

# Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

The downtown church for a diverse city



## Third Sunday in Advent The Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 15, 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**    *Noël Grand Jeu et Duo*  
*Christmas Scherzo*  
*Away in a Manger*  
*Noël: Puer Nobis Nascitur*

Louis-Claude Daquin  
June Nixon  
arr. June Nixon  
Jean-François Dandrieu

♪**PROCESSIONAL HYMN #30**    *Hail to God's Own Anointed*

Crüger

### ♪INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: God be with you.

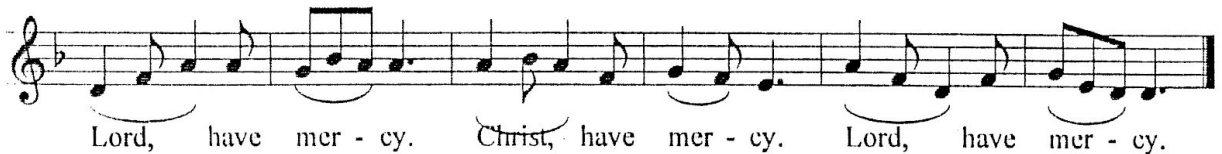
**All: And also with you.**

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

One: We light this candle for all God's prophets,  
preparing the way for change, joyful signs pointing to the kingdom.

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

**SUNG ADVENT RESPONSE (ALL): Hymn #6, verse 3**

**A candle is burning, a candle of joy, a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.**

**Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.**

**GREAT HEART** *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*    Mark Hall / Dale Oliver / Bernie Herms

**THE PAGEANT** (Congregation, please remain seated during the carols)

**SOLO** O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel....

Gisele Kulak

**THE PROPHECY**  
**THE ANNUNCIATION**

**GREAT HEART** *Mary, Did You Know?*

Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

THE ARRIVAL OF MARY AND JOSEPH

CHOIR AND CONGREGATION #62 *Once in Royal David's City*

Irby

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle-shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who, with God, is over all,  
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.  
There among the poor and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.

THE BIRTH

CHOIR AND CONGREGATION #69 *Away in a Manger*

Cradle Song

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

THE ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS

CHORISTERS AND SPARKLERS *He Is Born*

Trad. French carol, arr. Trevor Manor

CHOIR AND CONGREGATION

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

CHOIR *Carol for Christmas*

Eric Robertson

To this dark world, full of woe, came a Light so long ago; shining through our wants and sorrows,  
bringing hope for our tomorrows, sent from Heaven to Earth below: Light of Life and all Creation,  
Christ was born for our Salvation; let us then, as best we may, thank our Lord for Christmas day....

THE THREE KINGS

CHOIR AND CONGREGATION *We Three Kings*

Refrain after each verse:

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guiding to Thy perfect light.

Verse 5 (all): Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:

Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

O star of wonder....

## THE STORY CONTINUES

CHOIR *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day*

Trad arr. Willcocks

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance to see the legend of my play,  
to call my true love to my dance: Sing O my love, this have I done for my true love...

♪CAROL #59 Joy to the World

Antioch

### ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

### OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

♪OFFERTORY CAROL #91 *The First Nowell*

The First Nowell

During the singing of the carol, please come forward, as you are able, and present your  
winter woolly gifts.

### 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 #36 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

Regent Square

### ♪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.

William Wright

ORGAN POSTLUDE AND CANDLE EXTINGUISHING *Noël Suisse*

Louis-Claude Daquin

LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning is **Dr. Linn Holness**. 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**, **Great Heart** conducted by **Benjamin Stein**, and by the Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Timothy Wisnicki**.

**CARRYING THE ADVENT TORCH** is **Heather Walsh**.

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

**USHERS** are **Terry Kelly, Ed Oikawa, Carolyn Pack** and **Vicki Harris**.

**TODAY** we have a chance to dress in our Great Story. **Patricia Orr** has enriched our tale with her wonderful words. We thank our **Director:** Gary Brennan; **Costume Coordinators:** Hazel Gorley and Ael Spence; **Lighting:** Karlos Griffith and Andrew McGee; **Narrators:** Gary Brennan, Sharon MacFarlane, Karen Bowles; **Prophet:** Jason Meyers; **Angel Gabriel:** Debbey Van Beek; **Holy Family:** Tabitha Holman as Mary, Sean De-Botte as Joseph, Ronin Dale Gordon De-Botte as the baby Jesus. **Prophet Dancer:** Hannah Stein; **Three Kings:** Wilbert Ward, Bri-anne Swan, Marc Tremblay; **Roman Soldiers:** Jesse Bowles Conover, Evan Bowles Conover; **Shepherds:** Greg Martyn, Hermione Martyn, Ben Joyce, Marcus Joyce, Alison Keeley, Bill Keeley, Joe Landon, Malaya Landon, Eli Landon, Anya Lakota, Evan Lakota, Tessa Lakota, Eve Gilady, Lochlan Keeley, Kathy Lee; Simon Meyers **Donkey:** Isaiah Meyers; **Lamb:** Megan Joyce; **Herod:** Kenneth Younie; **Star Bearer:** Iain Brady; **Angels:** Claire Keeley, Madeline Gilady, Elise Lakota, Mary Ann MacPherson, Francesca Horbay, Lessa Kopansky. **Great Heart:** Asha Ayuyao Woolrich, Finn Ayuyao Woolrich, Georgia Brady, Iain Brady, Nicholas Brady, Lexie Landerkin; Charlotte Mallia, Andrew McGrenere, Seamus McGrenere, Malaya Landon; **Choristers:** Eve Gilady, Madeline Gilady, Anya Lakota, Elise Lakota, Eli Landon, Malaya Landon, Courtney Soares; **Sparklers:** Tessa Lakota, Marcus Joyce, Evan Lakota, Lochlan Keeley, Isaiah Meyers, Simon Meyers.. These “working Saints” of ours bring the joy of Christmas closer to all.

## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

### Tuesday, December 17

<b>12:10 – 12:30 p.m.</b>	Midday Prayer Service	Sanctuary
<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	Metropolitan Choir Concert	Roy Thomson Hall
<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	A Contemplative Christmas	Heritage Room
<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	Visual Arts and Crafts Committee meeting	Flanders Library
<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	Open Art Studio and Knitting Circle	MET Centre

### Wednesday, December 18

<b>7:00 a.m.</b>	Out of the Cold Chop Chop	MET Kitchen
<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	Prayer Breakfast at Fran's	200 Victoria Street
<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	Bible Study	Flanders Library
<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	Official Board	MET Centre

### Thursday, December 19

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

### Friday, December 20

<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	Open Art Studio	MET Centre
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## Saturday, December 21

9:00 a.m.	Breakfast Bible Study	Flanders Library
5:00 p.m.	Blue Christmas Service	Sanctuary

## NEXT SUNDAY: December 22 *Fourth Sunday in Advent*

9:00 a.m.	Early Communion Service in the Founders' Chapel	
9:45 a.m.	Metropolitan Sparklers, Choristers	MET Centre/Sanctuary
10:00 a.m.	Library Open (re-opens 12:15 p.m.)	
11:00 a.m.	Morning Service and Church School Rev. Karen Bowles "A Canadian Christmas Story" Psalm 146:5-10; Matthew 11:18-25; Luke 1:46b-55	
12:15 p.m.	Great Heart	Sanctuary
7:00 p.m.	Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols	Sanctuary

## MINISTRY OF INTEGRATED ARTS

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

**LAST MINUTE METROPOLITAN CHRISTMAS GIFTS TODAY:** Christmas CDs will be on sale: \$10 each, 2 for \$20! The exception is the lovely *Bach in Time* with organ music by Dr. Patricia Wright and poems by Patricia Orr for \$20. These make wonderful Christmas gifts for friends and family. Also - **Metropolitan sweatshirts** - donate what you can, and **Metropolitan Christmas tree ornaments:** \$20.

## OUTREACH

**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.

**DISHWASHER NEEDED:** for Out of the Cold on Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to approximately 3:30 or 4:00. Please call Barbara McLardy at 416-807-2681 for more information.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

**TODAY - 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 **today, December 15** after the service. Do you live within driving distance of one of these areas?

- 38 Medalist Road - south of 401 off Bayview
- 25 Brunswick Ave: College and Spadina
- 602 Melita Crescent (Christie Gardens)

## 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).

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

**FLANDERS LIBRARY:** "Toronto Theatres and the Golden Age of the Silver Screen" is one of the books written by Doug Taylor. The book explores the evolution of theatres from the historic Toronto's movie theatres to today's megaplexes. You can find the book in our library. 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 new subscribers a reduced rate of \$20 - the perfect Christmas gift. Sign-up cards are on the Met Connect Table or contact Doug Flanders, our congregation's *Broadview* rep at 416-769-2746 or at [dougflanders@sympatico.ca](mailto:dougflanders@sympatico.ca). Thank you!

**IN GRATITUDE:** The Official Board of Metropolitan United Church acknowledges with gratitude and thanks a recent gift from the estate of James (Bud) Slater, faithful member and Carillonneur Emeritus of this church.

**CHRISTMAS THANK OFFERING:** Envelopes are in the pews for our Christmas Thank Offering. Our gifts enable transformational ministries to happen in our congregation and community. Thank you for your always generous support.

**WAYS TO GIVE:** Financial gifts enable our many ministries to thrive. Weekly offering envelopes. Monthly bank or credit card deductions. Post-dated cheques. Gifts of securities. We are happy to enable a way of giving that suits your needs. Contact Elena in our church office at (416) 363-0331, ext. 29 or email [elenap@metunited.org](mailto:elenap@metunited.org). Thank you for your support.

What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal. – Albert Pike

**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.



**Church Offices:** Closed from noon on Tuesday, December 24, 2019 and will reopen on Thursday, January 2, 2020.

**PASTORAL EMERGENCY:** December 25, 26 & 27 - Rev. Karen Bowles at 416-670-1902.  
December 28, 2019 to January 3, 2020 - Rev. Jason Meyers at 647-338-1713.

**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))  
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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