome. Please sign up at the Met Connect table. The Congregation is asked to bring desserts for this festive occasion.

**BROADVIEW MAGAZINE - A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING:** Our United Church magazine connects people to the wider church and to the world of faith. It's an excellent magazine and its new format is being received with rave reviews. How about giving *Broadview* as a gift for Christmas and introducing this publication to family members or friends? For a subscription, please contact Doug Flanders, our congregation's *Broadview* representative at [dougflanders@sympatico.ca](mailto:dougflanders@sympatico.ca); (416) 769-2746. Thank you!

## SPIRITUAL LEARNING FOR LIFE

**SPECIAL ADVENT STUDY:** The Saturday morning 9:00 a.m. study group will be doing an Advent study called "Finding our Place at the Manger". Each week, we will discuss one of the main characters traditionally in the nativity scene, and what we might learn from them. We hope you can join us for a time of reflection and discussion in the Flanders library. For further information contact Christopher Hoover at [cjohnhoover@gmail.com](mailto:cjohnhoover@gmail.com).

**BOOK CLUB:** Please come if you like lively discussions about non-fiction books. The next Non-Fiction Book Club will meet at Met on December 8 at the congregational Christmas lunch. We are reading "This Town: Two Parties and a Funeral - plus plenty of valet parking! - in America's gilded capital" by Mark Leibovich. Available at the Public Library.

**A CONTEMPLATIVE CHRISTMAS:** a four-week program using the *Bridges to Contemplative Living* series. We gather for a time of silent meditation, intentional reading of Thomas Merton and other spiritual writers, followed by a time of contemplative dialogue. December 3, 10, 17, 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room - led by Rev. Meyers.

## THE SHARING OF OUR ABUNDANCE

**STEWARDSHIP 2020:** Thank you for returning your estimate of giving to Metropolitan Church for 2020. We hope that every household will make their commitment and, as able, increase their support. Our gifts enable effective ministry to our congregation, our city and to the world.



**New Telephone System:** Please note that staff extensions have changed with the new telephone system.

Intentional Interim Lead Minister: The Rev. Karen Bowles, ext. 227 ([karenb@metunited.ca](mailto:karenb@metunited.ca))  
Minister of Congregational Care: The Rev. Jason Meyers, ext. 224 ([jasonm@metunited.ca](mailto:jasonm@metunited.ca))  
Minister of Music: Dr. Patricia Wright, ext. 226 ([patw@metunited.ca](mailto:patw@metunited.ca))  
Chair of the Official Board: Kenneth Younie ([chair@metunited.ca](mailto:chair@metunited.ca))

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**To hear the sermon: [www.metsermons.com](http://www.metsermons.com)**

**NOTICE OF FILMING** Please note that services are considered to be public events, 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.ca](mailto:janelt@metunited.ca).