

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

Grace United Church



Minister

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

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

Organist/Choir Director

Office Administrator

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

Laurie Cadue

December 13 2020
Advent III - Joy

December 13, 2020

Advent III - JOY

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:

Prayer of Approach (All): We thank you, O God, for all those in Scripture who have pointed to Christ: for your prophets Elijah and Isaiah, for other prophets, and for John. We thank you, too, for those in our lives

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."

who have pointed us to Christ: spiritual leaders, and teachers, strangers, and friends. Give us eyes to see him today among those who are oppressed, imprisoned, broken-hearted, or beaten down, and we will give our testimony, too: how Christ releases and sets free; how he turns ashes into garlands; how he repairs and builds up what was ruined. We, too, will point others to Jesus, the Light of the world. **Amen.**

Voices United # 23 "Joy Shall Come" (Public Domain)

Joy shall come even to the wilderness,
and the parched land shall then know great gladness;
as the rose, as the rose shall deserts blossom,
deserts like a garden blossom.
For living springs shall give cool water,
in the desert streams shall flow;
for living springs shall give cool water,
in the desert streams shall flow.

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - Advent III

Joan McKinnon: Today we focus on Joy. The Joy that comes from
Within. This Joy is not impacted by any
outside power.
It comes forth from the Eternal.

Let us pray (All):

In You, O God, there is Pure Joy, Unshakable
Peace and Unending Hope. In this Season of Advent,
may our
past be restored with the Present Joy, and our future
be
revealed with Joyful songs. May our roots grow deeper
in the
Presence of Your Accord. Help us to sing songs of Joy
even

when darkness abounds. May the music never end,
even in the
night. With confidence we trust You are with us.

Amen.

(Prayer for Advent 3 – Joy, by Rev. Takouhi – "The True Gift Lives ON" (page 46).

We Light the Candle of JOY.

Hymn: Voices United # 7

"Hope is a Star" (vv. 1, 2 & 3)

- 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.
- 3) Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born.
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.

Words & Music © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. Words: Brian Wren 1985,
Music: Joan Collier Fogg 1987 . Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE
#A- 736946. All rights reserved. One Licence # 93750

We Seek Wisdom

Prayer of Illumination (All):

Holy One, giver of life and light,
as your word is read and proclaimed, illumine our
hearts and minds, that by the power of the Holy
Spirit, our lives may reflect God's glory. **Amen.**

Scripture: *John 1:6-8 and John 1:19-28 (NRSV)*
John testified to the Light

Reader: Cheryl O'Leary

Special Music: "I Give Myself to You" - David
Clydesdale
Soloist: Sheri Shenton

Word of Life: *"Joy: The Power of God..." Rev.*
Takouhi

Our Gifts for the Work of God

Hymn: Voices United # 166

"Joy Comes with the Dawn"

Refrain:

*Joy comes with the dawn;
joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb
and scatters the night with her song,
joy comes with the dawn.*

- 1) Weeping may come;
weeping may come in the night,
when dark shadows cloud our sight.

Refrain:

*Joy comes with the dawn;
joy comes with the morning sun;*

*joy springs from the tomb
and scatters the night with her song,
joy comes with the dawn.*

- 2) Sorrow will turn,
sorrow will turn into song,
and God's laughter make us strong.

Refrain:

*Joy comes with the dawn;
joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb
and scattersthe night with her song,
joy comes with the dawn.*

- 3) We will rejoice,
we will rejoice, and give praise,
to the One who brings us grace.

