

**Welcome to  
Metropolitan United Church**  
the downtown church for a diverse city



**Sunday, December 22, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.  
Candlelight Carol Service**

**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

The pew-end candleholders are fragile – please do not touch them.

♪ (INDICATES A CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - PLEASE STAND IN SPIRIT OR IN FACT)

**CARILLON PRELUDE (outside)**

**ORGAN PRELUDE** *Noël Grands Jeu et Duo*

*The Holly and the Ivy*

*Chorale Prelude “Es ist ein Ros’ Entsprungen”*

*Noël: Où S’en Vont Ces Gais Bergers*

L.-C. Daquin

Herbert Sumsion

Lionel Rogg

Claude Balbastre

**INTROIT** *A Matin Responsory*

adapted from Palestrina

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

Soloists: Benjamin Stein, Nicholas Higgs, Chelsea Van Pelt, Valeria Kondrashov

(CONGREGATION, PLEASE STAND)

♪ **PROCESSIONAL HYMN #25** *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*

Helmsley

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending, see the Lamb for sinners slain!**

**thousand, thousand saints attending join to sing the glad refrain:**

**hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah! God appears on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall then behold you, robed in awesome majesty;**

**all who jeered, and mocked, and sold you, pierced, and nailed you to the tree,**

**deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving, shall the true Messiah see.**

**Now redemption, long expected see in solemn pomp appear;**

**all the saints, by us rejected, thrill the trumpet sound to hear:**

**hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah! See the day of God appear!**

**Yea! Amen! Let all adore you, high on your eternal throne;**

**crowns and empires fall before you, claim the kingdom for your own:**

**O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly! Everlasting Christ, come down.**

**PRAYER OF APPROACH**

One: God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us pray. (all seated)

One: We gather this evening in this season of expectation and longing, of hope and remembering.

**All: We gather this night to sing, to pray and to hear the story told once again.**

One: The story of light once again coming into the world.

**All: We gather this evening in this season of Advent – to share in the light together.**

**CHOIR** *Thou Shalt Know Him*

Mark Sirett

Thou shalt know Him when He comes, not by any din of drums, nor His manners, nor His airs, nor by anything He wears. Thou shalt know Him when He comes, not by His crown or by His gown, but His coming known shall be, by the holy harmony which His coming makes in Thee. Amen.

**READING** Isaiah 11:1-4, 6

From Jesse's line comes our hope...

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

Michael Praetorius

**READING** Micah 5:2-5a

The glory of little Bethlehem is foretold...

**♪CAROL #64** *O little town of Bethlehem*

Forest Green

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessed gift of heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

**READING** John 1:1-5, 14, 18

In the beginning was the Word...

**HYMN #61 (remain seated)** *Of the Father's love begotten*

Divinum Mysterium

**Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,  
Christ is Alpha and Omega, Christ the source, the ending He,  
of the things that are and have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.**

**At his word the worlds were framed. He commanded, it was done:  
heaven and earth and depths of ocean in their threefold order one;  
all that grows beneath the shining of the moon and burning sun, evermore and evermore.**

**This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,  
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;  
now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord, evermore and evermore.**

READING John 1:6-7, 19-23

John prepares the way...

**HYMN #20**     *On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry*

Winchester New

**On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry announces that the Lamb is nigh,  
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of Kings.**

**Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within;  
and let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty guest may come.**

**Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and help us rise to fall no more.  
O let your face upon us shine, and fill the world with love divine.**

**All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won;  
and praise to God whom we adore, with Holy Spirit evermore.**

READING Luke 1:26-38

The Angel Gabriel salutes Mary...

**CHOIR**     *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 2:1-7

Luke tells of Jesus' birth...

**CHOIR**     *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....

**CAROL #69 (congregation seated)**     *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.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**METROPOLITAN HANDBELLS**

*Christmas Rejoicing*

Douglas E. Wagner

READING Luke 2:8-14

The Angels and Shepherds...

**CHOIR**     *Riu, Riu, Chiu*

16th century Spanish Carol

"Riu, riu, chiu," cried the shepherd by the riverside. He who is born is a great King, Christ the Lord is clothed in human flesh. He has redeemed us by making himself a child: although he is immortal, he made himself mortal.     Soloists: John Schneider, Nicholas Higgs, Benjamin Stein

*Gaudete!*

Piae Cantiones, 1582

Rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary! The time of grace has come for which we have prayed, let us sing songs of joy. God is made man, while nature wonders; the world is renewed by Christ the King. Therefore let us sing praises at this time of purification; let us bless the Lord: greetings to our King!

♪CAROL #48 *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

Mendelssohn

**Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail, the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild he lays His glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK**

Offering plates will be passed from aisle to aisle.

**GREAT HEART** *Above the Treeline*

Jane Siberry

I went out with Wolf tonight, I had so many worries on my mind....It was a starry night And the snow had stopped falling, and I feel that I heard someone singing. Fly us to the moon high above our upturned faces booming in the bright, send some good things down on this earth tonight.

