



## Grace United Church

120 Pine St. Gananoque, ON K7G 1C7

### Ordained Minister

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

### Director of Music

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

### Office Administrator

Laurie Cadue

## November 27, 2022 - Order of Worship

*First Sunday of Advent*

*Beginning of Lectionary Year A*

### Communion Sunday

*World Aids Day – December 1*

## WE GATHER AS ADVENT PEOPLE

**Prelude:** medley *"I Sing a Maid" & "Immaculate Mary"*

**Welcome – Diane Nuttall**

**Community in Action – Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**Centering Music:** *"In Christ there is No East or West"*

### Spiritual Focus:

*"Advent: Learning to Walk in the Dark  
with Hope, Peace, Joy, & Love..."*

### Gathering Call

*(Please Stand as Able)*

### Song of Approach: Voices United #1

*"O Come, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 1, 2, 6, 7)*

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel

that mourns in lowly exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who orders all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and teach us in her ways to go.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

6 O come, O Dayspring, from on high,  
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
O bid our sad divisions cease,  
and be for us the Prince of Peace.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Words: From the Latin Antiphons for Advent. Ca. 9<sup>th</sup> century, trans. John Mason Neal 1851, et al  
Music: 15<sup>th</sup> century plainsong melody. Arr Healey Willan. Words copyright ©The Church Pension  
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*(Please be seated)*

## **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - HOPE**

One: Lighting a candle in the darkness helps us find our way. In darkness we lose direction. We cannot see where we have been or where we are going. A single candle, flickering brightly, helps us find our way again.

**All: “Stir up your might and come to save us. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved”**  
(Psalm 80:2b-3).

*The first candle is lit.*

One: Light one candle; see it glow brightly, so that all may know How one candle shows the way Making our darkness bright as God’s Day. Restore us, O God; help us see your Light shine upon, in and through us.

**All: Dear God, on this first Sunday in Advent, let this light shine brightly as the days grow shorter, so that we will be ready for your Light, Life and Love, to be born in us once again. We pray humbly and sincerely. Amen.**



## **WE SEEK WISDOM**

### **Introduction to Symbols of Christmas: Hanging of the Greens**

*Rev. Takouhi*

### **Song of Expectation: 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.

Words: Catalonia Alberto Taule 1972. English trans. Gertrude C. Suppe 1987 alt.

Music: Alberto Taule, 1972; harm Skinner Chavez-Melo 1988

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### **1) The Garland: God’s Welcome Extended to All People**

**Reader:** A garland often “embraces” the handrails of homes as a symbol of welcome. For the Christian Church at Christmas, it reminds us of God’s welcome for people of all social, economic, and cultural groups. God’s embrace is particularly clear for those who live in constant fear of social ridicule and exclusion.

**Rev. T.:** Mary knew such fear as she realized the social consequence of her decision to parent God’s chosen one, Jesus. As a single, unwed mother, Mary could have faced total exclusion from the community, or even death by stoning.

**Reader:** When Joseph, Mary’s Fiancé, opted to marry her, he broke through all social expectations with bold, new action of Love and Grace.

**Rev.T.:** And so Mary sang a song of deep joy that speaks so clearly of God's radical inclusion...

**Song of Expectation: Voices United # 5**

*"All Earth is Waiting"*

- 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.

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**The Poinsettia: A Symbol of the Unexpected**

**Reader:** The poinsettia is native to Mexico, often growing 10 feet in height. Its "flowers" are actually at the center of the colorful leaves. The petal look-a-likes, the red, white or pink, are actually the leaves. This plant only develops colored leaves when they have been subjected to a specific number of hours of darkness. This unique feature of the poinsettia makes it a special plant revealing that in the darkest times of life, when we trust God, something beautiful can emerge.

**Song of Expectation: Voices United # 5**

*"All Earth is Waiting"*

- 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.

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**2) The Wreaths: A Symbol of Never-Ending Love**

**Rev. T.:** The wreath is made of evergreen. Evergreen trees remind us of the never-ending gift of God's Love. The wreath is shaped into a circle that has no beginning and no end. The Love of God holds us without any human conditions. God seeks us out with tenderness and grace. Like Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah, the priest felt lost and abandoned by God because they did not fit the standards of society – they had no children. Then, just when they had given up all hope, something remarkable happened... A Divine Intervention... A son was born - John the Baptist – who prepared the path of Christ.

