

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



Sunday, January 12, 2020

Baptism of Jesus

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>Prelude and Fugue in C Major</i> | J. S. Bach |
| | <i>Christ Our Lord to Jordan Came</i> | J. S. Bach |
| | <i>Shall We Gather At the River</i> | arr. Dale Wood |

♪PROCESSIONAL HYMN #101 *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise* Salzburg

♪INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: Baptized into lives of faith,

All: we would witness to God in our world and in our midst.

One: Baptized into service,

All: we would do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly.

One: Baptized into community,

All: we would treat all as God's Beloved.

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

KYRIE ELEISON (ALL) #69 *MORE VOICES* *Kyrie eleison (God have mercy)* Kervin

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

♪ACT OF PRAISE (All) p. 895 *Voices United*

Glory, glory, glory, glory be to God on high! Glory, glory, glory, glory be to God on high!

And on earth peace to the people in whom God is well pleased.

And on earth peace to the people in whom God is well pleased.

READINGS Isaiah 42:1-9, Acts 10:34-43

ANTHEM *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree* Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit, and always green: the trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree. His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree...

GOSPEL READING Matthew 3:13-17

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 #375

Spirit of Gentleness

Spirit of Gentleness

SERMON

WHAT ARE WE?

REV. KAREN BOWLES

ANTHEM

I Saw the Spirit

Carmine Lappano

I saw the Spirit descending as a dove, and he remained on him. I have seen that this is the Lamb of God.

♪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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OUR COMMON LIFE

OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

OFFERTORY SOLO *A New Year Carol*

Benjamin Britten/David Noble (after Britten)

Charles Davidson, tenor

♪OFFERTORY HYMN #518, verse 3

Forest Green

**With gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to you,
Not just to serve your cause, but share your love with neighbours too.
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ, your son,
Help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

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 - AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

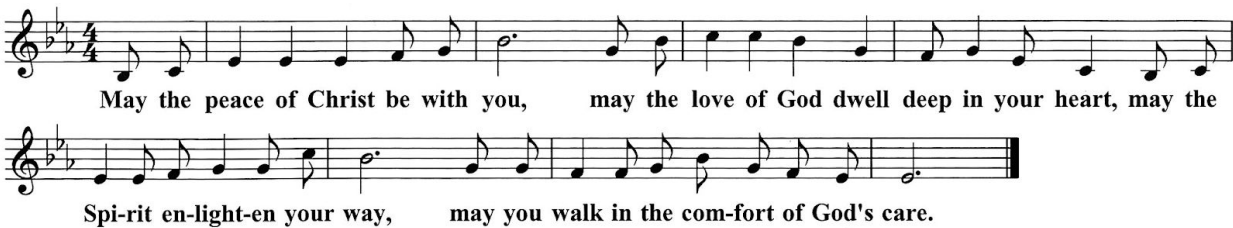
LORD’S PRAYER (all) (Voices United, p. 921)

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 #100 *When Jesus Comes to Be Baptized* Winchester New

♪ COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

♪ BLESSING (All-please turn toward the centre) Izumi Shiota



May the peace of Christ be with you, may the love of God dwell deep in your heart, may the
Spi-rit en-light-en your way, may you walk in the com-fort of God's care.

ORGAN POSTLUDE AND CANDLE EXTINGUISHING Olivier Messiaen
“Dieu Parmi Nous” from *La Nativité du Seigneur*

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

CARRYING THE BANNER is **Marc Tremblay**.
GREETERS are **Muriel Griffith** and **Carol Kitney**.
USHERS are **Eva Breeze**, **Vicki Harris**, **Chris Hoover**, and **Gunn Wongsuwan**.

