

# Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



Transfiguration, Armando Alemdar Ara

## **Sunday, February 23, 2020** **Transfiguration Sunday**

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 in spirit or in fact).

### CARILLON PRELUDE (outside)

ORGAN PRELUDE      “Jesu Dulcis-Verbum Supernum/Ave Maria/Adoro Te”      Victor Togni  
From *Five Liturgical Inventions for Organ*  
*All Glory Be to God on High*      Johann Sebastian Bach

♪PROCESSIONAL HYMN #104    *We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding*      Abbot’s Leigh

### ♪INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: There is silence,

**All: And there is light.**

One: There is music,

**All: And there is grace.**

One: There are people,

**All: And there is life.**

One: There is hope,

**All: And there is God.**

One: Let us worship well today. God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us pray. (all seated)

### PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

CHOIR: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

### 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      Exodus 24:12-18; 2 Peter 1:16-21

ANTHEM    *Anthem for Transfiguration*

Paul W. Hofreiter

This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to him!

GOSPEL READING    Matthew 17:1-9

**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 #560** *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

Maryton

**SERMON** 'EVIL REVERSED'  
REV. KAREN J. BOWLES

**ANTHEM** *O Nata Lux de Lumine*

Morten Lauridsen

O born light of light, Jesus, redeemer of the world, mercifully deem worthy and accept the praises and prayers of your supplicants. Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh for the sake of the lost ones, grant us to be made members of your holy body. (12<sup>th</sup> century text, Feast of the Transfiguration)

♪ **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** *In the Mornin'*  
John Schneider, bass

arr. Charles Ives

♪ **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

**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 #103**     *How Good, Lord, to Be Here*

Carlisle

## ♪ COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

♪ **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

“Alleluias” From *Five Liturgical Inventions for Organ*

Victor Togni

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

**CARRYING THE BANNER** is **Heather Walsh**.

**GREETERS** are **Doug Flanders** and **Fran Parkin**.

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

**TODAY'S Music** includes organ music by Victor Togni (1935-1965) who was born in Tanganyika of Swiss parents, studied in Europe, and was organist of Toronto's St. Michael's Cathedral at the time of his death. Paul Hofreiter was a Juilliard trained composer, writing more than 100 organ preludes and 75 church anthems. He taught at Westminster Choir College in New Jersey. American composer Morten Lauridsen is Professor of Composition at the University of Southern California and has become one of the most popular and well-known modern choral composers.

# TRANSITION

**PILLAR TALK:** TODAY **Sunday, February 23** at **12:30 p.m.** in the MET Centre is the second of our Pillar Talks. All are invited. We will consider how the activities of the Integrated Arts and Outreach Pillars relate to the work of the new ministerial positions. Soup lunch will be served.

## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

### Tuesday, February 25

|                           |                                     |                  |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>12:10 – 12:30 p.m.</b> | Midday Prayer Service               | Sanctuary        |
| <b>1:00 p.m.</b>          | Beyond Loneliness                   | Flanders Library |
| <b>5:00 p.m.</b>          | Shrove Tuesday Community Meal       | MET Centre       |
| <b>6:30 p.m.</b>          | Open Art Studio and Knitting Circle | MET Centre       |
| <b>7:30 p.m.</b>          | Metropolitan Silver Band Rehearsal  | Sanctuary        |

### Wednesday, February 26

|                   |                            |                     |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>7:00 a.m.</b>  | Out of the Cold Chop Chop  | MET Kitchen         |
| <b>8:30 a.m.</b>  | Prayer Breakfast at Fran's | 200 Victoria Street |
| <b>12:00 p.m.</b> | Ash Wednesday Service      | Founders' Chapel    |
| <b>5:30 p.m.</b>  | Official Board Meeting     | MET Centre          |

