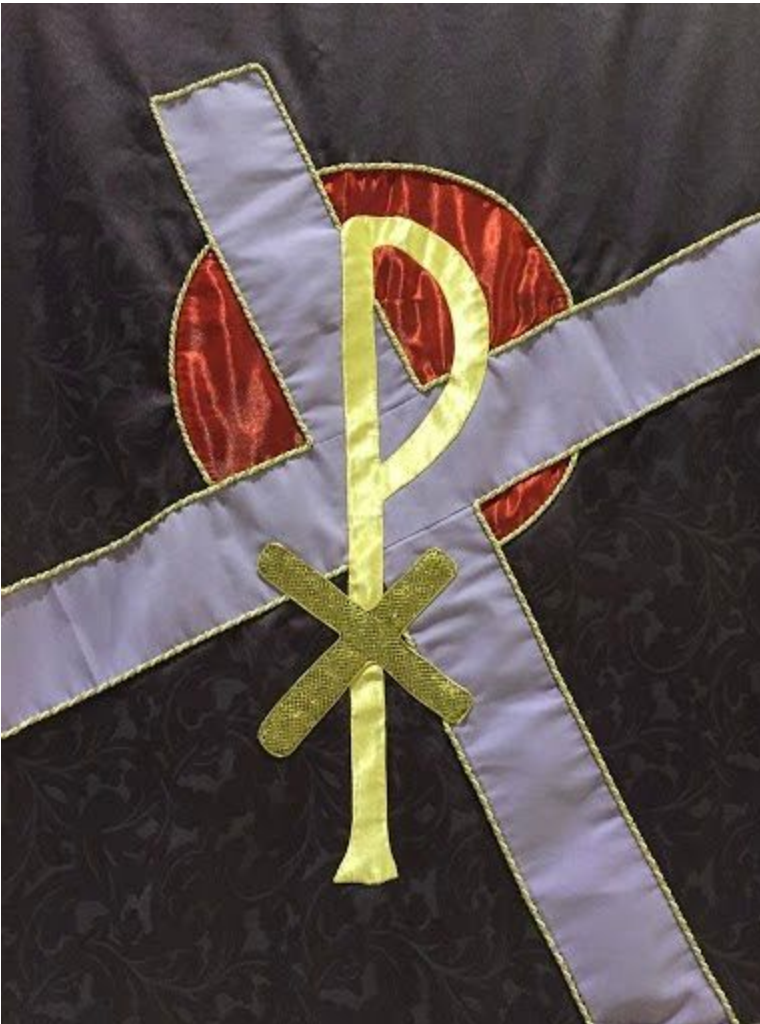


Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Fourth 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

WELCOME

ORGAN PRELUDE *Chorale Prelude on "Ah, holy Jesus" (#138 in VU)*

J. S. Bach

OPENING HYMN #747 *The Lord's My Shepherd*

Crimond

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

One: Early each morning, God waits to greet us with joy and wonder.

All: We awake to find ourselves enveloped in grace.

One: During the day, Christ comes to invite us into service.

All: Even in isolation, our bonds bring healing and hope to others.

One: In the shadowed evenings of our worries, the Spirit is with us.

All: The Light of life shines on us in every moment of every day.

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray. (all seated)

GATHERING PRAYER

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 blow out the third candle.

We grieve the darkness of lives lost too soon and seek to extinguish in ourselves fear of the future.

RESPONSE *More Voices #85* *Take, O Take Me As I Am*

READING Ephesians 5:8-14

SOLO *God is My Shepherd*

from *Biblical Songs* by Antonín Dvořák

PEACE GREETING

GOSPEL READING John 9 selected passages

SERMON **THE REV. KAREN BOWLES**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER (all)

**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.**

CLOSING HYMN #111 *As the Sun with Longer Journey* Picardy

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

BLESSING #429 May the blessing of God be upon you.

May God's love light all your way.

May the grace of Christ enfold you and peace around you stay.

May the Spirit of God dwell within you.

May you live in joy each day.

LEADING IN WORSHIP this morning are **The Rev. Karen Bowles** and **The Rev. Jason Meyers**.
The ministry of music is offered by the Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright** and by tenor
Charles Davidson.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

The church is closed to the public. All in person services and meetings are cancelled or will be held online. Please visit metunited.ca for updates.

Tuesday, March 24

2:00 p.m. Virtual Coffee Time *Zoom/Phone*

Wednesday, March 25

12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study

Thursday, March 26

2:00 p.m. Virtual Coffee Time *Zoom/Phone*

Saturday, March 28

10:00 a.m. Big Questions Course *Online/Phone*

NEXT SUNDAY: March 29, Fifth Sunday of Lent

11:00 a.m. Virtual Worship via Facebook Live
Rev. Karen Bowles
Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11 - selected passages

STAY CONNECTED

Sign up for the MET Connect weekly e-newsletter via our homepage for up-to-date news. We're also on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Vimeo](#).

LENT MEDITATIONS CONTINUE

You can still sign up to receive these daily devotionals and writings (including past weeks') directly to your inbox from Rev. Karen Bowles. Email communications@metunited.ca.

PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Bowles and Rev. Meyers are connecting with many members and are determining the needs of our community in this challenging time. If you would like a pastoral phone call you can contact Karen at karenb@metunited.ca (416-363-0331 ext. 227) or Jason at jasonm@metunited.ca (416-363-0331 ext. 224).

COMMUNITY SERVICES MINISTRY

Megan Carver, our Outreach and Housing Worker, and Stephanie Cunti, our Community Service Worker, are continuing the important work of outreach, communicating with clients via text, email and phone, and are in the community on a case-by-case basis. Many of the city's most vulnerable are at further risk with a lack of safe and familiar spaces to seek shelter.

STAFF

Administrative staff are working remotely but are still available by phone and email, so don't hesitate to be in touch.

EASTER MEMORIAL GIFTS

We invite you to consider making a gift to Metropolitan's Memorial Fund this Easter in memory of a loved one. We will recognize donor names and the person(s) you wish to remember on Easter Day or you may remain anonymous if you wish. Please mark your gift "Easter Memorial" and include your name and the names of those you wish to remember.

You can reach Sheela in her home office [by email](#) or at (416) 363-0331, Ext. 210. You may also donate online at [metunited.ca](#), clicking Donate.

To be included we need your info by end of day Tuesday, April 7. Easter Blessings to you — and thank you for your support.

DONATIONS DURING THIS TIME

The work of Metropolitan continues. While we cannot collect offerings in person, there remain easy ways to contribute - through our Canada Helps page, or by mailing in envelopes and/or cheques to the church. We are grateful for your on-going support through this difficult time. If you have any questions, please contact Elena Pejcinovska, Financial Manager at elenap@metunited.ca or 416-363-0331 ext. 229.

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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Voluntary Associate Minister: The Rev. Bruce Misener, ext. 255 (officiant@metunited.ca)
Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair
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Library: Marion Lick (library@metunited.ca) and Maureen Maguire (vigrass78@gmail.com)

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Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Dr. Patricia Wright, ext. 226 (patw@metunited.ca)
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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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