TODAY’S Music includes works by Bach (listen for the river Jordan in 16th notes underneath the chorale melody in *Christ Our Lord to Jordan Came*), a traditional setting by Elizabeth Poston, and an anthem by Toronto composer Carmine Lappano. The Offertory Solo is Britten’s setting of a traditional Welsh New Year’s carol reflecting the custom of sprinkling fresh well water on the faces of passersby. The postlude is the concluding movement from Messiaen’s suite (composed in 1935). In “God among us”, listen for the use of descending musical passages – both in the manuals and in the pedals – to symbolize God’s descent to earth in the form of Jesus. Also, in the middle section, God seems to come to a very busy world, complete with the sound of Parisian car horns!

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Tuesday, January 14

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| 12:10 – 12:30 p.m. | Midday Prayer Service | Sanctuary |
| 5:30 p.m. | Trustees Meeting | MET Centre |
| 6:30 p.m. | Open Art Studio and Knitting Circle | MET Centre |
| 7:30 p.m. | Metropolitan Silver Band Rehearsal | Sanctuary |

Wednesday, January 15

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| 7:00 a.m. | Out of the Cold Chop Chop | MET Kitchen |
| 8:30 a.m. | Prayer Breakfast at Fran's | 200 Victoria Street |

Thursday, January 16

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|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| 11:00 a.m. | Out of the Cold Luncheon | MET Centre |
| 12:10 – 1:00 p.m. | Yoga Church | Sanctuary |
| 6:30 p.m. | Metropolitan Handbells Rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| 7:30 p.m. | Metropolitan Choir Rehearsal | Sanctuary |

Friday, January 17

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| 10:30 a.m. | Open Art Studio | MET Centre |
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Saturday, January 18

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| 9:00 a.m. | Breakfast Bible Study | Flanders Library |
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NEXT SUNDAY: January 19 Second Sunday After Epiphany

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| 9:00 a.m. | Early Communion Service | Founders' Chapel |
| 9:45 a.m. | Choristers and Sparklers | MET Centre |
| 10:00 a.m. | Library Open (re-opens 12:15 p.m.) | |
| 11:00 a.m. | Morning Service and Church School Rev. Karen Bowles Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; John 1:29-42 | Sanctuary |
| 12:15 p.m. | Great Heart | Sanctuary |

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.

MINISTRY OF INTEGRATED ARTS

METROPOLITAN HANDBELLS would love to have a new member or two. Anyone interested in learning about the handbell choir should contact Dr. Patricia Wright - prospective members must be able to read music.

CHORISTERS, SPARKLERS, and GREAT HEART are now rehearsing again on Sundays and accept new children and youth at any time - please speak with Dr. Patricia Wright for more information.

K@MP- Kids at Met Performing - our arts day camp for ages 4-teens will be held August 31-September 4. We have a limit of 30 children total in three age groups, corresponding to Sparklers, Choristers, and Great Heart, and our own children have priority. Please contact Dr. Patricia Wright to register (exact information regarding fees, subsidies, etc. will be available soon).

OPEN STUDIO ARTS: (drawing, painting with acrylics, pencil, pastel - some supplies provided)
Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the MET Centre (knitting also offered, basic supplies provided)
Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the MET Centre - *All Are Welcome!*

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

AFFIRM COMMITTEE: Interested in helping with Met's Pride and National Affirming Day activities in the coming year? Affirming Life Committee meets today in the Narthex after service. All welcome.

PFLAG EVENT ON MONDAY: On January 13 from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Met will host Toronto Pflag and the Toronto Trans Coalition Project for a free book reading ("Love Lives Here: A Story of Thriving in a Transgender Family"), followed by a community panel and conversation. More event info is on Facebook.

USHERS NEEDED: We need volunteers to serve as ushers on a regular basis. Please sign up at the MET Connect table if you are interested. You may also speak to William Wright, Usher Marshall, following the service or email at wrightmcawley@gmail.com.

MET CONNECT TABLE: Are you helpful and like to sit behind tables? Volunteers are needed to staff the MET Connect Table in the coming months. Please sign up at... the MET Connect Table.

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 them 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.

