

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 20 2020
Advent IV - Love*

December 20, 2020

Advent IV - LOVE

Christmas 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 (Responsive):

One: Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you!

All: **And also with you.**

One: We come to worship the Holy Parent who loves you.

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."

All: Regardless of our weariness. Regardless of our worthiness.

One: Fear not! For God has found favour in you.

All: We receive God's blessing with expectant hope. Come Lord Jesus!

One: The Lord God will reign over the house of Jacob forever.

All: We hear God's call in faith and trust.

One: Everything is possible with God.

By Tammy Fergusson

Prayer of Adoration (Responsive):

One: Dear God, you sent Gabrielle to declare the happy news!

All: Jesus is about to be born!

One: How we marvel at this wondrous gift! Jesus, amongst us and in human form.

All: We listen to your Holy Word, your trust and your steadfastness love.

One: Open our hearts and minds to your Kingdom.

**All: Glory be to God!
Amen**

By Tammy Fergusson

HYMN: Voices United # 17 "O Ancient Love"

- 1) O ancient love, processing through the ages;
O hidden love, revealed in human form;
O promised love, the dream of seers and sages:

Refrain: *O living Love, within our hearts be born,
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.*

- 2) O homeless love, that dwells among the stranger;
O lowly love, that knows the mighty's scorn;
O hungry love, that lay within a manger:

Refrain: *O living Love, within our hearts be born,
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.*

- 3) O gentle love, caressing those in sorrow;
O tender love, that comforts those forlorn;
O hopeful love, that promises tomorrow:

Refrain: *O living Love, within our hearts be born,
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.*

- 4) O suffering love, that bears our human weakness;
O boundless love, that rises with the morn;
O mighty love, concealed in infant meekness:

Refrain: *O living Love, within our hearts be born,
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.*

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**Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - Advent IV
Tammy Fergusson:**

Today we focus on Love.
The Eternal Love that holds us
from eternity to eternity.
Calling us to live this Love and
transform the world like Mary did.

Let us pray (All):

O God, Source of Eternal Love.
You are the beginning of All Joy,
the accomplisher of all Peace
and the source of all Hope.
On this Christmas Sunday,
may we be aware that you have come to us,

and continue to come to us daily.
Break all of our assumptions that we may find the
Wonder and the Awe of Your Love
in every breath we take.

We pray in the name of Immanuel —
God with us — Love Eternal. **Amen.**

*(Prayer for Advent 4 – Love, by Rev. Takouhi – "The True Gift
Lives ON" (page 46).*

We Light the Candle of Love

Voices United # 7 "Hope is a Star"

- 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.
- 4) Love is a flame that burns in our heart,
Jesus has come and will never depart.
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): Astonishing God, send
your Holy Spirit upon us as we await the coming of
Immanuel, God with us, the Eternal Love. Fill us with
good things that we may conceive your reign on earth
and glorify you according to your Word; through the
infant child we pray. **Amen.**

Scripture: *Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV) –
The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary*

Reader: Linda Brooks

Special Music: *"Mary, Did You Know?"* Mark Lowry & Buddy Green
Soloist: Frayne McCarthy

Word of Life: *"Love: Changes EVERYTHING!"*
Rev. Takouhi

Our Gifts for the Work of God

Voices United # 509 "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

- 1) I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain: *Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

- 2) I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain,

I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Refrain: *Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

3) I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Refrain: *Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

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Minute for Mission:

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication (All):

Holy God, Your Love is magnified in the birth of Jesus.
Bless these gifts that we offer to lift up the lowly and
fill the hungry in your coming reign of justice and
peace. **Amen.**

God Sends Us into the World with Peace

Special Music: "Gesu Bambino" Pietro Alessandro Yon
Soloist: Frayne McCarthy

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 # 138:

"My Love Colours Outside the Lines"

- 1) My love colours outside the lines,
Exploring paths that few could ever find.
And takes me into places where I've never been before.
And opens doors to worlds outside the lines.
- 2) My Lord colours outside the lines,
turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
and takes me into places where I've never been
before and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

Refrain: *We'll never walk on water if we're not
prepared to drown, body and soul need a soaking
from time to time. And we'll never move the
gravestones if we're not prepared to die and realize
there are worlds outside the lines.*

- 3) My soul longs to colour outside the lines,
tear back the curtains, sun come in and shine,
I want to walk beyond the boundaries,
where I've never been before,
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

Refrain: *We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to drown, body and soul need a soaking from time to time. And we'll never move the gravestones if we're not prepared to die and realize there are worlds outside the lines.*

4) My soul longs to colour outside the lines,
tear back the curtains, sun come in and shine,
I want to walk beyond the boundaries,
where I've never been before,
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines

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Commissioning & Benediction

Amen.

Organ Postlude – Fantasia in C Major – J.S. Bach

Welcome

as we gather for worship this Sunday morning.
Thank you for joining us virtually. We pray that
you and your family members are safe and
healthy.

Celebration Candle



Our Celebration Candle was lit this morning to send our blessings to all those celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special event over the next few weeks. Blessings.



Remember in your prayers all those who are in Hospital or recovering at home. Also remember anyone who may need our comfort and guidance.

Donations – Sunday, December 13th - Attend: 35

General	\$800.00
Mission & Service	106.00
Special Grace Mission	10.00
White Gift	150.00
Interval House	115.00

Thank you for your donations

Donations to the church can be made by e-transfer to grace.gan@outlook.com - by cheque – mailed to the church at 120 Pine ST. Gananoque, On K7G 1C7 – Sign-up for PAR (Preauthorized Auto monthly Remittances) and also through CanadaHelps. Please call the church office if you have any questions.

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 24th – Christmas Eve Virtual Service

December 27th – Morning Worship, 1st Sunday after Christmas

Baby Shower for Jesus (On-Line)

(Details and events are subject to change)

Important Information

Due to the recent increase of COVID cases in our area and going into the "Yellow" zone the church Board has made the decision to go back to On-Line Services only.

Effective immediately.

We pray that you all stay safe.

Second Annual - Baby Shower for Jesus
Sunday, December 27th 2020 – 10:30 am
Worship Leader: Rev. Kathy Walton
Grace United Church,



The service will be informal on Facebook & YouTube at 10:30am December 27th. Interval House is 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 bring your gift to the church during office hours or send a donation marked "Interval House" by e-transfer or cheque. (Office open next week, Monday & Tuesday, 8 am to 1pm or on Thursday, the 24th until noon. Just ring the buzzer and drop your donations in the wagon.

Suggested items:

- Diapers, baby wipes, Baby shampoo/body wash
- children's bubble bath, body wash, Soothers
- Infant formula/bottles/nipples/sippy cups for toddlers
- 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)

Monetary Donations can be made by Cheque, payable to Grace United Church or e-transferred to grace.gan@outlook.com – Memo Baby Shower.

Photo by [Jonathan Borba](#) on [Unsplash](#)