

# Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

The downtown church for a diverse city



Jane Boynton Strickland

## **Sunday, December 22, 2019** **Fourth Sunday in Advent**

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

#### ORGAN PRELUDE

*Variations on 'In Dulci Jubilo'*  
*My Soul Magnifies the Lord*  
*Lo, How a Rose*  
*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Denis Bédard  
J. S. Bach  
Johannes Brahms  
Flor Peeters

#### ♪PROCESSIONAL HYMN #61 *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Divinum Mysterium

#### ♪INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: In towns and villages, in city towers and wintry woodlands;

**All: Christ is waiting to be born.**

One: In the vastness of the universe, in the intimacy of our hearts;

**All: Christ is waiting to be born.**

One: In the shadowed corners of loneliness, in the delight of the dance;

**All: Christ is waiting to be born.**

One: Come, Lord Jesus.

**All: Come into our world.**

One: Come, Lord Jesus.

**All: Come into our lives.**

One: God be with you.

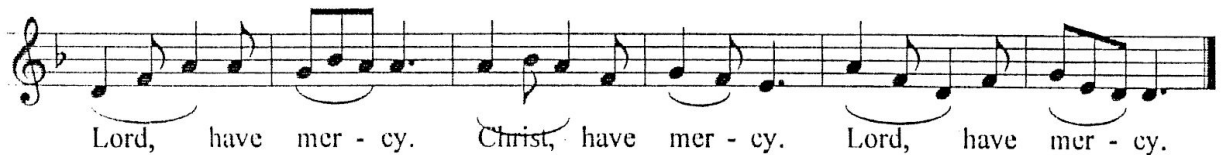
**All: And also with you.**

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-bearers  
saying yes to God's challenge,  
accepting the pain and joy of an unknown future.

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

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

#### SUNG ADVENT RESPONSE (ALL): Hymn #6, verse 4

**A candle is burning, a candle of love, a candle to point us to heaven above.**

**A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth, for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.**

#### READINGS

Psalm 146:5-10; Matthew 1:18-25

**ANTHEM**     *Gabriel's Message*

Eleanor Daley

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame; "All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favoured lady," Gloria! Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say – most highly...

**READING**     Luke 1:46b-55

**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 #46**     *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

Gentle Mary

**SERMON**     **A CANADIAN ADVENT STORY**

**The Rev. Karen Bowles**

**ANTHEM**     *Lo, How a Rose*     (Hymn #8)

Michael Praetorius

♪**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**

**OFFERTORY SOLO** *In the Bleak Midwinter*  
Gisele Kulak, soprano

Christina Rossetti, Mary E. Caldwell

♪**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 #35** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

In Dulci Jubilo

## ♪ 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** *In Dulci Jubilo*

J. S. Bach

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

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

**USHERS** are **Jennifer McDonald, Sarah Cotterill, Alan Cotterill** and **Roy Tomlinson**.

**TODAY** Candlelight Carol Service at 7:00 p.m.

## UPCOMING SERVICES

**Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24**

5:00 p.m. A Community Christmas

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve and Communion

**Wednesday, December 25**

11:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service - Rev. Karen Bowles

**Sunday, December 29**

9:00 a.m. Early Communion Service

11:00 a.m. Morning Service

**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



56 Queen Street East, Toronto, ON M5C 2Z3

Tel. 416.363.0331 Fax. 416.363.7586

Email: [metunited@metunited.ca](mailto:metunited@metunited.ca)

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

[www.metunited.ca](http://www.metunited.ca)

