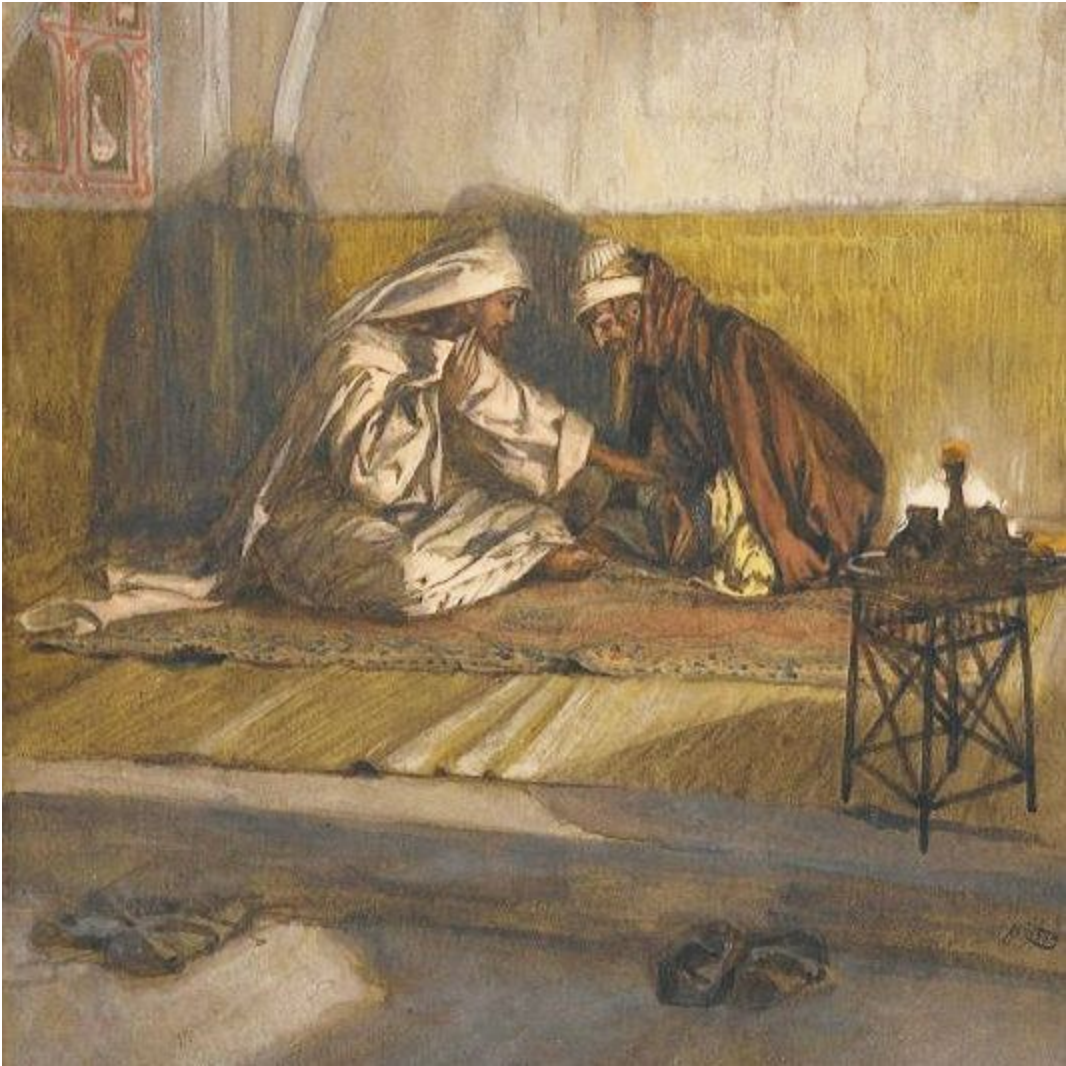


Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



Christ and Nicodemus by James Tissot

Sunday, March 8, 2020 **Second Sunday in Lent**

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).

ORGAN PRELUDE *Prelude and Fugue in A Major*
 "Pastorale" from Sonata 1

J. S. Bach
Alexandre Guilmant

♪**PROCESSIONAL HYMN #108** *Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights* Winchester New

♪INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: As people of the Lenten journey we gather to support and sustain one another.

All: As people of the journey we travel, unsure as to what lies around the next bend.

One: As people of the journey we seek silence and guidance, room for the Spirit to move within us and with us.

All: As people of the Lenten journey, we gather together to worship together.