### Thursday, February 27

|                          |                                  |                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>11:00 a.m.</b>        | Out of the Cold Luncheon         | MET Centre       |
| <b>12:10 – 1:00 p.m.</b> | Yoga Church                      | Sanctuary        |
| <b>6:30 p.m.</b>         | Green Team Meeting               | Flanders Library |
| <b>6:30 p.m.</b>         | Metropolitan Handbells Rehearsal | Sanctuary        |
| <b>7:30 p.m.</b>         | Metropolitan Choir Rehearsal     | Sanctuary        |

### Friday, February 28

|                   |                 |            |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|
| <b>10:30 a.m.</b> | Open Art Studio | MET Centre |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|

### Saturday, February 29

|                   |                       |                  |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| <b>9:00 a.m.</b>  | Breakfast Bible Study | Flanders Library |
| <b>10:00 a.m.</b> | Big Questions Course  | MET Centre       |

## NEXT SUNDAY: March 1 First Sunday in Lent/Sacrament of Communion

|                   |  |                  |
|-------------------|--|------------------|
| <b>9:00 a.m.</b>  | Early Communion Service  | Founders' Chapel |
| <b>9:45 a.m.</b>  | Choristers and Sparklers   | MET Centre       |
| <b>10:00 a.m.</b> | Library Open (re-opens 12:15 p.m.)   |                  |
| <b>11:00 a.m.</b> | Morning Service and Church School  | Sanctuary        |
|                   | The Rev. Karen Bowles, "The Forest in the Trees"<br>Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11 |                  |
| <b>12:15 p.m.</b> | Great Heart  | Sanctuary        |
| <b>1:00 p.m.</b>  | Bereavement Circle   | Flanders Library |
| <b>1:30 p.m.</b>  | Festival Choir Rehearsal   | 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](http://metunited.ca). We're also on Facebook, Instagram (@metropolitanunitedto) and Vimeo.

## MINISTRY OF INTEGRATED ARTS

**MUSIC AT METROPOLITAN** presents *Sprezzatura! Music of the Forgotten Galant* on **Saturday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m.** Join Benjamin Stein, Emily Klassen, Rezonance Baroque Ensemble and Musicians on the Edge. Tickets are \$20/10 for students and are available after the service and at [metunited.ca](http://metunited.ca).

**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).

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

**NEXTGEN EVENT:** Attention young people (and the young-at-heart): Join us after church on **Sunday, March 1** for fellowship, discussion and refreshments. We'll be heading to a nearby coffee shop. Email RSVP to [andrew.mcgee@crowesoberman.com](mailto:andrew.mcgee@crowesoberman.com).

**BEYOND LONELINESS:** We've all been there and none of us want to stay. We arrive, unwillingly, at any age or stage of life and sometimes we feel hopelessly stuck. If you or someone you know is in a place of loneliness, come talk to us about it. Rev. Jason Meyers and Patti Orr will be hosting an informal group to explore the challenges of loneliness and provide support along the way. Continuing **Tuesday, February 25 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Flanders Library, Beyond Loneliness meets every two weeks. All are welcome.

**THE BEREAVEMENT CIRCLE** at Metropolitan United Church is led by Sarah Cotterill and Rev. Jason Meyers and it is a safe space for all those who are grieving. Its aim is to provide mutual support through sharing your story and personal journey. It is an informal circle that allows and respects each person's right to grieve in his/her own way. Our next meeting will be **Sunday, March 1 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Flanders Library.

**SHROVE TUESDAY COMMUNITY MEAL:** As we approach the Lenten season, this will be a "Mardi Gras" celebration with pancakes, sausages and ice cream. The meal is free and all are welcome to attend. **February 25 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.**

**PIE DAY LUNCH AND LEARN** - on **Sunday, March 15** we will be celebrating National Affirm Day (also known as PIE Day). The Affirm Committee at Met will be hosting a Lunch and Learn after the service where we will learn what it means to be Public, Explicit and Intentional in our inclusion of LGBTQ2SIA+ people. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Carmen Llanos, who runs the LGBTQ2SIA+ programming at Birchcliff Bluffs United Church in Scarborough.

