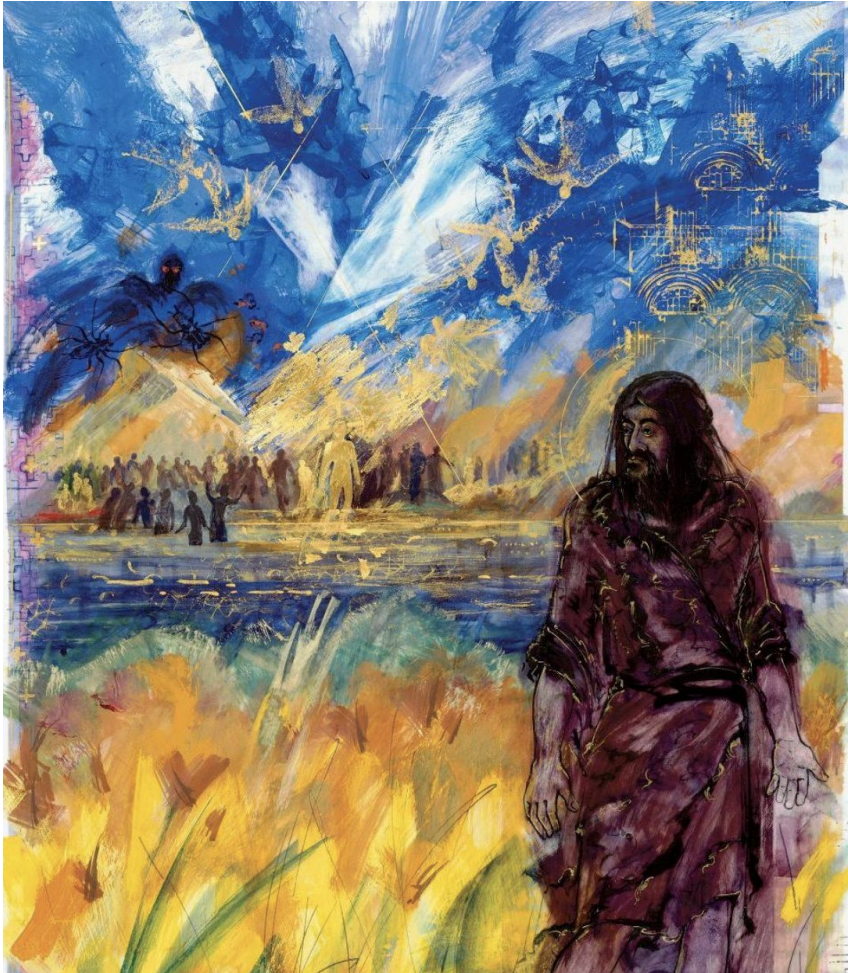


# Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



**John the Baptist**

## **Second Sunday in Advent** **Sunday, December 8, 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)

#### BAND PRELUDE

*Carol of the Bells*  
*Good King Wenceslas*  
*Mid-Winter*  
*Jesus Child*  
*Rhapsody Noel*

arr. William Gordon  
arr. Douglas Court  
Gustav Holst, arr. Stephen Bulla  
John Rutter, arr. Eric Wilson  
Joseph Turrin

♪PROCESSIONAL HYMN #29 *Hark the Glad Sound!*

Richmond

#### ♪INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: Prepare the way of the Lord;

**All: Make a path for God in the desert.**

One: Each valley shall be exalted;

**All: Every mountain and hill be laid low.**

One: The crooked shall become straight;

**All: Rough places shall become plain.**

One: This is the promise of the Lord;

**All: God's promise shall be fulfilled.**

One: God be with you.

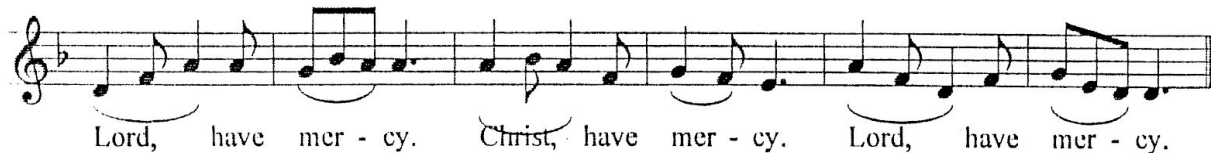
**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us pray. (all seated)

#### PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

#### SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

#### ADVENT KYRIE (ALL)



#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: We light this candle for all God's messengers,  
confronting justice and restoring the dream of a world of peace.