♪OFFERTORY CAROL #55 *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Cranham

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter, long ago.  
What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.**

READING Luke 2:15-20

The shepherds go to the manger...

CHOIR *Dormi Jesu!*

Mark Sirett

Sleep, Jesus, while your mother smiles to see you quietly sleep. Sleep, Jesus, on her knee. If you don't sleep, your mother laments, singing as she spins her wheel: come, sleep peacefully.

PRAYER

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:

come and behold him, born the King of angels:

*Refrain:* O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, light of light, lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;

very God, begotten, not created. *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;

glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh

with lowly fear;

we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps. *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given;

word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

#### COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

*Congregation, please be seated*

#### CHOIR *Vesper Responsory*

Palestrina, arr. Ledger

Judah and Jerusalem fear not, nor be dismayed: tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you. Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord. Tomorrow.... Go ye forth in the darkness, carrying the light of Jesus Christ our Lord. Tomorrow go ye forth.... Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. Tomorrow go ye forth.... Cantor: Charles Davidson

#### POSTLUDE *Postlude on "Adeste Fideles"*

Eric Thiman

**Participants in this evening's service** include **The Rev. Karen Bowles**, **The Rev. Jason Meyers**, **Frank Cairns**, Property Manager; **Timothy Wisnickci**, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar; **Susan Girvan**, Secretary of the Official Board; **Tracy Pratt**, Chair of the Music Committee; **James Nixon**, President of the Metropolitan Choir; **Dr. Linn Holness**, Chair of the Worship Committee; **Roy Lee**, Carillonner; **Dr. Patricia Wright**, Minister of Music. The music is led by the **Metropolitan Choir and Handbells** conducted by **Dr. Patricia Wright** and **Great Heart** conducted by **Benjamin Stein**. Carrying the Advent Torch is **Ian Mahaffy**.

**Ushers** are **Karen Scott**, **Wilbert Ward**, **Joseph Curry**, **Denise Moore**, and **Terry Kelly**.

**Greeters** this evening are **Jean Robison** and **Fran Parkin**.

#### The Metropolitan Choir

\*indicates a lead singer

**Soprano:** Vesta Andrews, Sally Keeley, Gisele Kulak\*, Cheryl Lake, Mercy Mandac, Jennifer Martyn, Alice Sellwood, Heather Walsh, Chelsea Van Pelt\*.

**Alto:** Janice Andrews, Dorcas Beaton, Elizabeth Fox, Chris Taeyoung Kim\*, Valeria Kondrashov\*, Margaret Metcalfe, Amanda O'Halloran, Stephanie Parkin, Lynn Patterson, Priscilla Sahayam.

**Tenor:** Charles Davidson\*, Ian Mahaffy, James Nixon, Benjamin Stein\*, Timothy Wisnicki.

**Bass:** Michael Fitzgerald, Nicholas Higgs\*, David Hughes, Fred Keeley, Brodie MacRae, John Schneider\*, Kento Stratford.

### **The Metropolitan Handbells**

Janice Andrews, Vesta Andrews, Elizabeth Fox, Vicki Harris, Linn Holness, Mary Ellen Jones, Jeff Laitar, Susan MacLean, Margaret Metcalfe, Amanda O'Halloran, Heather Walsh.

**Great Heart:** Asha Ayuyao Woolrich, Finn Ayuyao Woolrich, Georgia Brady, Iain Brady, Nicholas Brady, Charlotte Mallia, Andrew McGrenere, Seamus McGrenere, Malaya Landon, Courtney Soares.

## **UPCOMING CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

### **Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve**

5:00 p.m. A Community Christmas (starting outside with hot chocolate)  
11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service

### **Wednesday, December 25 Christmas Day**

11:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship

### **Sunday, December 29 First Sunday after Christmas**

9:00 a.m. Communion in the Founders' Chapel  
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

**OUR CHRISTMAS THANK OFFERING:** Throughout the year on special occasions, we are invited to make an additional gift to support our many ministries and programs here at Metropolitan Church. Thank you for your prayerful and generous support. Our gifts enable hearts to be moved and lives to be transformed. **Your donation can be provided as follows:**

- Online giving: Go to [www.metunited.ca](http://www.metunited.ca). Click "Donate Now"
- Credit card donations: Call Elena at the church office at (416) 363-0331, ext. 229
- Mail your cheque to Metropolitan United Church, 56 Queen Street East, M5C 2Z3
- Use the Christmas Offering envelope placed in the pews for your cheque or cash offering

**CHURCH OFFICES:** Closed from noon on Tuesday, December 24, 2019 and will reopen on Wednesday, 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

**MET CONNECT WEEKLY NEWS:** Stay up to date with worship, events and current programming - sign up on our homepage at [metunited.ca](http://metunited.ca).

**SOCIAL CHANNELS:** Connect with Metropolitan on Facebook, Instagram (@[@metropolitanunitedto](https://www.instagram.com/metropolitanunitedto)) and Vimeo.



**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))  
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### 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

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