

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



O Holy Night by Mike Torevell, <https://miketorevelldesigns.blogspot.com/>

Christmas Eve December 24, 2019

We are an Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada, 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.

Clergy Greetings

We hope this is a good and joyful place for you to be on this night of nights. We join this evening with Christians throughout the world to welcome a child born a long, long time ago and yet again, in our hearts tonight. As believers in God and followers of the ways and the teachings of Jesus, we seek in this place and all the work we do to teach, heal, serve and inspire movement toward peace and justice for all. We are grateful for all those who journey with us, serving and supporting our shared work in this community and beyond.

The Rev. Karen J. Bowles

Dr. Patricia Wright

The Rev. Jason F. Meyers

Leading us in worship for tonight's Christmas Eve service are **The Rev. Karen J. Bowles** and **The Rev. Jason F. Meyers**. The Communion servers are **The Rev. Karen J. Bowles, Scott Conover, The Rev. Jason F. Meyers, Dennis Donovan, The Rev. Walter Ridley, Mary Ann McPherson, The Rev. Kenneth Moy, The Rev. Anne Hepburn, William Hepburn, Linn Holness, Denise Moore, Ann Edwards, Grant Bowles Conover** and **Fran Parkin**. Reading the lessons is **Dr. Linn Holness**, Chair of Worship. The Ministry of Music is offered by the Metropolitan Choir, by the Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, by the Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Timothy Wisnicki**, and Carillonneur **Roy Lee**.

Greeter is **Fran Parkin**.

Ushers are **Jennifer and Alastair McDonald, Karen Scott, Wilbert Ward, Michael Connolly** and **Joseph Curry**.

Please note: Metropolitan United provides service supports that may be obtained from our ushers, including mobile hearing aids, large print bulletins and hymns, and individual pew cushions.

ORDER OF SERVICE

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

CARILLON PRELUDE (outside)

ORGAN PRELUDE *Offertoire sur Deux Noël's*
Away in a Manger
Prelude on "Quem Pastores"
Noël sur les Flûtes

A. Guilmant
June Nixon
Healey Willan
L. C. Daquin

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

One: The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who have lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

INTROIT *Quem pastores*

15th -16th c. Carol

Shepherds left their flocks a-straying, God's command with joy obeying, when they heard the angels saying, "Christ is born in Bethlehem". Let us now in every nation sing his praise with exultation. All the world shall find salvation in the birth of Mary's son.

Soloists: Gisele Kulak, Valeria Kondrashov, Chelsea Van Pelt, Chris Taeyoung Kim

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #60

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

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

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest:**

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

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

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:**

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

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray. (all seated)

SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

KYRIE ELEISON (CHOIR)

12th c. Plainsong

Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ, have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE (ALL)

**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!"**

READINGS Isaiah 9:2-7; Titus 3:4-7

ANTHEM *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.

GOSPEL READING Luke 2:1-20

ONE: This is the witness of the good news of Jesus Christ.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN #67 *Silent Night*

Stille Nacht

**Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.**

**Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.**

SERMON *"Tale As Old As Time"*

The Rev. Karen Bowles

ANTHEM *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Harold Darke

Text at Hymn #55 Soloists: Gisele Kulak and Charles Davidson

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK (Offering plates will be passed from aisle to aisle.)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Sussex Carol*

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring – news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth. When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place; angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the new-born King. All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night: "Glory to God"

OFFERTORY RESPONSE #48

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."**

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)

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT (Choir)

14th c. Plainsong

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory: Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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 (Choir)

10th and 13th c. Plainsong

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy 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

Away in a Manger - Handbells; Infant Holy; No Crowded Eastern Street

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

♪RECESSIONAL HYMN #59 *Joy to the World*

Antioch

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King!

Let every heart prepare him room,

and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns: let all their songs employ,

while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains

repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,

repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground:

**he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the earth with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

♪ **COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

CHORAL RESPONSE *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* harm. J. S. Bach

ORGAN POSTLUDE AND CANDLE EXTINGUISHING
From Heaven Above to Earth I Come Johann Pachelbel

CARRYING THE BANNER IS Ian Mahaffy.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Wednesday, December 25 *Christmas Day*

11:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship Service
“What if?” The Rev. Karen Bowles
John 1:1-14

Sunday, December 29 *First Sunday after Christmas*

9:00 a.m. Communion Service in the Founders' Chapel
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service
“Seeking Sanctuary” The Rev. Jason Meyers
Isaiah 63:7–9, Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13–23

Sunday, January 5, 2020 *Epiphany*

9:00 a.m. Communion Service in the Founders' Chapel
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service
“The Three C's” The Rev. Karen Bowles
Isaiah 6:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12

STAY CONNECTED: Sign up for the MET Connect weekly e-newsletter for up-to-date worship, event and programming news. Fill out a form at the Met Connect table, or just visit metunited.ca. We're also on Facebook, Instagram (@metropolitanunitedto) and Vimeo.

FAITH IN ACTION

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. Thank you for your support.

OUT OF THE COLD: Our Out of the Cold luncheon will start up again on January 9. We are a dedicated group of volunteers providing companionship, resources and sustenance to those who come. If you would like to help us, please contact Norah Jardine at 416-554-9418. We are in particular need of a driver with own vehicle to pick up bread and sweets in the Annex area every Wednesday evening.

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

CHURCH OFFICE will be 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 - Rev. Jason Meyers at 647-338-1713

Our roots are anchored in a small log church built where Commerce Court now stands. The year was 1818. Methodists trekked through the snow of Old York to fire up the wood stove and sing the songs of Christmas. Over the last 200 years, many downtown churches were seeded by our Methodist ancestors.

The first building on the current site, raised in 1872, seated 2,200 people on the main floor and horseshoe-shaped gallery. In 1928, a fire destroyed the structure. Two hundred firefighters fought the cold of a Toronto winter to save the tower and the great carillon you heard tonight. In 1929, this second building, modelled after Doncaster parish church in England, was dedicated to the Glory of God. Its magnificent Casavant pipe organ, the largest in Canada, with over 8,300 pipes, provides the loom for weaving public worship.



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)
Minister of Congregational Care: The Rev. Jason Meyers, ext. 224 (jasonm@metunited.ca)
Voluntary Associate Minister: The Rev. Bruce Misener, ext. 255 (officiant@metunited.ca)
Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair
Chair of the Official Board: Kenneth Younie (chair@metunited.ca)
Teachers: Karlos Griffith (karlosgriffith@rogers.com), Johnvac Abraham
Library: Marion Lick (library@metunited.ca) and Maureen Maguire (vigrass78@gmail.com)

Community Outreach Ministry

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

Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Dr. Patricia Wright, ext. 226 (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 Marty
Carillonneur: Roy Lee
Director, Metropolitan Silver Band: Fran Harvey

Administrative Ministry

Director of Administration: Jane Tuomi, ext. 222 (janelt@metunited.ca)
Office Administrator: Sheela Taylor, ext. 210 (sheelat@metunited.ca)
Financial Manager: Elena Pejcinovska, ext. 229 (elenap@metunited.ca)
Technical Administrator: Vinoth Thanganadan, ext. 223 (vinotht@metunited.ca)
Communications Specialist: Charles Davidson (communications@metunited.ca)
Property Manager: Frank Cairns, ext. 231 (frankc@metunited.ca)
Custodians: Nadan Kandiah, Puvi Kanagalingam ext. 232

56 Queen Street East, Toronto, ON M5C 2Z3
Tel. 416.363.0331 Fax. 416.363.7586
Email: metunited@metunited.ca
www.metunited.ca



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.