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

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

#### SUNG ADVENT RESPONSE (ALL): Hymn #6, verse 2

**A candle is burning, a candle of peace, a candle to signal that conflict must cease;  
for Jesus is coming to show us the way; a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

**READINGS**

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13

**ANTHEM**     *This Is the Record of John*

Orlando Gibbons

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him: who art thou? And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly: I am not the Christ. And they asked him: what art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou the prophet? And he answered, no. Then said they unto him: what art thou? That we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What say'st thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord.  
Charles Davidson, tenor

**GOSPEL READING**     Matthew 3:1-12**ONE:** This is the witness of the good news of Jesus Christ.**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: Thanks be to God.****CHILDREN AND YOUTH TIME****All children and youth are invited to follow their teachers to Sunday School in the MET Centre.****HYMN #20**   *On Jordan's Bank*

Winchester New

**SERMON**     "INTO THE WILD WITH JOHN"**The Rev. Karen Bowles****ANTHEM**     *The Holly and the Ivy*

English Carol, arr. Ola Gjeilo

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown, of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown. O the rising of the sun and the running of the deer, the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir. The holly bears a blossom as white as lily flower, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Saviour. O the rising.... The holly bears a berry as red as any blood, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good. O the rising.... The holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ....

**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. (congregation is seated)**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

### OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

BAND OFFERTORY *O Magnum Mysterium*

Morten Lauridsen – arr. Phillip Littlemore

### ♪ 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.**

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### ♪ 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 #28 *Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness*

Neander

### ♪ 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.**

BAND POSTLUDE AND CANDLE EXTINGUISHING *Deck the Halls*

arr. William Gordon

LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning are **The Rev. Karen Bowles** and **The Rev. Jason Meyers**. Reading the lessons is **Stephanie Parkin**. The ministry of music is offered by the **Metropolitan Choir** conducted by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, the **Metropolitan Silver Band** conducted by **Fran Harvey**, and by the Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Timothy Wisnicki**.

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

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

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

**TODAY - Met's 'Green' Christmas Lunch in the MET Centre** immediately following the service.

**Deck the Halls! Carol Sing** at 1:30 p.m. with the Metropolitan Silver Band and Patricia Wright, organist - donations will support Metropolitan's Good Samaritan Fund.

## **PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK**

### **Tuesday, December 10**

12:10 – 12:30 p.m.	Midday Prayer Service	Sanctuary
5:30 p.m.	Trustees Meeting	MET Centre
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 11**

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 12**

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 13**

10:30 a.m.	Open Art Studio	MET Centre
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### **Saturday, December 14**

9:00 a.m.	Breakfast Bible Study	Flanders Library
10:00 a.m.	Pageant Rehearsal	Sanctuary

### **NEXT SUNDAY: December 15 *Third 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 The Christmas Pageant	

# MINISTRY OF INTEGRATED ARTS

**METROPOLITAN CHOIR AT ROY THOMSON HALL** Free concert, Tuesday, December 17 at noon featuring the choir, with organists Timothy Wisnicki and Patricia Wright.

**THE METROPOLITAN SILVER BAND** will be performing a Christmas concert for the veterans and their families at Sunnybrook K Wing, on Wednesday, December 11.

## 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 December 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.

**OUT OF THE COLD PROGRAM:** The OOTC program is fortunate to receive weekly donations of bread and sweets from Cobbs Bread Bakery, Annex (Bloor & Walmer Rd). We are in need of a volunteer with a vehicle to pick up baked goods at Cobbs at 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays, then deliver to the Church (someone will assist you there). The time frame is approximately one hour. If you are willing, once or twice a month, please contact Norah Jardine at (416) 554-9418.

**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

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR POINSETTIA DELIVERY:** You can help bring Christmas Joy to a Metropolitan member who is shut-in or has difficulty attending service. The delivery will be on **Sunday, December 15** after the service. Do you live within driving distance of one of these areas?

