



Grace United Church

120 Pine St. Gananoque, ON K7G 1C7

Ordained Minister

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

Minister Emeritus: Rev. J. Harry Seeley B.A.

Director of Music

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

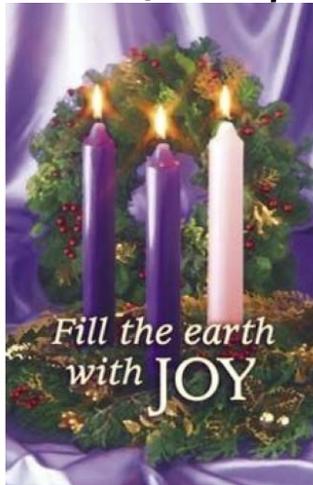
Office Administrator

Laurie Cadue

December 12, 2021

Advent 3 – JOY – White Gift Sunday

Order of Worship



WE GATHER AS A COMMUNITY OF GRACE

Prelude: *Arioso* - J.S. Bach

Welcome – Bruce Wilson

Community in Action – Birthdays & Anniversaries

Centering Music: *We Center our Hearts for Worship.*

Spiritual Focus:

"Blessed Are Those Who Believe..."

Call to Worship (Responsive):

One: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon God's Holy Name

All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

One: Proclaim the mercy of the One who comes as one of us.

All: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

Trust and do not be afraid.

One: With JOY you will draw water from the wells of PEACE.

All: Hallelujah! Amen.

Song of Praise: Voices United # 59

"Joy to the World"

1. **Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.**
2. **Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy.**
3. **No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found.**
4. **He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love.**

Words: Isaac Watts 1719, alt.

Music: attrib. George Frideric Handel 1742

arr. Lowell Mason 1836 Public Domain

Advent Candle Lighting Ritual - JOY – Shirley Clark

Reader: As we continue to journey through Advent we light the third candle – the candle of JOY.

(Light the Pink candle.)

God sent John the Baptizer to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus Christ, the true Light of the World. John called for people to repent of their sins and to live faithfully. He baptized with a cleansing water and proclaimed the new life that Christ, the one who would follow him, would bring. This Advent, we ask for God's mercy and a joyful new beginning.

Let us Pray:

All: Merciful God, we give thanks that you send messengers like John to call us to greater faith. We ask that in these days we prepare for you in prayer and acts of holy compassion. Forgive us and lead us to your light. Amen.



WE SEEK WISDOM

Song of Illumination: Voices United Page 766 – Psalm 42

“As the Deer Pants for the Water”

1. As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you; you alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.

**Refrain: You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield;
you alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.**

**2. I want you more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy,
You alone are the real joy giver and the apple of my eye.**

Refrain

**3. You're my friend and you are my brother,
even though you are a king;
I love you more than any other,
so much more than anything.**

Refrain

Words: para. Martin Nystrom

Music: Martin Nystrom

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Scripture Reader: Elaine Davidson

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18 (NRSV)

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves,

‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” And the crowds asked him,

“What then should we do?” In reply he said to them,

“Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him,

“Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying,

"I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Life Lesson: *"What then Shall We Do?"*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Song for Baptism: Voices United # 644

"I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry"



- 1) **I was there to hear your boring cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
To see your life unfold.**
- 2) **I was there when you were but a child,
With a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off
To find where demons dwell.**
- 3) **When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
To whom you now belong.**
- 4) **If you find someone to share your time
And you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
From dusk till rising sun.**

- 5) **In the middle ages of your life,
Not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
Complete what I've begun.**
- 6) **When the evening gently closes in
And you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
With just one more surprise.**
- 7) **I was there to hear your boring cry
I'll be there when you are old
I rejoice the day you were baptized,
To see your life unfold.**

Words and Music: John Ylvisaker 1985; Music: Ron Klusmeier 1974

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Minister: *(Mark 10:13-16)* People were bringing little children to Jesus. The disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus saw this and said to them

All: **"Let the little children come to me..."**

Minister: Members and friends in and through Christ, today we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism through the Gift of Grace. Ordinary element such as water helps us experience a Sacred moment through The Spirit.

All: **We are one body and one spirit.**

Our Hope is rooted in the Creator, who continues to create in, through and with us.

Minister: There is One God, One Faith, One Baptism,
One Creator of us all.

