

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church



Photo by Charles Davidson

December 5, 2021 Second Sunday in Advent

We are an Affirming Congregation, offering welcome and companionship to all, inclusive of age, ethnicity, gender identity, differing abilities, and sexual orientation.

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.

SPECIAL NOTES FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Please wear your mask over your nose, mouth and chin at all times.

You are invited to hum or sing softly.

ORDER OF SERVICE

CARILLON PRELUDE (OUTSIDE-10:30 a.m.)

BAND PRELUDE *There is a Flower*
 Infant Holy
 O Holy Night

John Rutter, arr. Nynke van der Heide
arr. Andrew Blyth
Adolphe Adam, arr. Rieks van der Velde

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN #29 *Hark, the Glad Sound!*

Richmond

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes, the Saviour promised long:
 let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.
- 2 He comes, the prisoners to release in Satan's bondage held;
 the gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes, the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
 and with the treasures of his grace to bless the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, your welcome shall proclaim;
 and heaven's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

INVITATION TO WORSHIP (*responses spoken softly*)

One: A voice in the wilderness cries out:

All: Prepare the way of the Lord!

One: Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill be made low.

All: The crooked shall be made straight, and rough places, smooth.

One: A voice in the wilderness cries out:

All: All people shall see the salvation of God!

One: Lift up your hearts in expectation!

All: We will lift up our praise to the One who is coming into the world once more.

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

SILENCE FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

ADVENT KYRIE (ALL)

P. Wright



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: In this season of Advent, we are here to watch and wait and pray for the return of light into the world. We long for the day when the things of darkness - selfishness and greed, suffering and isolation - shall be no more.
We light this candle for all God's prophets who proclaim the dream of a world of freedom and peace.

All: **God, as we wait for your light,
Give peace, give healing.**

SUNG ADVENT RESPONSE (ALL): More Voices #19 Maranatha

Ma-ra - na-tha, ma-ra - na-tha, come, Lord Je - sus, come. Ma-ra-
- na-tha, ma-ra - na-tha, come, Lord Je - sus, come.

READINGS

MALACHI 3:1–4
I am sending my messenger.

PHILIPPIANS 1:3–11
I thank God every time I remember you.

ANTHEM *This is the Record of John* Orlando Gibbons

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him: who art thou? And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly: I am not the Christ. And they asked him: what art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou the prophet? And he answered, no. Then said they unto him: what art thou? That we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What say'st thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord.

GOSPEL READING **LUKE 3:1–6**
A voice crying out in the wilderness.

ONE: This is the witness of the good news of Jesus Christ.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN # 20 *On Jordan's Bank* Winchester New

1 On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry announces that the Lamb is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of Kings.

2 Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within;
and let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty guest may come.

3 In you, we find abundant life, our refuge in the midst of strife;
without your grace we waste away, like flowers that wither and decay.

4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and help us rise to fall no more.
 O let your face upon us shine, and fill the world with love divine.

5 All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won;
 and praise to God whom we adore, with Holy Spirit evermore.

SERMON “PREPARE YE THE WAY!”

REV. JASON MEYERS

ANTHEM *This is the Truth*

Trad. English arr. Kirke Mechem

This is the truth sent from above, the truth of God, the God of love; therefore don't turn me from your door, but hearken all, both rich and poor. The first thing which I do relate is that God did us create; the next thing which to you I'll tell: God made us all in love to dwell. And we were heirs to endless woes, till God the Lord did interpose; and so a promise soon did run that He would redeem us by His Son. And at this season of the year our blest Redeemer did appear; He here did live, and here did preach, and many thousands He did teach. Thus He in love to us behaved, to show us how we must be saved; And if you want to know the way, be pleased to hear what He did say.

♪**PEACE GREETING** *(response spoken softly, then greeting each other with a bow)*

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** *(spoken softly)*

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. (please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OFFERING

BAND OFFERTORY *A Starry Night*

arr. Andrew Mackereth

♪**THE OFFERTORY HYMN #518, verse 3** *(please stand as you are able)*

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.**

♪ 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. *(please be 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.