## OUTREACH

**DISH WASHER:** From now until the end of March, Out of the Cold requires a pots and pans dishwasher on Thursdays between 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. If you are interested, please phone/text Barbara McLardy at 416-807-2681 or email [fjmbam@sympatico.ca](mailto:fjmbam@sympatico.ca).

**SHARING SACRED SPACES** brings together local communities from diverse religious and spiritual traditions to share in a facilitated, structured process of visiting each other's place of worship or practice. This initiative is starting up in Toronto, and we're looking for volunteers to represent Metropolitan United Church. If you're interested in representing MET or looking for more information on the commitment involved, please contact Karen Scott at [kscott99@gmail.com](mailto:kscott99@gmail.com).

## SPIRITUAL LEARNING FOR LIFE

**THE BIG QUESTIONS COURSE** is a six-week Lenten exploration of Christian discipleship in the modern world. Using the United Church of Canada's faith document, *A Song of Faith*, we will delve into the big questions of the life of faith and discern what following Jesus means for our daily living. This course is for current Metropolitan members wishing to deepen into their faith, people wishing to join the MET community, or any seeker looking for a spiritual path on which to walk. **Saturdays, February 29 - April 4, from 10:00-11:30 a.m.** Sign up at the MET Connect Table or contact Rev. Jason Meyers for more information.

**FLANDERS LIBRARY:** Desmond Mpilo Tutu is known for his work as an apartheid and human rights activist. He was the first black African to hold positions of Bishop of Johannesburg and Archbishop of Cape Town. We have 5 books of Desmond Tutu in our library. One of them is "Made for Goodness: And Why This Makes All the Difference". The Library is open **10:00-11:00 a.m.** and **12:15-1:00 p.m. every Sunday.**

**DAILY MEDITATIONS FOR LENT:** Continuing the time honoured Lenten tradition and spiritual practice of reading a daily devotional or writing and taking some 'quiet' time to digest and reflect, you will receive one each day to your inbox from Rev. Karen Bowles. Email [communications@metunited.ca](mailto:communications@metunited.ca) or sign up at The MET Connect Table to receive these posts over the 40 days of the season.

## THE SHARING OF OUR ABUNDANCE

**OUR FARMERS' MARKET:** Met is planning to launch a Farmers' Market in McGill Square to be open from June through October! We'll bring together people from all walks of life and provide access to sustainably grown, fresh, nutritious food, while showcasing our church at the heart of the neighbourhood. A generous donor has offered to match contributions on a \$4 to \$1 ratio as we invest during the startup of the market. To support this innovative outreach project, please donate online to [www.metunited.ca](http://www.metunited.ca) or place your gift on the offering plate, clearly marked "Farmers' Market." Questions? Contact The Rev. Jason Meyers or Outreach Chair Dorcas Beaton at [dorcas.beaton@gmail.com](mailto:dorcas.beaton@gmail.com).

**WOULD YOU CONSIDER?** Would you consider joining the many in our congregation who donate by pre-authorized bank deduction or PAR.? You set the amount and once a month, it's deducted from your bank account. PAR is easy to arrange and makes things simpler for you. It also enables our church to have a steady stream of income on a monthly basis. Please contact Elena in the church office at (416) 363-0331, ext. 229 or [elenap@metunited.ca](mailto:elenap@metunited.ca).

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

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))  
Voluntary Associate Minister: The Rev. Bruce Misener, ext. 255 ([officialat@metunited.ca](mailto:officialat@metunited.ca))  
Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair  
Chair of the Official Board: Kenneth Younie ([chair@metunited.ca](mailto:chair@metunited.ca))  
Teachers: Karlos Griffith ([karlosgriffith@rogers.com](mailto:karlosgriffith@rogers.com)), Johnavac Abraham  
Library: Marion Lick ([library@metunited.ca](mailto:library@metunited.ca)) and Maureen Maguire ([vigrass78@gmail.com](mailto:vigrass78@gmail.com))

### 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

Director of Administration: Jane Tuomi, ext. 222 ([janelt@metunited.ca](mailto:janelt@metunited.ca))  
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