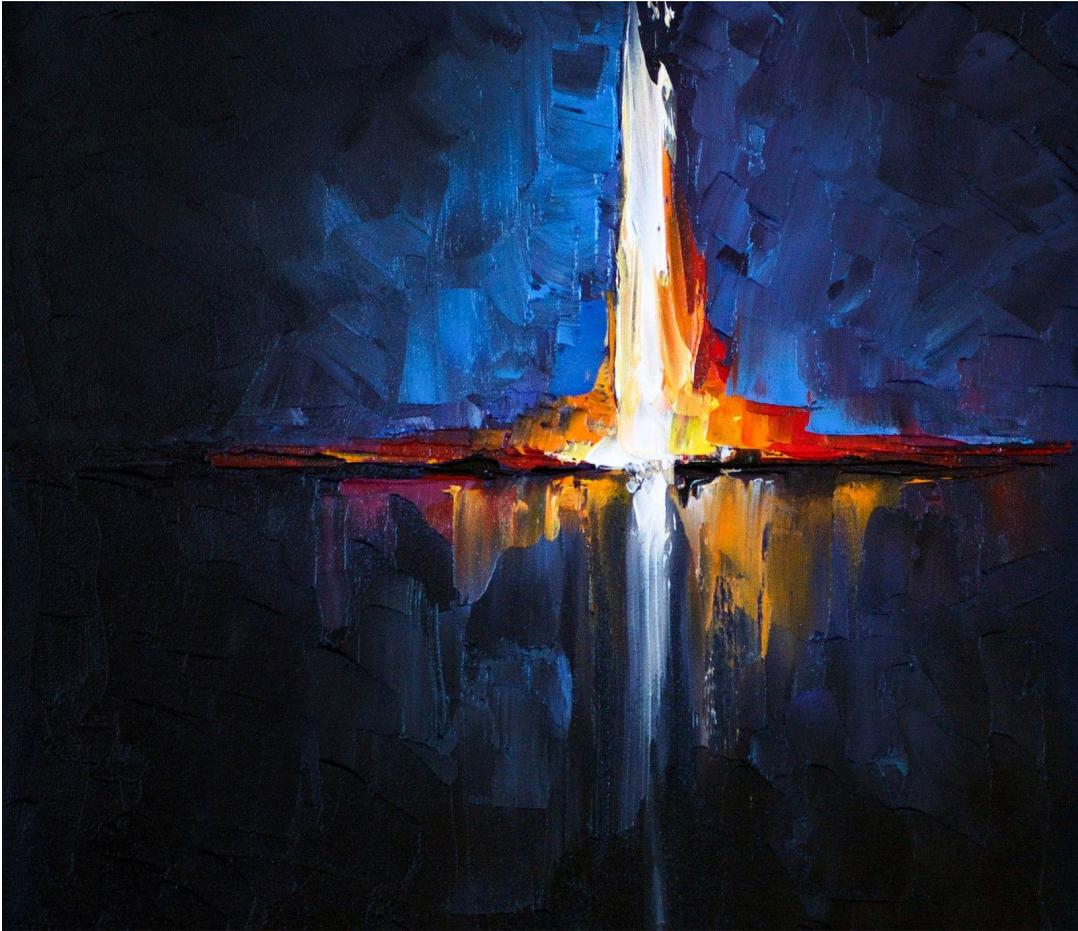


# Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



The Lord Is My Light by M. Moyers

## Wednesday, December 25, 2019 Christmas Day

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 | <i>In Dulci Jubilo</i>               | J. S. Bach          |
|               | <i>Sussex Carol</i>                  | Dale Wood           |
|               | <i>In Dulci Jubilo</i>               | Dieterich Buxtehude |
|               | <i>Of the Father's Love Begotten</i> | Wilbur Held         |

♪CAROL #48 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Mendelssohn

### ♪INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: Christmas Day - angels and shepherds and travellers.

**All: A newborn child.**

One: An old story full of love and danger,

**All: laying bare the beauty of an amazing God.**

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

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### ♪ACT OF PRAISE #38

Gloria

**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!**

READING John 1:1-14

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

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

♪CAROL #74 *What Child Is This?*

Greensleeves

SERMON "WHAT IF?"

**The Rev. Karen Bowles**

### ♪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

ORGAN OFFERTORY *Noël sur les Flûtes*

Louis-Claude Daquin

♪OFFERTORY HYMN #55 *In the Bleak Midwinter, v. 4*

Cranham

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.

## 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.

♪CAROL #75 *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

Winchester Old

## COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE AND CANDLE EXTINGUISHING *God Rest You Merry*

Wilbur Held

LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning is **The Rev. Karen Bowles**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**.

USHERS are **Wilbert Ward** and **Eva Breeze**.

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

9:00 a.m. Communion Service in the Founders' Chapel

11:00 a.m. Morning Service Rev. Jason Meyers  
Isaiah 63:7-9; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

**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 generous support.

**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](http://metunited.ca). We're also on Facebook, Instagram (@metropolitanunitedto) and Vimeo.

**CHURCH OFFICE** 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.

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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