♪ CLOSING HYMN #28 *Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness!*

Neander

- 1 Herald! Sound the note of gladness! Tell the news that Christ is here;
make a pathway through the desert for the one who brings God near.
Sound the trumpet! Tell the message!
Christ the Saving One has come!
- 2 Herald! Sound the note of judgement, warning us of right and wrong,
turning us from sin and sadness, till once more we sing the song. R
- 3 Herald! Sound the note of pardon! Those repenting are forgiven;
God receives these wayward children, and to all new life is given. R
- 4 Herald! Sound the note of triumph! Christ has come to share our life,
bringing God's own love and power, granting victory in our strife. R

♪ COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

♪ BLESSING (All) #429 *(turn toward the centre)*

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. *(please be seated)*

BAND POSTLUDE *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

arr. Derek Broadbent

As you leave the sanctuary, please wear your mask and continue to observe an appropriate distance between yourself and others.

LEADING IN WORSHIP are **The Rev. Jason Meyers** and **The Rev. Mark Aitchison**. Reading the lessons is **Stephanie Parkin**. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, Wayne C.

Vance Organ Scholar **Joshua Duncan Lee**, Carillonneur **Roy Lee**, members of the **Metropolitan Silver Band** conducted by **Fran Harvey**, and members of the **Metropolitan Choir**.

Our sound and livestream technicians are **Paya Dehghani**, **Nishaanth Siva** and **Charles Davidson**. Metropolitan’s live streaming equipment was made possible thanks to the generosity of **Wayne C. Vance**.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today

2:00 p.m. Deck the Halls (link on metunited.ca)

Monday, December 6

8:00 p.m. Centring Prayer (Zoom)

Tuesday, December 7

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| 5:30 p.m. | Trustees (Zoom) | |
| 7:00 p.m. | Metropolitan Silver Band Rehearsal | Sanctuary |

Wednesday, December 8

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| 8:00 a.m. | Chop Chop Meal Prep |
| 12:00 p.m. | Zoom Bible Study |
| 4:00 p.m. | Worship Committee (Zoom) |
| 7:00 p.m. | Affirm Movie Night (Zoom) |

Thursday, December 9

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| 8:30 a.m. | Breakfast Bible Study (Zoom) | |
| 10:00 a.m. | Pre-Board (Zoom) | |
| 12:00 p.m. | Winter Community Meal Program | Narthex |
| 6:00 p.m. | Stewardship Committee (Zoom) | |
| 6:30 p.m. | Metropolitan Handbells Rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| 7:30 p.m. | Metropolitan Choir Rehearsal | Sanctuary |
| 8:00 p.m. | Evening Communion (Zoom) | |

Friday, December 10

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| 10:00 a..m. | Art and Computer Lab | Met Centre |
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Saturday, December 11

8:30 a.m. Saturday Bible Study (Zoom)

NEXT SUNDAY: December 12 - Third Sunday in Advent

11:00 a.m. Worship - Christmas Pageant

DECK THE HALLS! ONLINE TODAY

The Metropolitan Silver Band's annual concert will be streamed at metunited.ca/live today at 2:00 p.m. Guest singers join, along with Dr. Patricia Wright at the organ.

SECOND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS STOCKING SPONSORSHIP

With your help, we will fill Christmas stockings with all kinds of essentials and goodies, and distribute them at our Community Winter Meal Program. Each stocking is \$20 - please fill in the form provided in Met Connect. You can also give a stocking in someone's name and we will send them an e-card.

WINTER WOOLLY COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY

We will be collecting warm winter items such as toques, mitts, scarves, socks, and underwear at the Sunday service on December 12 to be given out at the Winter Meal Program and by Met's Community Services Team. New items only please! If you won't be at the service on December 12, but would still like to contribute, please get in touch with Megan at meganc@metunited.ca to coordinate delivery.

FRIDAY NOON AT MET DECEMBER 17

Our Christmas 'Noon at Met' concert will be on Friday, December 17 at noon with organist Patricia Wright and singers Charles Davidson and Nicholas Higgs.

AFFIRM MOVIE NIGHT ON WEDNESDAY

The Affirm Committee invites you to a viewing of Netflix's first gay holiday romcom - Single All The Way! You can join on Zoom Wednesday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m. See Met Connect for the link.

THANK YOU!

To all those who have returned their Estimate of Giving to Metropolitan for 2022, thank you!. For those Estimates still to come, thank you for your consideration and getting your Estimate of Giving back to the church soon. You didn't receive a package? Please contact Elena in our church office at (416) 363-0331, ext. 229 or email elenap@metunited.ca. Your gifts enable us to transform lives.

GIFTS OF SECURITIES

A gift of securities — stocks, bonds, mutual funds — is an easy and effective way to support Metropolitan. You receive a tax receipt for the full value of the securities and you pay no capital gains on the securities given. Please call Doug Flanders at (416) 769-2746; dougflanders@sympatico.ca.

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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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