- Christie Gardens - 602 Melita Cres.
- The Sumach 146 Sumach St. south of Riverdale farm
- 1381 Everall Road, Mississauga
- Main St. Terrace, 77 Main St. between Gerrard and Kingston Rd.
- 38 Medalist Road - south of 401 off Bayview
- 921 Millwood Road - north of Moore
- 5 Eastmoor Cres. Kingston Rd east of Birchmount
- 25 Brunswick Ave: College and Spadina

Met Care would appreciate your assistance in delivering the plants. Please sign up at the Met Connect table or speak to William Wright at the Christmas Lunch in the MET Centre.

# 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 join us if you like lively discussions about non-fiction books. The next Non-Fiction Book Club is meeting today at Congregational Christmas Lunch. We are discussing "This Town: Two Parties and a Funeral - plus plenty of valet parking! - in America's gilded capital" by Mark Leibovich.

**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 10 and 17, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room - led by Rev. Meyers.

**FLANDERS LIBRARY:** Jesse Thistle is an author and assistant professor at York University in Toronto. He won a Governor General's Academic Medal in 2016. His book "From the Ashes : My Story of Being Métis, Homeless, and Finding My Way" recently appeared in our library. It is a memoir which chronicles his difficult path out of homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction. The Library is open 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and 12:15 - 1:00 p.m. every Sunday.

## FAITH IN ACTION

**BROADVIEW — A BARGAIN 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. ***Broadview is offering those who give gift subscriptions this Christmas a reduced rate of \$20 — a bargain to be sure.*** Sign-up cards are on the Met Connect Table or contact Doug Flanders, our congregation's *Broadview* rep at [dougflanders@sympatico.ca](mailto:dougflanders@sympatico.ca); (416) 769-2746. Thank you!

**METROPOLITAN LEGACY CIRCLE:** This honorary circle includes those who have remembered Metropolitan Church in their estate plans with a bequest, gift of insurance, annuity or some other type of legacy gift. Since the launch of our Circle, we have over 60 members and more would be warmly welcomed. Legacy gifts can make a lasting difference to our church. For information, please contact Doug Flanders (416) 769-2746; email [dougflanders@sympatico.ca](mailto:dougflanders@sympatico.ca).

### ***A legacy — It's ours to leave***

*The most obvious lesson in Christ's teaching is that there is no happiness in having or getting anything, but only in giving. — Henry Drummond*

**BIBLES:** Recently, we have seen an uptick in the number of Bibles that walk from the Sanctuary. For this reason there will be a Bible cart when you come in on Sunday morning. Please return Bibles to the cart after the service.

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

## DIRECTORY

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))  
Voluntary Associate Minister: The Rev. Bruce Misener, ext. 255 ([officiant@metunited.ca](mailto:officiant@metunited.ca))  
Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair  
Chair of the Official Board: Kenneth Younie ([chair@metunited.ca](mailto:chair@metunited.ca))  
Teachers: Karlos Griffith ([karlosgriffith@rogers.com](mailto:karlosgriffith@rogers.com)), Johnavac Abraham  
Library: Marion Lick ([library@metunited.ca](mailto:library@metunited.ca)) and Maureen Maguire ([vigrass78@gmail.com](mailto:vigrass78@gmail.com))

### Community Outreach Ministry

Outreach and Housing Worker: Megan Carver, ext. 221 ([housingworker@metunited.ca](mailto:housingworker@metunited.ca))  
Community Service Worker: Stephanie Cunti, ext. 241 ([csw@metunited.ca](mailto:csw@metunited.ca))

### Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Dr. Patricia Wright, ext. 226 ([patw@metunited.ca](mailto: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. 222 ([janelt@metunited.ca](mailto:janelt@metunited.ca))  
Office Administrator: Sheela Taylor, ext. 210 ([sheelat@metunited.ca](mailto:sheelat@metunited.ca))  
Financial Manager: Elena Pejcinovska, ext. 229 ([elenap@metunited.ca](mailto:elenap@metunited.ca))  
Technical Administrator: Vinoth Thanganadan, ext. 223 ([vinotht@metunited.ca](mailto:vinotht@metunited.ca))  
Communications Specialist: Charles Davidson, ([communications@metunited.ca](mailto:communications@metunited.ca))  
Property Manager: Frank Cairns, ext. 231([frankc@metunited.ca](mailto:frankc@metunited.ca))  
Custodians: Nadan Kandiah, Puvi Kanagalingam, ext. 232



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