

Grace United Church
120 Pine Street. Gananoque, On K7G 1C7

Sunday, November 29th 2020
Advent 1 "Hope" & Communion



OUR GRACE CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

"As a community of faith, we seek to be rooted in the garden of God's love, nurtured by Christian worship, study and fellowship, and blossoming into service by the transforming power of God's Spirit."

Grace United Church



Minister

Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro B.A., B.Th., M.Div

Minister Emeritus: Rev. J. Harry Seeley.BA.

Organist/Choir Director

Mr. Paul Harding, B. Mus, B. Ed

Office Administrator

Laurie Cadue

November 29, 2020

Advent I - HOPE

Communion Sunday

We Gather

Welcome / Announcements

Lighting of the Celebration Candle

Acknowledging the Traditional Territory: *We acknowledge the unceded and all lands that we live upon - and give thanks for all the generations of people who have taken care of these lands before us and still do with us today. May we be open to historical Truths and may we continue to learn from the past, shape our present time and build a better world with all People.*

Music & Quiet Time - We Prepare our Hearts for Worship

Spiritual Focus:

"Advent: Journeying to the Heart of Christmas..."

We Approach God

Call to Worship: Tammy Ferguson
(1 Corinthians 1: 3-9)

One: Grace to you,
And peace from God Almighty.

All: As we wait for Jesus' birth.

One: Gifts of love,
To strengthen our journey.

All: Hoping and waiting to answer God's call.

Voices United # 1 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
(vv: 1, 2, 6, 7) (Public Domain)

- 1) O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**
- 2) O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**
- 6) O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**
- 7) O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us the Prince of Peace.
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Invitation to Confession: Tammy Ferguson

Prayer of Confession: Tammy Ferguson

O God of Love,
Who never lets us go.
Who sacrifices everything for us,
Even by sending God's only son, Jesus Christ
Forgive us.
We sometimes forget to be there for you.
To be aware of your presence throughout our day.
Throughout our country and throughout the world.

O God of Parenthood,
Who sent Jesus for us to live through him.
Jesus, the one who atoned our sins,
We sometimes forget to do what's right.
Even when we know the stories of old.
To spread the news throughout the land.

O God of Vulnerability,
Who longs for our acquaintance.
We sometimes shut down,
Closing our hearts and minds.
Fearing divine honesty and truth.
To hear God's call.

O God of Creation,
All things are perfect in your image.
We sometimes forget to see this beauty,
Ignoring the face of God that is within all creation.
To love our neighbour, you and me.

O God of Forgiveness.
Renew our wayward habits.
Help us to make our journey straight and narrow,
With your love, care, and guidance.

And now, may we confess our own misgivings in our
own lives.

Amen.

Words of Assurance: Tammy Ferguson

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - Advent I

Voice 1: As the whole world faces a virus that sees no borders.

We lift all people who are feeling the pain of separation, loss, and darkness,

Voice 2: As we light the candles this Advent, we pray that fear will dissipate, and Hope will lead the way.

Let us pray (All): God of infinite Love, we yearn to see the break of the New Day as we begin this Season of Hope. As a child anxiously waiting by the window, the return of her parent to come home, we wait for the Source of all Hope to be evident to us once again. Anticipating and expecting for the Break of Dawn. Even in darkness You walk with us. May Your promises become reality with every step we take and every breath we breathe. We pray in the name of the infant child, Immanuel – God with us. **Amen.**

(Prayer for Advent 1 – Hope, by Rev. Takouhi – "The True Gift Lives ON"...page 44).

Voice 1: We light a candle for hope, sending prayers high into the heavens and dreams deep within the heart of God.

We Light the Candle of HOPE.

Voice 2: As Advent dawns, God of all hope, shine your light on the story of the universe, the story of your children, the story of Your Love. May the seeds planted, by Your Grace, in the world – Hope, Peace, Joy, Love – take hold in our hearts and stretch towards everyone. Helping all to see God's Future born in our midst once again.

Hymn: Voices United # 7 "Hope is a Star" (v. 1 only)

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

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We Seek Wisdom

Prayer of Illumination: Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass away, but your words will not: Your Word is Eternal. Help us be attentive so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we remember your ways and gladly do Your will, meeting you wherever and whenever you appear. In the name of the defenseless, yet victorious infant Christ we pray. **Amen.**

Scripture: *Mark 13:24-37 (NRSV)*

Reader: Joan Shaw

Word of Life: *"Amid the Ruins: Hope" Rev. Takouhi*

Special Music: *Our Hope is in this Child* - Judith Snowdon Soloist – Sheri Shenton

Sharing God's Banquet

One: Come, come from distraction to attention.

All: Come from loneliness to God's gathered community.

One: Come from anxiety and stress into God's Hope.

All: Come from labour to rebirth.

One: Come to God's table knowing that the love offered here sustains and unites us.

All: Knowing that the cup offered here reminds us of God's love poured out in the Life of Jesus.

One: Come, let us lay aside those things that hinder our participation in God's New Day and let us pray and give thanks:

All: We give you thanks, God of Hope and Prince of Peace, who gives deep Joy and embellishes us with eternal Love. Through the words of your prophets and the faith of your followers you prepare the way of our redemption and bring Hope through new birth. Though we often grow weary of waiting, your signs call us to actively wait for that day when all things shall be new. Standing firm in this assurance we give you praise:

One: Holy Wisdom, Comforter, Advocate, Friend, may these gifts of creation bless our lives with the presence and power of the infant child. We gather these and all unspoken prayers, thankful that we may turn to you as our Father and Mother who loves us, and we pray:

All: Our Mother and Father who resides in our hearts Sacred is your cool name. May the world have eternal peace. And love be the ruler. Provide us with what we need to live happy lives. May we have the courage to forgive others as You have forgiven our sins and let us see that everyone makes mistakes. Help us to resist temptations, Help us to



always follow the path of God. For this world is your kingdom. You are the source of love that will never end and will always be with us. Make it happen!!! Amen.