Session Rep.: On behalf of the congregation of **Grace United Church**, I present *Henry Steven Dunn* the son of *Matthew Dunn & Erica Thompson* for initiation into the Body of Christ.

COMMITMENT OF PARENTS

Minister: *Matthew & Erica*, today is a special day. You have decided to Baptize *Henry*. The act of Baptism is accepting the claim that your child is called **Beloved by God**, and you accept this gift with gratitude. As parents, you are entrusted to nurture and guide your child in the path of God's Light. I ask you now, in the presence of God and of this community:

✚ Do you confess your faith in God as Creator; Jesus the embodiment of God's Love; and the Spirit God's presence in and among us?

Parents: We do, God being our helper.

✚ Do you commit yourselves to follow the way of Love as demonstrated in the life of Jesus in your private and public life?

Parents: We do, God being our helper.

✚ Will you support the life and work of the church in this community and/or wherever you are found?

Parents: We will, God being our helper.

✚ Will you share your faith with your child, and ensure that the Compassionate Teachings of Jesus are planted in him?

Parents: We will, God being our helper.



COMMITMENT OF GODPARENTS

Minister: *Jordyn*, as a godparent will you grow in faith with *Henry*, trusting that, "You are not alone, you live in God's world"?

Godparent: I will, God being my helper.

Minister: Recognizing that many persons nurture and influence the life of a child, will you support *Henry* and his parents as he grows in faith?

Godparent: I will, God being my helper.

Minister: Sharing your faith is the most precious gift to *Henry*. We are glad to hear and witness your commitment.

COMMITMENT OF CONGREGATION

Minister: As a baptized and baptizing church let us covenant with this family, one another, and God.

All: As a baptized and baptizing church, we commit ourselves anew to nurture and support one another.

Minister: Let us say together the New Creed

All: We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's

presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

A New Creed - The United Church of Canada, General Council, 1968

Pouring of Water



Prayer of Thanksgiving (Responsive)

Minister: Creator God, you formed this world out of the dark waters of chaos. And time and again you have saved us as we have passed through the dark waters of life.

All: We remember the flood and your gracious promise sealed in the rainbow. We remember Jesus, and the way he was protected by the waters of Mary's womb. We remember John, and the way he baptized. We remember the disciples, and the way in which they shared in the ministry of Jesus, his death, resurrection, and the sharing of the Gospel throughout the world.

Minister: So we come before you today, grateful for the promise and the power of water. We pray that your Holy Spirit blesses this gift and this child who will receive it. Embrace him in your Love and Cover him in your Peace.

All: Amen.

Baptism in the Name of the Triune God

Blessing

Marking with the Sign of the Cross

Laying On of Hands – Prayer



PRESENTATIONS

Session Rep.: *Baptismal Candle & Baptism Certificate* (The baptismal candle is lit from the Christ Candle, signifying the light of Christ, and presented to the parents on the child's behalf)

Session Rep.: Henry Steven Dunn, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works for the glory to God. **Amen**

Caring & Sharing Team Member: *Prayer Blanket*

Minister: Presentation of a Bible

INTRODUCTION TO CONGREGATION

Minister: Members of **Grace United Church** I introduce to you, *Henry Steven Dunn* a child of God, member of the Body of Christ. We welcome him into the Household of Faith, with Joy and Thanksgiving.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Song after Baptism: Voices United #: 452

"You Have Put On Christ"

You have put on Christ,
In Christ you have been baptised.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

Words: from the Rite of Baptism ICEL, ca 1969. Music: Howard Hughes 1977
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Presentation of White Gifts – Dave Charles

Our Offerings – Make Miracles Evident - *Let us partner up with God and give Generously with Joy and Gratitude.*

The prayer that Jesus taught his followers, we pray as our Prayer of Thanksgiving & Dedication (All):

**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.**

**GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD
TO BE THE CHURCH**

Going Forth: 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

- 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

- 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

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Sending Forth & Benediction

Choral Amen and Postlude: *A Morning Postlude*
S.S. Wesley

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. Thank you for joining us virtually.

Celebration Candle



Today we send Blessings of Joy to all who are celebrating Birthdays, Anniversaries and Special Events in the coming week.

Happy Birthday to Bonnie Serson.
Happy 44th Wedding Anniversary to Joan MacKinnon & Dave Charles

May Joy abound and Love Multiply.

Would you like your Birthday or Anniversary added to our announcements? Please contact Laurie at the church Office and give her the details. Birthdays or Anniversaries can only be added with your written consent.