Refrain:

*Joy comes with the dawn;
joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb
and scattersthe night with her song,
joy comes with the dawn.*

Words: Gordon Light 1985. Music Gordon Light 1985, arr Nan Thompson 1995.
Words and music copyright © 1985 The Common Cup Company. Arrangement
copyright © 1995 Nan Thompson. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE
#A- 736946. All rights reserved

Minute for Mission: Dave Charles

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication (All):

Gracious God,
teach us to give thanks in all circumstances, for you are always with us. Thank you for the privilege of sharing what we have with others, of giving ourselves away in love, and of receiving the gifts that others share with us. With our whole being, spirit and soul and body, we rejoice in you. **Amen.**

God Sends Us into the World with Peace

Hymn: More Voices # 154 "Deep in Our Hearts"

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
Deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
Deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
Deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
Deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.
Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Words: John Oldham, 1995. Music: Ron Klusmeier, 1996. Words copyright © 1995 by John Wesley Oldham, Used by permission. Music copyright © 1996 by Ron Klusmeier, www.musiklus.com. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 736946. All rights reserved

Prayers of Hope and Healing & 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: More Voices # 40 "Never Ending Joy"

Refrain:

*Never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy,
never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy!*

- 1) God of every tribe, every language,
God of every river and sea,
God of every mountain and island,
you bring joy to me.

Refrain:

*Never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy,
never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy!*

- 2) God of every hill, every valley,
God of every leaf, every tree,
God of every cloud, every raindrop,
you bring joy to me.

Refrain:

*Never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy,
never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy!*

- 3) God of every song, every story,
God of every captive set free,
God of every dance, every footstep,
you bring joy to me.

Refrain:

*Never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy,
never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy!*

Words & Music: Daniel Charles Damon 2003. Words & Music copyright ©2006 Hope Publishing Company. Carol Stream, IL 60188. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 736946. All rights reserved

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: 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.

Donations – Sunday, December 6th - Attend: 44

General	\$ 2,495.00
Mission & Service	86.00
Special Grace Mission	40.00
White Gift	1,300.00

A heartfelt thank you to all who supported our first "Advent: Spirit of Giving" opportunity. Your outpouring of love and generosity has helped fill 58 of the 120 Christmas Dinner hampers that the Gananoque and Area Food Bank will distribute to families in our community in the next week.

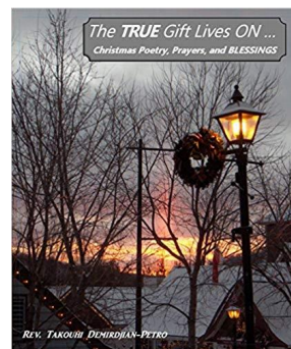
Donations to this initiative supporting the Food Bank may be made through the Church office (cash, cheque, e-transfer) with memo- "White Gift".

The True Gift Lives ON... A GIFT FOR EVERY REASON...

& EVERY SEASON... By: Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro

First Armenian woman ordained minister

by the United Church of Canada.



Born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon in an Armenian family and entered Canada on August 21, 1986, as a refugee. This is her first published work composed of Poetry, Prayers, and Photography. All content is original. Photos captured by Rev. Takouhi and her husband, Gary Petro; photographed in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario (Canada).

\$20.00 each - Payments can be made in cash or cheque: payable to "Takouhi Demirdjian"

\$10.00 per book will go towards:
ADVENT: THE SPIRIT OF GIVING
A MINISTRY OF GRACE UNITED CHURCH –
GANANOQUE – FOR THE FOOD BANK.

Get Your copies today, while Quantities last!

Available at the church sanctuary or through the church office

Phone: (613) 382-2161 Email: grace.gan@outlook.com

or Rev. Takouhi: revtakouhi@terrautopia.ca

There are copies of Rev Takouhi's book, "The True Gift Lives On..." still available. These would make a lovely gift for a friend, relative or yourself. \$10 from the sale of each book will be donated to the Food Bank

Update – Re: COVID

We are closely monitoring the recent increase in COVID cases in the community and completely understand if you choose to stay at home and watch the services on-line rather than attend in person. We will update you as soon as possible, if there are any changes. Stay well and be safe.

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. 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)

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 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.

Bulletin Dedication

This Sunday's bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of Donald Harding, a life-long member and servant of Grace Church.

He was baptized here in 1913 and was buried from

Grace Church in 2015.

Lovingly remembered by sons John and Paul and their families.