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray. (all seated)

CONFESSION (LENT IS A SEASON OF LAMENT WHICH PREPARES THE HEART FOR NEW GROWTH. EACH WEEK WE WILL SHARE IN THIS PRAYER OF CONFESSION.)

One: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness, to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, the life of the world.

All: May God forgive you, Christ renew you and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

One: Amen.

All: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness, to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, the life of the world.

One: May God forgive you, Christ renew you and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

All: Amen.

SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

TENEBRAE WORDS OF LAMENT

We put out the fifth candle. We grieve the darkness of religious intolerance and extinguish within ourselves lack of understanding and respect for those who have different beliefs.

RESPONSE ***More Voices #85*** *Take, O Take Me As I Am* John Bell, Iona Community

READINGS Genesis 12:1-4; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

ANTHEM *Witness*

Spiritual, arr. Halloran

Who'll be a witness for my Lord? Oh, I'll be a witness for my Lord. There was a man of the Pharisees, his name was Nicodemus and he didn't believe. The same came to Christ by night, wanted to be taught out of human sight. Nicodemus was a man who desired to know how a

man can be born when he is old. Christ told Nicodemus as a friend, “Man, you must be born again. Marvel not, man, if you want to be wise, repent, believe and be baptized.” Then you’ll be a witness...

GOSPEL READING John 3:1-17

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 #119

When We Are Tempted to Deny Your Son

Faith

SERMON **NICODEMUS BY NIGHT**

REV. JASON MEYERS

ANTHEM *God So Loved the World*

Bob Chilcott

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoso believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. Soloist: Chelsea Van Pelt

♪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 “Pie Jesu” from *Requiem*

Maurice Duruflé

Merciful Jesus, give them eternal rest.

Valeria Kondrashov, mezzo-soprano

♪OFFERTORY HYMN #540 (All)

Stuttgart

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving, with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living we may offer faithfully.**

**Grant us time and inspiration, with a vision old and new,
that our goal in all our loving may be reached in loving you.**

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 #580 *Faith of Our Fathers*

St. Catherine

♪COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

♪BLESSING #572 *Send me, Lord* (please turn to the centre) Trad. South African

Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus, send me, Lord.

Lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus, lead me, Jesus, lead me, Lord.

I will go, Lord, I will go, Lord, in your name, Lord, I will go.

ORGAN POSTLUDE AND CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

"Final" from *Sonata 1*

Alexandre Guilmant

LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning are **The Rev. Karen Bowles** and **The Rev. Jason Meyers**. Reading the lessons is **Shari McMaster**. The ministry of music is offered by the **Metropolitan Choir** conducted by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright** and by **Benjamin Stein**, by the Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Timothy Wisnicki** and by organist **Michael Oldaker**. Carillonneur **Roy Lee** is away this week.

CARRYING THE CROSS is **Heather Walsh**.

GREETERS are **Fran Parkin** and **Muriel Griffith**.

USHERS are **Vicki Harris**, **Jennifer McDonald**, **Joseph Curry**, and **Gunn Wongsuwan**.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Tuesday, March 10

12:10 – 12:30 p.m.	Midday Prayer Service	Sanctuary
1:00 p.m.	Beyond Loneliness	Flanders Library
5:30 p.m.	Trustees Meeting	MET Centre
6:30 p.m.	Open Art Studio and Knitting Circle	MET Centre
7:00 p.m.	Congregational Care Committee	Flanders Library
7:30 p.m.	Metropolitan Silver Band Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 11

7:00 a.m.	Out of the Cold Chop Chop	MET Kitchen
8:30 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast at Fran's	200 Victoria Street
12:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study	Online
5:00 p.m.	Worship Committee	Sanctuary

Thursday, March 12

11:00 a.m.	Out of the Cold Luncheon	MET Centre
12:10 – 1:00 p.m.	Yoga Church	Sanctuary
6:30 p.m.	Peace and Social Justice Committee Meeting	Flanders Library
6:30 p.m.	Metropolitan Handbells Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:30 p.m.	Metropolitan Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Friday, March 13

10:30 a.m.	Open Art Studio	MET Centre
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Saturday, March 14

9:00 a.m.	Breakfast Bible Study	Flanders Library
10:00 a.m.	Big Questions	MET Centre

NEXT SUNDAY: March 15 Third Sunday in Lent

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.	Worship and Church School Rev. Karen Bowles Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-15	Sanctuary
12:15 p.m.	Great Heart	Sanctuary
12:30 p.m.	Lunch and Learn - PIE Day - Affirm	MET Centre
1:30 p.m.	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. We're also on Facebook, Instagram (@metropolitanunitedto) and Vimeo.

