

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



"... for everything which is natural which is infinite which is yes" (E.E. Cummings)

May 9, 2021 Sixth Sunday of Easter/Mother's 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

CARILLON PRELUDE *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth* arr. Lee

PRELUDE - MUSIC BY THE CHILDREN

<i>Etude in G Minor</i> Henry Lemoine	played by Eve Gilady
<i>Beach Party</i> Anonymous	played by Evan Lakota
<i>Wild Mignonette</i> Cornelius Gurllitt	played by Madeleine Gilady
<i>Clarice Cow</i> (Russian Folk Song) arr. Irina Gorin	played by Hermione Martyn
<i>Mist</i> Clifford Poole	played by Tessa Lakota
<i>Etude in C Major</i> Carl Czerny	played by Elise Lakota
<i>Sonatina in G Major</i> Thomas Attwood	played by Madeleine Gilady
<i>Song of the Wind</i> Folk Song arr. Shinichi Suzuki	played by Hermione Martyn
<i>Melancholy Reflections</i> Mike Schoenmehl	played by Anya Lakota
<i>Polonaise in E Major</i> J. S. Bach	played by Eve Gilady

ORGAN PRELUDE *Pastorale on 'Capetown' (Therefore give us love)* Gerald Bales

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN #535 *For the Music of Creation* Rustington

- 1 For the music of creation, for the song your Spirit sings,
for your sound's divine expression, burst of joy in living things:
God, our God, the world's composer, hear us, echoes of your voice;
music is your art, your glory, let the human heart rejoice!
- 2 Psalms and symphonies exalt you, drum and trumpet, string and reed,
simple melodies acclaim you, tunes that rise from deepest need,
hymns of longing and belonging, carols from a cheerful throat,
lilt of lullaby and love song catching heaven in a note.
- 3 All the voices of the ages in transcendent chorus meet,
worship lifting up the senses, hands that praise, and dancing feet;
over discord and division music speaks your joy and peace,
harmony of earth and heaven, song of God that cannot cease!

INVITATION TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: God speaks to the heart,
All: Offering compassion and hope.
One: God enlivens the mind,
All: Inviting curiosity and wonder.
One: God nurtures our strength,
All: Creating unimagined possibilities.
One: God calls the whole world,

All: Inspiring extravagant love.

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray. *(please be seated)*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

KYRIE #68 *More Voices*

Guarani song, arr. Sosa

O God have mercy, O God have mercy, O God have mercy, have mercy on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE (All) #59 *More Voices*

Yoruba song (Nigeria)

Alleluia, praise to God *(repeat)*; Praises, high praises we bring you, O God.

Alleluia praise to God.

Songs of joy sing out to God *(repeat)*. Dancing and singing, we praise you, O God.

Songs of joy sing out to God.

Beat the drums, sing out to God *(repeat)*. Praises, high praises, we bring you, O God.

Beat the drums, sing out to God.

ALL READINGS FOR THIS MORNING ARE TAKEN FROM *THE INCLUSIVE BIBLE*

READING

Acts 10:44-48

Gentile Pentecost

EPISTLE

I John 5:1-7

Of water, blood and spirit.

GOSPEL

John 15:9-17

The greatest commandment.

ONE: These are a witness to the good news of Jesus Christ.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

GREAT HEART ANTHEM *Moon Goes Down*

David Sereda

From Canadian singer-songwriter David Sereda's autobiographical 1994 album "The Blue Guide", a story of personal loss and displacement, becoming a call for unity and resilience. The original Lucky Discount is on Bloor Street West.

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN #320 *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth*

Hesperus

1. Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

2. Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light,
grain of my life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace.

3 Mothering Spirit, nurturing one, in arms of patience hold me close,
so that in faith I root and grow until I flower, until I know.

SERMON **“BLOOD, WATER AND SPIRIT”**

THE REV. KAREN BOWLES

SOLO *Exsultate, Jubilate*

W. A. Mozart

Exult, rejoice, O happy souls, and with sweet music let the heavens resound;
making answer with me to your song.