**Song of Expectation: Voices United # 5**

*"All Earth is Waiting"*

- 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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**3) Mistletoe: The Promise of Peace**

**Reader:** In ancient times, mistletoe was considered the "meeting place" for warring parties. Under the mistletoe, enemies could exchange the "kiss of peace" and work to let go of anger and really listen to each other and understand one another's point of view. In the presence of God's love we gather, continually grateful for God's forgiveness. As forgiven people, we remind each other of God's forgiveness and mercy every time we greet each other with the Peace of Christ and we say: **One:** Peace be with you.

## **Song of Expectation: 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.

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## **4) The Christmas Tree: A Symbol of Celebration and Rebirth**

**Rev. T. :** The Christmas tree is also an evergreen: a symbol of rebirth in a time of dormancy (winter). The evergreen reminds us that new life is possible even in the "winter" of our lives. The needles on the tree point upward as if joyfully giving thanks to the creator of life. The Christmas tree is full of wonder for small children and adults alike. Its lights cause even the saddest heart to sing.

## **Song of Expectation: Voices United # 5**

*"All Earth is Waiting"*

- 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.

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## **5) The Candles and Lights: God's Promises to Give Light**

**Reader:** The prophet Isaiah spoke of God's Light shining in the darkness of the world. This Light would bless ALL people. This Light is Jesus, the Light of the world. God's promise of Hope, the Prince of Peace, The Cup of Joy and the Everlasting Love – who is the Reason for this Blessed Season. **Amen.**

**Anthem** – "An Advent Alleluia" Arranged by Douglas E. Wagner

### **AN ADVENT COMMUNION LITURGY <sup>1</sup>**

**Invitation to the Feast that is Prepared by the Love of God...**

One: May you know that the God of comfort is with you.

**All: And may you see the God of hope with you.**

One: Open wide our anxious hearts!

**All: We open them to God's peace.**

One: Let us give thanks and share our joy.

**All: In this space and time, we offer God our love and praise.**

**Prayer**

One: The dawn of hope rests on the horizon  
And beams of love reach our doubting hearts.  
We celebrate the newness of this season-  
Waiting to see how the Christ will appear in our world.  
Even in our despair, a glimmer of hope reaches into our twilight  
Beckoning us to breathe and wait...

Our story tells us that the Christ child whose birth we anticipate  
Will one day sit at tables with strangers and friends,  
Building relationships filled with love and grace.

We see this as he fed the multitude,

Turned water into wine,  
 And ate with dear ones the night before his death.  
 He took the bread, blessed it, and broke it.  
*Eat in remembrance of me,* he said.  
 He took the cup, and in his blessing  
 Reminded them that when they sipped from the fruit of the vine  
 To drink in remembrance of him.

Jesus. The Christ. Emmanuel – God with us.  
 Light of the World. The Word of Life.  
 No matter how we know him  
 Or what name we call him,  
 He is our Hope, our Peace, our Joy, and our Love.  
 May the Spirit bless us and these elements as we commune to  
 remember him.

**SHARING THE ELEMENTS**

One: May Your Spirit work in us through these simple yet  
 sacred elements oh God and may we in return feed the  
 world for your Kingdom... Amen.

**THE GIFTS OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

One: Jesus the bread of Life      One: Jesus the True Vine  
**All: Thanks be to God!**      **All: Thanks be to God**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (All):**  
**For the nourishment of spirit, mind, and body,**  
**For hope that we begin to see,**  
**And for comfort from the Prince of Peace,**

**We share our gratitude, Gracious God.  
 Encourage us in these shortened days.  
 Through the long nights of this season,  
 May your hope carry us until dawn arrives again.  
 And Now We Pray the Words of Jesus and we say:  
 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.**



**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE**

**Offertory Song: Voices United # 55 (verse 4)**

*"In the Bleak Midwinter"*

4    *What can I give him, poor as I am?  
 If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
 yet what I can I give him - give my heart.*

**Your Generosity Matters**

**Our Offerings – Supporting God's Ministries:**

*Mindful of the abundance we have received in Christ,  
 we offer ourselves and our gifts to the world.*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:**