Kaitlyn, Kara , Liv and Heather

Written by a few of the Bay of Quinte Conference Youth – October 24, 2015

Leader: These are the Gifts of God, for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sharing the Elements

Prayer after Communion (All): For the bread we have eaten, for the cup we have tasted, for the life we have received, we thank you God. Grant that what we have been given here, may fill us with eternal Hope. As we grow in the Way of Your Love, may our lives become Faithful Actions of Justice for all. In the name of the One who demonstrated Hope for ALL the Earth. **Amen.**

Our Gifts for the Work of God

Hymn: Voices United # 4 "God of All Places"

- 1 God of all places; present, unseen;
voice in our silence, song in our midst,
we are your people, knowing, unsure:
Refrain: Come, Lord Jesus, come!
- 2 God of all dreaming, near and yet far;
vision unheard of, wake us to rest.
We are your presence sent forth, afraid:
Refrain: Come, Lord Jesus, come!
- 3 God of all people, dust and the clay;
breath of a new wind, fire in our hearts,

light born of heaven, peace on the earth:
Refrain: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

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Minute for Mission

Offertory: *Partnering with God to help Miracles be Visible.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication: Faithful God, we thank you that Christ is being revealed in every time and place with our actions and words. Strengthen our testimony and spiritual gifts; increase generosity in us, we pray, as we work together to help God's Future born in our midst once again. **Amen.**

God Sends Us into the World with Hope

Hymn: Voices United # 651



"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" (Public Domain)

- 1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.



- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

Commissioning & Benediction Amen.

Welcome

as we gather for worship this Sunday morning. If you are a visitor or newcomer to this Community of Faith, we extend a warm greeting, and invite you to sign our guest register in the narthex.

Celebration Candle

Our Celebration Candle was lit this morning to send our blessings to all those celebrating a Birthday, Anniversary or other Special Occasion this week.

Prayer Requests:

Remember in your prayers all those who are dealing with health or personal situations. Pray that they may find the strength and courage they need to overcome.

Advent : The Spirit of Giving White Gift Sunday, December 6th

The Gananoque Food Bank has invited us to participate in their Christmas Hamper Project. For a \$40 donation we can fill a hamper with all the perishables, including a turkey and fresh

vegetables, and non-perishables a local family will need for Christmas dinner. Monetary donations will enable the Food Bank to take advantage of bulk purchases and your donation will go further. You can choose to make a \$40 donation to fill a hamper yourself, but donations of any amount will be welcomed. For every donation we will put your name on a White Gift card to hang on our Christmas tree. We will be accepting donations at church on Dec. 6th. Please put your donation in an envelope and place it in the basket provided as you enter the sanctuary. However, you do not have to be in church that day to participate. Donations will be accepted at the office either in person, by mail or by e-transfer or can be placed on the offering plate any time during Advent. Make sure your name is on the envelope for income tax credits and that it is clearly labelled White Gift or Food Bank project.

Let's fill our tree with White Gift cards!

Covid-19 Precautions

In this time of rising Covid numbers, it is essential that we follow the guidelines set out by the Health Unit to protect the health and safety of all the members of our community of faith.

- Please stay home if you are not feeling well or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for covid.
- Wear a mask that covers your mouth, nose and chin while you are in the building.
- Practise social distancing. Keep 2m (6 ft) between you and persons not in your household at all times.
- Let the ushers help you find a seat that meets the spacing requirements. Once seated, please stay in your seat. Do not wander around the sanctuary. Leave quickly once the service is done.
- Keep socializing to a minimum. No shaking hands, no hugging or touching.
- You may participate in spoken responses, prayers and hum along or sing silently to the hymns. Singing out loud is not permitted, except by soloists.
- If you wish to speak to Rev. Takouhi form a line in the centre aisle after the service. Rev. Takouhi will stay at the front after the Postlude to speak with you.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Contact information:

Office (Laurie) 613-382-2161 grace.gan@outlook.com
Church Office Hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 8:00am to 1:00 p.m. **(Closed on Wednesday)**

Session: Chair: Paul Scott, Vice Chair: Vacant,
Clerk: Joan Shaw

Board of Stewards: Vice Chair: Carolyn Scott,
Secretary: Mary Haussler

Official Board: Chair, Brian Brooks

Vice Chair, Bruce Wilson, Secretary: Diane Nuttall

Sunday Morning Worship is at 10:30am

November 29th – Morning Worship, Communion /Advent # 1

December 6th - Morning Worship, Advent # 2 **White Gift**

December 13th – Morning Worship, Advent # 3

December 20th – Morning Worship, Advent # 4

December 24th – Christmas Eve Virtual Service

December 27th – Morning Worship, 1st Sunday after Christmas
Baby Shower for Jesus, more info to come.

Details and events are subject to change

Important Information

Christmas Eve Service will be a virtual service only, there will be no live service in the church. This will allow you to watch from the comfort and safety of your own home at your leisure.

Gananoque Food Bank has moved to
497 King St. E., Gananoque, ON K7G 1G9
(Beside Bravo Restaurant)

Open Wed. & Fri from 12:30 to 2:45

At this time the Food bank would appreciate any donations, however, monetary donations are best as these allow for bulk buying.