Prayers for the people

Remember in your prayers all those who are in hospital, recovering at home and those who may need our comfort, guidance, and support.

****Please notify the church office if there is someone you know who is ill, in hospital or in need of pastoral care. ****

The Fourth Sunday of Advent, (December 19), Sunday of Love, we are going to officially welcome new members to this Community of Faith.

Anyone interested to join Grace United Church, please contact Rev. Takouhi by e-mail: revtakouhi@terrautopia.ca or by phone: 613-777-0880.

PIE SALE

To Order Call Carol at 613-382-4376

Pick up date is December 16th, from 3 to 6 pm.

Cost: Raspberry & Mincemeat \$15 each

All other pies are \$12 each:

Apple, Apple Crumble, Blueberry, Cherry, Peach, Raisin,
Rhubarb, Strawberry/Rhubarb, Strawberry/Rhubarb
Crumble, and Bumble berry.

Sunday Offerings

December 5th, 2021

Attendance: 35

General	\$ 905.00
Mission & Service	\$ 185.00
White Gift	\$ 200.00

Thank you for your offerings

Please, write your name & amount on envelopes.

There are many ways you can contribute to Grace United Church and our causes.

e-transfer to grace.gan@outlook.com

by cheque -120 Pine ST. Gananoque, On K7G 1C7 -
Sign-up for PAR Forms

https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/form_par-authorization.pdf (Control & Click to open link)

by Credit Card through CanadaHelps.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/118944701RR0001-grace-united-church/> (Control & Click to open link)

Attention All Boards & Groups & Representatives
Your annual reports are due the first week of
January.

Please submit as soon as possible.

Broadview Subscriptions and Renewals.

It is time to renew our Broadview Subscriptions.

The cost for a yearly subscription is \$25 per subscriber for a group of five or more. If you would like to renew your subscription or start to receive the Broadview, there is a form on the table in the Narthex. Fill out the information required and drop a cheque or cash in the offering plate marked **BROADVIEW** or send an e-transfer for \$25 to grace.gan@outlook.com.

Annual Red Wagon Food Drive

The tradition of our advent Red Wagon food drive continues this year.
Here is the list of items being collected each Sunday. Cut the list out and keep it handy for reference. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated.

Dec. 19th: Treats, Cake mixes, Cookies, Puddings, Jello, Apple snacks, Granola & Cereal bars, Potato Chips, Cheesies, Popcorn, Crackers, etc.

The sterling silver baptismal chalice we use today was



created and crafted by Mr. Richard Paddle, a lifelong member of St. Lawrence and Grace United Churches. It was presented to Grace United Church and dedicated Sunday, February 27, 1983. Engraved on the chalice are Jesus' words from Matthew 19:14: "Suffer the little children to come unto me".

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Contact information:

Office (Laurie) 613-382-2161 grace.gan@outlook.com

Church Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:
8:00am to 1:00 p.m. **(Closed on Wednesdays)**

Rev. Takouhi (direct Line) 613-777-0880

Email: RevTakouhi@Terraautopia.ca

Session: Chair: Paul Scott,

Vice Chair: Rhea Roantree, Clerk: Joan Shaw

Board of Stewards: Chair: Carolyn Scott,

Vice Chair: Denise Wood, Secretary: Mary Hausler

Official Board: Chair: Brian Brooks

Vice Chair: Bruce Wilson, Secretary: Diane Nuttall

December 19th – Fourth Sunday of Advent – LOVE

Final Red Wagon – Treats, cookies, chips, etc.

December 24th – Christmas Eve Service – 7:00pm

Sunday, December 26th – NO SERVICE

January 2nd, 2022 – 10:30 am Service - Epiphany Sunday

Worship Leader; Barb Dejeet

January 10th – Undecorating the church at 1:00pm – all welcome.

Important Information

*Sunday Morning Worship is at 10:30 am. Service is also
Broadcast live on YouTube at 10:30 am each Sunday.*

<https://www.facebook.com/GraceUnitedChurchGananoque>
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNVYi-R3mmIG7LnX1jKJnEg>

**The service from the previous week will be shown on
COGECO channel 13 or 700HD at 10:30 am Sunday**

This Community of Faith acknowledges all traditional territories, all ceded and unceded 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.



(Picture: Credit to Indigenous Ministries and Justice – The United Church of Canada)