

Grace United Church

120 Pine St. Gananoque, ON K7G 2T3

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



*For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon
His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6 NKJV



December 24, 2020
Virtual Christmas Eve Celebration
7:00 P.M.

We Gather

Organ Prelude

*We prepare our hearts to welcome Immanuel,
God with us!*

Welcome – Rev. Takouhi

Special Music: "O Holy Night"- Maryanne Wainman

Gathering Call – "Gifts of the Earth"
Tammy Ferguson

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES
Avery Smith & Family



Voice: We are a people of Hope. Our hearts are full of anticipation for the coming of the Christ Child. For God is to be among us and we will see a great light in the midst of our night. Let us light the Candle of Hope. (*Light the first candle*)

VU 6, "A Candle Is Burning" v. 1

Voice: We are a people who seek Peace. We know that God has told us to turn our weapons of war into instruments that benefit all humanity. In the name of that Child who was born long ago to become the Prince of Peace, we now light the Candle of Peace. (*Light the second candle*)

VU 6, "A Candle Is Burning" v. 2

Voice: Joy to the world! Our God is now coming to bring us "good news." May we sing songs of praise and gladness. We know that our Savior reigns. Let us light the Candle of Joy. (*Light the third (pink) candle*)

VU 6, "A Candle Is Burning" v. 3

Voice: We are a people who seek to be brought together by the Love of Christ. Our faith teaches us that God gives us unconditional love and forgiveness. Acknowledging God's free gift of grace, we light the Candle of Love. (*Light the fourth candle*)

VU 6, "A Candle Is Burning" v. 4

Voice: We honour the infant Child who brings us the Good News, God's News. The Holy One, who Was, Is and Forever shall be, Immanuel – God with us. Let us light the Christ Candle. (*Light the Christ (centre) candle*)

VU 6, "A Candle Is Burning" v. 5

A Christmas Eve Prayer- Donna Norman

God of Great Love,
you come among us as a tiny and vulnerable baby,
making all simple things Sacred.
Teach us to care for the quiet and tender places
of our hearts and lives, may we also care
for all the "Other" around us, near or far.
As we are nurtured from Your Unconditional Love,
May we nurture others unconditionally —
Your Love is Worth Sharing.
We submit to your Compassion and Mercy,
today and always. **Amen.**

(*A Christmas Eve Prayer, by Rev. Takouhi – "The True Gift Lives ON" -page 48*).

We Seek God's Story

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7 – *Brian Brooks*
Christmas Carol 64 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Gospel of Luke 2:1-7 – *Claire Bass*
Christmas Carol 69 "Away in a Manger"

Gospel of Luke 2:8-14 – *Tim Bass*
Christmas Carol # 48 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"



Gospel of Luke 2:15-20 – *Joan Shaw*
Christmas Carol # 59 "Joy to the World"



Our Respond to God's Love

The Christmas Guest – *Tom Currie*

Offertory Dedication: "As with Gladness Men of Old"

Voices United # 81 (v. 3 only) As they offered gifts most rare at that manger crude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

Offertory - On this special night we are aware of the many blessings we have received. Let us share as we are able to make the world a better place. Tonight, we invite you to designate your offering to our church's **Benevolent Fund**. This fund will be used to support individuals in our wider community who are experiencing financial hardship and crisis. Your offering can be mailed to or dropped off at the church office, or deposited directly through e-transfer. Please designate your offering as - **Grace Church Benevolent Fund**.

Offertory Prayer (All):

Great God, accept these gifts we offer
as we wait in hope for your coming again.

Use all that we have and all that we are as you bring light in every darkness, ease heavy burdens, and turn our endless fighting into your endless Peace.

We pray in the name of Immanuel, God with us. **Amen.**

Christmas Carol Voices United # 38 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Blessing # 67 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Postlude



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."

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Announcements.

The Nominating Committee is actively seeking full members of Grace United Church to become members of Session, the Board of Stewards, the Board of Trustees and the Ministry & Personnel Committee. For further information or to indicate your area of interest, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee on or before Sunday, January 17, 2021.

Linda Brooks (613-382-2385) lbrooks6.lb@gmail.com

Tammy Fergusson (613-328-7766) thefergussons@primus.ca

Diane Kirkby (613-929-2010) dianekg@cogeco.ca

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.

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



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](#)