

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

Sunday, December 6, 2020



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

December 6, 2020

Advent II – PEACE

White Gifts 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.*

Spiritual Focus:

“Advent: Journeying to the Heart of Christmas...”

Music & Quiet Time - *We Prepare our Hearts for Worship*

We Approach God

Call to Worship: Isa. 40:3-5

A voice cries in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord; make God’s way clear. Lift up every valley; lower every mountain. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.”

Prayer of Approach (All): Mark 1:3-4

Loving God, you sent your prophet John to prepare your way among us, to call us to repentance and make our pathways straight. Strengthen us to live lives of steadfast love and faithfulness as we Wait and Work for your Reign of Peace.

We pray humbly and sincerely. **Amen.**

Hymn: Voices United # 5 "All Earth is Waiting"

- 1) All earth is waiting to see the Promised One, and open furrows await the seed of God. All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty; it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.
- 2) Thus says the prophet to those of Israel, 'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel.' One whose name is 'God with us', our Saviour shall be, through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.
- 3) Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain, open new highways, new highways for our God, who is now coming closer, so come all and see, and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.
- 4) In lowly stable the Promised One appeared. Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today, for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now; again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

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Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - Advent II

Voice: Today we focus on Peace that comes to us in the wilderness. In the chaos of life we hear God's Silent Word, revealing Eternal Hope, and Peace like a River.

Let us pray (All): O God of Peace, we know you are not far from us. Help us to see your Presence as you hold us tenderly in your arms. As a mother who embraces her child within her arms, may we, restless children that we are, realize that we are embraced in Your Peace and equipped with Your Hope. We pray humbly in the name of the Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

(Prayer for Advent 2 – Peace, by Rev. Takouhi – "The True Gift Lives ON" (page 44).

We Light the Candle of PEACE.

Hymn: Voices United # 7 "Hope is a Star"
(vv. 1 & 2 only)

- 1) 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.
- 2) Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.
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 (All): Mighty God, send your Holy Spirit to remind us of Your Peace once again. May the Good News of Your Peace take over us and may Your Word made flesh, be our Guide always.

Amen.

Scripture: *Mark 1: 1-8 (NRSV)*

Reader: Marilyn Belbin

Special Music: "One Small Child"

words and music by David Meece

Soloist: Tammy Fergusson

Word of Life: *"Even in the Wilderness – PEACE!"*
Rev. Takouhi

Our Gifts for the Work of God

Hymn: Voices United # 506

"Take My Life and Let it Be"

- 1) Take my life, and let it be consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2) Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.
- 3) Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

4) Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

5) Take my love: and I will pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Public Domain, Words Frances Ridley Havergal 1874 alt. Music: unknown, desc.
John T. Wilkinson 1980

Minute for Mission: Dave Charles

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication (All):

Provisional God, we give you thanks that in the coming of Jesus your steadfast love and faithfulness have met, and your peace and righteousness have kissed. May the gifts we offer lift those in need and help transform the earth. **Amen.**

God Sends Us into the World with Peace

Hymn: More Voices # 79 *"Spirit, Open My Heart"*

Refrain:

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit open my heart.

- 1) God replace my stony heart with a heart that's
kind and tender. All my coldness and fear to
your grace I now surrender.

Refrain:

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit open my heart.

- 2) Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story. In each thought word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.

Refrain:

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit open my heart.

- 3) May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother. In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.

Refrain:

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit open my heart.

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Prayers of Hope and Healing: *We remember the École Polytechnique Massacre - December 6, 1989, Montreal, QC.*

The Prayer of Jesus: 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.**

Hymn: Voices United # 2

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

tune 'Hyfrydol' VU#333

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Public Domain, Words: Charles Wesley 1744, Music Psalmodia Sacra 1715

Commissioning & Benediction

Amen.

Organ Postlude: Meditation on a theme from 'Judas Maccabaeus' - G.F. Handel

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: LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS THOSE IN HOSPITAL AND THOSE RECOVERING AT HOME.



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.

Huge Shout out to the "Pies for God's Sake" Team. At their most recent pie sale they raised \$3159.00. Congratulations and Thank You!! 😊

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

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 (see insert)

(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 the service in 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.

Cover Photo by [Tim Mossholder](#) on [Unsplash](#)

On Sunday, December 27th, we will be celebrating our Second Annual Baby Shower for Jesus! This year our celebration will be held in the sanctuary so we can celebrate within the bounds of Covid-19 regulations. Unless Covid interferes, we are planning to have an informal, in-person service that will be live streamed on Facebook at 10:30 a.m. Our Guest Worship Leader will be Rev. Kathy Walton, assisted by Tammy Fergusson. We have chosen Interval House as our special Baby Shower Spirit of Giving opportunity again this year. Interval House provides emergency shelter, outreach counselling and transitional support for abused women and their children throughout Leeds and Grenville. We invite you to bring gifts for infants and small children who have been forced to leave their homes and seek shelter. Some suggested items are listed below, and, of course, monetary gifts are always welcome. Please wrap the gifts and either leave them at the church office or at the back of the sanctuary before December 24th, or bring them with you on the 27th. We will place all the gifts in the manger before the service.



Suggested items:

- Diapers, baby wipes
- Baby shampoo/body wash
- children's bubble bath, body wash
- Infant formula/bottles/nipples/sippy cups for toddlers
- Soothers
- Socks, underwear for toddlers, slippers
- Crayons, markers, colouring books, activity books
- Pencils, drawing paper, Playdoh
- Toys for babies, toddlers
- Gift cards for grocery stores, Shoppers, Walmart, fast food outlets, Tim Hortons
- Monetary donations (cheques payable to Grace United Church)