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 AND OFFERING

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

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.

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.

CLOSING HYMN #512 *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

Abbot's Leigh

- 1 Lord, you give the great commission: 'Heal the sick and preach the word.'
Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.
- 2 Lord, you call us to your service: 'In my name baptize and teach.'
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervour, draw us closer in community;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.
- 3 Lord, you make the common holy: 'This my body, this my blood.'
Let us all, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us share your children's liberty;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.
- 4 Lord, you show us love's true measure: 'Father, what they do, forgive.'
Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us to a just society;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.
- 5 Lord, you bless with words assuring: 'I am with you to the end.'
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend,
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity;

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE *Finale Jubilante*

Healey Willan

LEADING IN WORSHIP are **The Rev. Karen Bowles** and **The Rev. Jason Meyers**. The reader is **Vera Taylor** and delivering the Children's Message is **Alana Martin**, Children and Youth Animator. The ministry of music is offered by our **Choristers** during the prelude, Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, Carillonneur **Roy Lee**, members of **Great Heart** with guest vocalist **Hannah Stein**, led by **Benjamin Stein**, and soprano **Chelsea Van Pelt**.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Zoom links can be found in MET Connect and at metunited.ca

Monday, May 10

- 3:00 p.m.** Parks Ministry (Zoom)
- 7:00 p.m.** Affirm Committee (Zoom)

Tuesday, May 11

- 5:30 p.m.** Trustees (Zoom)

Wednesday, May 12

- 8:30 a.m.** Breakfast Bible Study (Zoom)
- 11:30 a.m.** Hospitality Tent
- 12:00 p.m.** Zoom Bible Study (Zoom)
- 5:00 p.m.** Worship Committee (Zoom)
- 7:00 p.m.** Met Social (Zoom)

McGill Square Park

Thursday, May 13

- 6:30 p.m.** Member Engagement and Evangelism Committee (Zoom)
- 8:00 p.m.** Evening Communion (Zoom)

Saturday, May 15

- 8:00 a.m.** Saturday Bible Study (Zoom)

NEXT SUNDAY: May 16 - The Seventh Sunday of Easter

The Rev. Jason Meyers preaching

- 11:00 a.m.** Online Worship Service
- 1:00 p.m.** Outreach Committee (Zoom)
- 2:00 p.m.** Taddle Creek Wild Church (Zoom)

FROM THE REV. KAREN BOWLES

“May 2021 is to be my final month with Metropolitan - my time with you was always to be limited by the interim nature of the position and by my anticipated retirement. I am pleased to say that it is very difficult to leave this community and I would not have it any other way.” We will celebrate Karen’s ministry with us on Pentecost Sunday, May 23.

MET SOCIAL THIS WEDNESDAY

Together on Zoom we'll enjoy an episode of the classic Britcom 'The Vicar of Dibley' at 7pm. Zoom link can be found on the website.

TADDLE CREEK WILD CHURCH

Our next service is coming up Sunday May 16th at 2pm on Zoom, Taddle Creek Wild Church is a community ministry of Met that lives at the intersection of emerging eco-spiritually and the timeless ways of Jesus. For more info, contact Rev. Jason Meyers or visit the [webpage](#).

THE MET APP

"There's an app for that!" You can follow our programming, view the livestream and chat, register for events, make a donation, and much more through our new app. Use your phone or tablet to download the app through [this link](#). You can also find more details and instructions on our site, [here](#).

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. Reike). 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.



CONTINUED GIVING

A new, easy way to donate! Focus your smartphone's camera on the QR code to the left and you'll be directed to our giving page. Thank you for supporting the ministries of Metropolitan United Church.

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Conductor, *Metropolitan Sparklers*: Dr. Jennifer Martyn
Carillonneur: Roy Lee
Director, Metropolitan Silver Band: Fran Harvey



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