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

*(Please stand as able)*

**Song of Going Forth: Voices United #4**

*"God of All Places"*

1. God of all places; present, unseen;  
voice in our silence, song in our midst,  
we are your people, knowing, unsure:  
**come, Lord Jesus, come!**
  
2. God of all dreaming, near and yet far;  
vision unheard of, wake us to rest.  
We are your presence sent forth, afraid:  
**come, Lord Jesus, come!**
  
3. God of all people, dust and the clay;  
breath of a new wind, fire in our hearts,  
light born of heaven, peace on the earth:  
**come, Lord Jesus, come!**

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**Sending Forth & Benediction**

**Choral Amen**

**Postlude:** *"Methodist Pie"* Bradley Kincaid 1925

*Welcome*

as we gather for worship this Sunday morning. If you are a visitor or a newcomer to this Community of Faith, either in person or virtually, we extend a warm welcome. May you come in as a stranger but depart knowing you are part of the family. Thank you for joining us, we look in seeing you again.



**Celebration Candle**

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

May Joy abound and Love Multiply.

**Happy Birthday to Denise Wood**

**Happy 55<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary to Brian & Linda Brooks**

**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. \*\***

***NOTE – Due to privacy laws and confidentiality, the names of people on our list are not printed in the Order of Service.***

There are many ways you can partner up with God's Mission through Grace United Church and help make a difference. by cheque –120 Pine ST.

Gananoque, On K7G 1C7, e-transfer to [grace.gan@outlook.com](mailto:grace.gan@outlook.com)

Sign-up for PAR Forms [https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/form\\_par-authorization.pdf](https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/form_par-authorization.pdf)

by Credit Card through

CanadaHelps. <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/118944701RR0001-grace-united-church/>



### Readers & Ushers needed

Session is looking for people who would like to be a Reader and or Usher for Sunday Services. If you are interested, please, speak to one of the greeters today or contact a member of Session or the Church Office.

### Offerings November 2022

Date	Attend	General	M&S	Local
Nov 6		\$ 907.00	\$ 172.00	\$ 20.00
Nov 13	37	\$ 554.00	\$ 177.00	
Nov 20	32	\$ 1127.00	\$ 332.00	\$ 30.00
Nov 27				
PAR	n/a			
BMO	n/a			

Thank you for your offerings

**(PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME & AMOUNT ON YOUR ENVELOPE)**

### 2023 United Church Calendars

The UCW are selling 2023 Calendars for \$10 each and are available this morning in the Narthex. Funds will be used to help cover the costs of making cards for shut ins.



"The Gananoque Foodbank is once again offering a special Christmas basket to those in need. We are supplying a full course meal, with choices of meat, vegetables, fruit, dessert and breakfast.

We would like to include a special treat; chocolate, fruit cake, candy, something to make the basket a little more special.

The Christmas Committee at the foodbank is reaching out to the churches for assistance in providing something special. Anything you are able to contribute will be greatly appreciated."

### Contact information:

**Office** (Laurie) 613-382-2161 [grace.gan@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:RevTakouhi@Terraautopia.ca)**

**Session:** Chair: Barb Jenkins

Vice Chair: Marg Worth, Clerk: Susan Barwell

**Board of Stewards:** Chair: Denise Wood

Vice Chair: Vacant, Secretary: Diane Nuttall

**Official Board:** Chair: Brian Brooks

Vice Chair: Bruce Wilson, Secretary: Diane Nuttall

**The 2022 Directory is available in the Narthex**

**VIBE (Book Study) – Next Study Group is November 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> – First Sunday of Advent – HOPE**

**Worship Leader, Rev. Takouhi, Music Leader Doug Gifford**

**Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Christmas Market (10 am to 2pm)**

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday of Advent - Peace**

**Worship Leader, Rev. Takouhi,**

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday of Advent - Joy**

**Baptism - Worship Leader, Rev. Takouhi**

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love**

**Worship Leader, Rev. Takouhi**

**Tuesday, December 20, 2022 – Blue Christmas Service 7:00 P.M.**

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Service 7:00 P.M.**

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day Service 10:30am**

**Casual Service in Sanctuary with coffee & muffins**

### Important Information

Service will also be shown live on YouTube.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/GraceUnitedChurchGananoque>

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