

Welcome to Metropolitan United Church

the downtown church for a diverse city



Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch, Herbert Boeckl, 1894-1966

May 2, 2021 Fifth Sunday of Easter

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	<i>Final Flourish from Belmont Suite</i>	John R. Knox
ORGAN PRELUDE	<i>Fanfare</i> <i>Intermezzo</i> <i>In Mystery and Wonder</i>	Healey Willan Healey Willan Dan Locklair

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN #448 *We Know That Christ Is Raised* Engelberg

- 1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
- 2 We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn, we share with him an Easter life
as living members of a living Christ.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
- 3 The God of splendour clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's fission shakes the church of God.
Baptized, we live with God the Three in One.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
- 4 A new creation comes to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe restored and whole will sing:
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

INVITATION TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: In the wilderness, water brings life.

All: Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

One: In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

All: Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

One: In the love of God, awe leads us to service.

All: Come and praise the vine that grows all goodness.

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 MESSAGE*

GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

Parable of the Vine

EPISTLE

I John 4:7-21

God is love

THE BOOK OF ACTS

Acts 8: 26-40

Baptism of the Ethiopian Eunuch

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Rise Up, My Love

Healey Willan

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN #374 *Come and Find the Quiet Centre*

Beach Spring

1 Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.

2 Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.

3 In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

SERMON "THICK WITH SPIRIT"

THE REV. KAREN BOWLES

SOLO *Sing Ye a Joyful Song*

Antonin Dvořák

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 #608 *Dear God, Who Loves All Humankind*

Rest

- 1 Dear God, who loves all humankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.
- 2 In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up, and follow thee.
- 3 O sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!
- 4 Drop thy still dews of quietness
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.
- 5 Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire:
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm!

COMMISSIONING AND BENEEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE *Prelude on 'O Filii et Filiae'* (Hymn #170)

Healey Willan

LEADING IN WORSHIP are **The Rev. Karen Bowles** and **The Rev. Jason Meyers**. The reader is **Heather Walsh** and delivering the Children's Message is **Alana Martin**, Children and Youth Animator. The ministry of music is offered by Minister of Music **Dr. Patricia Wright**, Wayne C. Vance Organ Scholar **Timothy Wisnicki**, Carillonneur **Roy Lee**, members of the **Metropolitan Choir**, and soprano **Gisele Kulak**.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

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

Tuesday, May 4

- 5:00 p.m. Transition Team (Zoom)
- 7:00 p.m. Affirm Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday, May 5

- 8:30 a.m. Breakfast Bible Study (Zoom)
- 11:30 a.m. Hospitality Tent McGill Square Park
- 12:00 p.m. Zoom Bible Study (Zoom)
- 7:00 p.m. Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)

Thursday, May 6

- 2:00 p.m. Green Team (Zoom)
- 8:00 p.m. Evening Communion (Zoom)

Saturday, May 8

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

NEXT SUNDAY: May 9 - The Sixth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day

The Rev. Karen Bowles preaching

- 11:00 a.m. Online Worship Service

In celebration of mother figures everywhere, please send in a photo of 'mother,' biological or chosen. We will be sharing them during the service. Email communications@metunited.ca with your pics.

AFFIRM CLUSTER

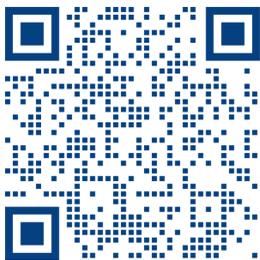
Calling all members of the Met community! The Affirm Committee is looking for photos and short videos of you celebrating the 2SLGBTQ community. These videos and photos will be used to help create Met's contribution to this year's Toronto Pride Network celebration video. Please take a photo or short video of you colourfully celebrating pride (doing such things as waving a pride flag, dancing, or waving some bright colours). Please email submissions to communications@metunited.ca by May 6th. Any questions can be emailed to Ael Spence at aelspence@gmail.com Thank you!

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.

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Chair of the Official Board: Kenneth Younie (boardchair@metunited.ca)
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)
Minister Emeritus: The Rev. Dr. G. Malcolm Sinclair (malcolms@metunited.ca)
Context in Ministry Student: Timothy Wisnicki
Children & Youth Ministries Animator: Alana Martin (alana@thegoproject.ca)
Teachers: Karlos Griffith (karlosgriffith@rogers.com)
Library: Marion Lick (library@metunited.ca) and Maureen Maguire (vigrass78@gmail.com)



Community Outreach Ministry

Outreach and Housing Worker: Megan Carver, ext. 221 (meganc@metunited.ca)
Outreach and Community Service Coordinator: Stephanie Cunti, ext. 241 (stephaniec@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)
Office Administrator: Sheela Taylor, ext. 210 (sheelat@metunited.ca)
Financial Manager: Elena Pejcinovska, ext. 229 (elenap@metunited.ca)
Technical Administrator: Vinoth Thanganadan, ext. 223 (vinotht@metunited.ca)
Communications Specialist: Charles Davidson, ext. 228 (charlesd@metunited.ca)
Property Manager: Frank Cormier, ext. 231 (property@metunited.ca)
Custodian: Puvi Kanagalingam, ext. 305

56 Queen Street East, Toronto, ON M5C 2Z3
Tel. 416.363.0331 Fax. 416.363.7586
Email: metunited@metunited.ca