TRANSITION

PILLAR TALK: TODAY FOLLOWING THE SERVICE beginning at 12:30 p.m. in the MET Centre is the third of our Pillar Talks to inform the ministry position descriptions going forward. All are invited. We will consider Stewardship and Governance. Soup lunch will be served. Contact any member of the Transition team or Rev. Karen Bowles with questions.

MINISTRY OF INTEGRATED ARTS

MUSIC AT METROPOLITAN presents *Requiem Aeternam - Give Us Peace* on **Good Friday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m.** Join the Metropolitan Festival Choir, Orchestra, and soloists Chelsea Van Pelt, Nicholas Higgs, Gisele Kulak, Valeria Kondrashov, Charles Davidson, and John Schneider in Metropolitan's annual Good Friday concert. Tickets are \$30/10 for students and are available after the service and at 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

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, Intentional and Explicit 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.

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. Beyond Loneliness next meets **Tuesday, March 10 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Flanders Library. All are welcome.

OUTREACH

A CALL TO COOKIE BAKERS: If you provide homemade cookies you will be an important part of the love that we try to extend to our guests in our Out of the Cold lunch program. 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. Please contact our Community Service Worker, Stephanie Cunti prior to donation at csw@metunited.ca or 416-363-0331 ext. 241. Community Services is also in need of unused deodorant, razors and shaving cream. Please contact our Housing Worker, Megan Carver at housingworker@metunited.ca or 416-363-0331 ext. 221.

SPIRITUAL LEARNING FOR LIFE

YOUTH CANOE TRIP: Gibimishakaadimin ("we paddle forward together") is a project of reconciliation launched as a direct outcome of the recommendations of the TRC Report. **From August 21 - 29, a total of 20 youth ages 14 - 18 will embark on nine days of learning about each other and the richness of Indigenous cultural and community histories.** This all-expenses-paid 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.

LENT MEDITATIONS CONTINUE: You can still sign up to receive these daily devotionals and writings directly to your inbox from Rev. Karen Bowles. Email communications@metunited.ca.

FLANDERS LIBRARY: “All the Women of the Bible” by M.L. del Mastro is a collection of biographies and stories of over 400 women who appear in the Bible. The book is divided into two sections: “The Book of Names” and “The Book of Stories”. “The Book of Names” is an alphabetical and biographical dictionary including over 400 names. “The Book of Stories” contains stories of 56 women whose lives were changed by crisis and challenge. The Library is open 10:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:15-1:00 p.m. every Sunday.

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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS AND HYMNS: Large-print copies of today’s scriptures and hymns are available at the back of the sanctuary.

THE SHARING OF OUR ABUNDANCE

OUR FARMERS’ MARKET: Metropolitan 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 metunited.ca or place your gift on the offering plate, clearly marked “Farmers’ Market”. Questions? Contact Rev. Jason Meyers or Outreach Chair Dorcas Beaton at dorcas.beaton@gmail.com.

CELEBRATE EASTER - SPONSOR A MUSICIAN: Good Friday, 2020, will see our choir and orchestra perform **Vaughan William’s Dona Nobis Pacem and Mozart’s Requiem**. We warmly invite you to sponsor an instrument or a soloist in someone’s honour. You may make a gift of any amount online at metunited.ca (Donate) or through the church clearly marked “Good Friday Concert”. With your permission, we will list names of all sponsors in the concert program. For further details, and a list of instruments to sponsor, please contact Dr. Patricia Wright at patriciaw@metunited.ca or 416-363-0331, ext. 226. Thank you for your always generous support of music at Metropolitan.

OUR LEGACY. OUR FUTURE: “Congregations and Christians everywhere are discovering that the best giving flows not from heads informed about the budget, but from hearts that are tuned to the will of God.” (Thomas C. Rieke) Thank you for remembering Metropolitan Church with a gift in your estate plans. For help, 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. - Anonymous***

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)
Minister of Congregational Care: The Rev. Jason Meyers, ext. 224 (jasonm@metunited.ca)
Minister of Music: Dr. Patricia Wright, ext. 226 (patw@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), Johnnavac 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 Martyn
Carillonneur: Roy Lee
Director, Metropolitan Silver Band: Fran Harvey

Administrative Ministry

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