THE COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM: is looking for a one-time donation of electronics in good working condition to assist a community member stabilize in their new home. Desired items include a DVD player, television, computer or tablet, and phone - cell or landline. Please contact our Community Service Worker Stephanie Cunti prior to donation at csw@metunited.ca or 416-363-0331 ext.241.

PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE: will meet in the MET Centre on Thursday, January 16 at 6:30 p.m. New members are welcome.

SPIRITUAL LEARNING FOR LIFE

YOUTH CANOE TRIP: Gibimishakaadimin ("we paddle forward together") is a five-year project of reconciliation launched as a direct outcome of the recommendations of the TRC Report. Now going into its fourth year, it brings together Indigenous youth - literally from coast to coast to coast - together with non-Indigenous youth from the Toronto area in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation. All participant costs are funded by area United Churches and the wider church.

From August 21 to August 29, a total of 20 youth ages 14 to 18, with three young adults in training, will embark on nine days and eight nights of learning about each other and the richness of Indigenous cultural and community histories. This journey of paddling together and fostering relationships through a canoe trip and experiential learning on both land and water will take place deep in the heart of the Canadian Shield. Contact Rev. Karen Bowles for more information.

FLANDERS LIBRARY: Famous “The Chronicles of Narnia” books, written by C.S. Lewis, are among the books you may read with your children and grandchildren. The Library is open 10:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:15-1:00 p.m. every Sunday.

ZOOM Bible Study with Rev. Karen Bowles/Rev. Jason Meyers:

Breaking Open the Word via Video Conference!

Wednesdays Noon to 1:00 p.m. starting January 15.

Sign up with Rev. Karen Bowles or at the MET Connect table.

FAITH FORMATION: Met is looking for a Youth and Children Animator to lead the Sunday school and youth program. If you know of anyone who is excited about Christian leadership and working with this age group, please contact Rev. Karen Bowles or download the position description from the website.

CALM COMMUNITY FOR A BUSY CITY

Midday Service of Prayer and Healing - Tuesdays 12:10 to 12:30 p.m.

Yoga Church - Thursdays 12:10 to 1:00 p.m.

BIBLE CART: Please take and return Bibles from/to our bible cart before and after the service.

THE SHARING OF OUR ABUNDANCE

STEWARDSHIP 2020: Thank you for returning your estimate of giving to Metropolitan United Church for 2020. We hope that every household will make their commitment soon and, as able, increase their support. Our gifts enable effective ministry to our congregation, our city and to the world.

OFFERING ENVELOPES, OFFERING CARDS: Boxes of weekly offering envelopes are available in the Narthex for pick up. For those who give to Metropolitan by ways other than by envelope, offering cards are available as well. Make giving simpler through monthly bank deduction. Sign up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) by contacting the church office. Thank you. Our gifts to Metropolitan help to transform lives.

A LASTING LEGACY: *“All of us, if we are reasonably comfortable, healthy and safe, owe immense debts to the past. There is no way, of course, to repay the past. We can only pay those debts by making gifts to the future.” Jane Jacobs.* Wise words indeed. A gift in your will of any amount is a way to say thank you to Metropolitan United Church and establish your own legacy. To explore ideas please contact Doug Flanders at: (416) 769-2746; email: dougflanders@sympatico.ca ***A legacy — It’s ours to leave.***

***Generosity is the most natural outward expression of an inner attitude
of compassion and loving-kindness. — The Dalai Lama XIV***

The Official Board of Metropolitan United Church deeply appreciates your financial gifts. We strive to honour our donors' wishes at all times. When gifts are designated for a specific purpose and the need for that purpose has been fulfilled, your Board will redirect surplus gifts to the closest alternative or the area of greatest need. Thank you again for supporting Metropolitan.



DIRECTORY

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Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair
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Library: Marion Lick (library@metunited.ca) and Maureen Maguire (vigrass78@gmail.com)

Community Outreach Ministry

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Community Service Worker: Stephanie Cunti, ext. 241 (csww@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 Martyn
Carillonneur: Roy Lee
Director, Metropolitan Silver Band: Fran Harvey

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