



## 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

## December 18, 2022 - Order of Worship

### Fourth Sunday of Advent – LOVE

*Hanukkah (Chanukah) Begins*



## WE GATHER AS ADVENT PEOPLE

**Prelude:** *Variations on "Puer Nobis Nascitur"*

*(Unto Us a Child is Born) - Melody by Gustav Holst*

**Welcome – Brian Brooks**

**Community in Action – Birthdays & Anniversaries**

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

### 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 #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.

Words: Brian Wren 1985

Music: Joan Collier Fogg 1987

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*(Please be seated)*

### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - LOVE**

One: Once God's plan was a mystery, hidden from our sight. Now God has disclosed what was kept secret for so very long; he has brought it out in the light. In the brighter light on this fourth Sunday in Advent, may we see more clearly the glory of God in Christ and sing of the steadfast love of the Lord forever.

**All: "With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens"** (Psalm 89:1b-2).

*All four Advent candles are lit.*

**One:** Light four candles, see them glow  
Brightly, so that all may know  
How four candles show the way  
Making our darkness bright as God's day.

**All: Holy One, we declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

One: Let us Pray in the name of the Source of ALL Love.  
We pray as one family.

**All: Dear God, your faithfulness has been great, leading us to this day of anticipation and celebration. May the glorious light of your steadfast love shine brightly in us and through us, that all may give you praise and glory. In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.**

### **Song for Youth and Young at Heart**

*"I've Got Love Like a River" (2X)*

I've got love like a river  
I've got Love like a river  
I've got Love like a river in my soul  
I've got Love like a river  
I've got Love like a river  
I've got Love like a river in my soul

Words and music: African-American Spiritual  
Adapted from Voices United #577  
Public Domain.

### **Time with Youth and Young at Heart**

*"What is Hanukkah?"*

### **Song of Good News Voices United #: 73**

*"The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"*

1 The virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
and they say that his name is Jesus.  
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)  
he come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)  
he come from the glorious kingdom.  
Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!  
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)  
he come from the glorious kingdom.



2

The angels sang when the baby was born,  
the angels sang when the baby was born,  
the angels sang when the baby was born,  
and they say that his name is Jesus.

He come from the glory, (clap, clap)  
he come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)  
he come from the glorious kingdom.  
Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!  
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)  
he come from the glorious kingdom.

3

The shepherds came where the baby was born,  
the shepherds came where the baby was born,  
the shepherds came where the baby was born,  
and they say that his name is Jesus.

He come from the glory, (clap, clap)  
he come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)  
he come from the glorious kingdom.  
Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!  
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)  
he come from the glorious kingdom.

Words and Music: West Indies Carol, from Edric Conner Collection of  
West Indian Spirituals 1945. Arr. John Barnard 1982  
Words and music copyright © 1945 Boosey & Co. Ltd, copyright renewed.

**Scripture Reader: Linda Brooks**

Reader: Listen for the Sacred Story,  
**All: our ears and hearts are open.**

**Prophet Isaiah 7:10-16** (NRSV)

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

**Matthew 1:18-25** (NRSV)

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the

Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Reader: For the Sacred Story is God's story,

**All: for the Sacred Story is our story,**

Reader: for the Sacred Story is our source and inspiration.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** –*The Light of Christmas* - Joel Raney

*The congregation is invited to sing the first two verses of Silent Night*

- 1 Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight:  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,  
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

**Life Lesson** *"Love: God's Dream for the World!"*

## WE TRUST GOD'S GRACE

*(Please stand as able)*

### Song of Hope and Healing Voices United # 333

*"Love Divine, All Love Excelling"*

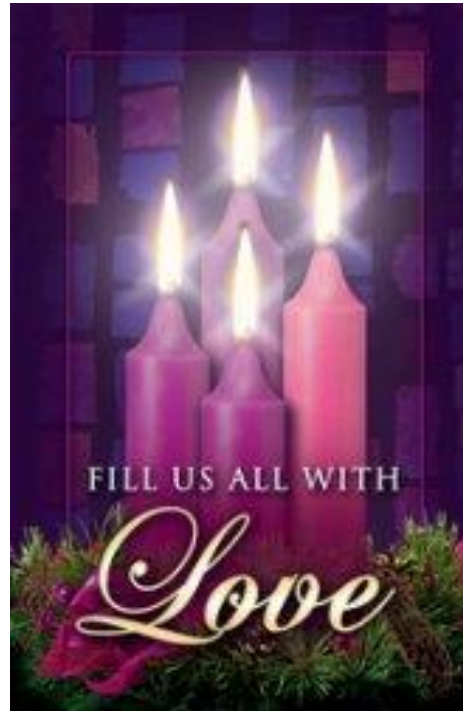
- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.
- 2 Come, almighty to deliver;  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.
- 3 Finish, then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee,  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley 1747  
Music: Rowland Huw Prichard ca.  
1838  
Public Domain

*(Please be seated)*

**Prayers of Hope and Healing:  
The Lord's Prayer (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.**



**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.*

Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti ca. 1872

Music: Gustav Theodor Holst 1906

Public Domain.

**Your Generosity Matters:**

*Your Generosity Supports Life Changing Arts Program for Children*

**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 (All):**

**God of Love, we offer you our gifts, that Love may reach to our troubled minds and hearts. Help us use our gifts to spread your love and your love alone. Amen.**

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

*(Please stand as able)*

**Going Forth: 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.

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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### **Sending Forth & Benediction**

### **Choral Amen**

**Postlude:** *Variations on Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* - Melody by Felix Mendelssohn

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## *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.

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### **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.**



## **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 Carol Green & Edna McCuaig**

**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.**

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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/>

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### **Milk Bags for Beds**

**Please keep your milk bags and bring them to the church. These are being used to make beds for the less fortunate. A box is at the back of the church to put your clean milk bags in.**

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#### **Offerings December 2022**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Attend</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>M&amp;S</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>White</b>
<b>Dec 4</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>\$ 1045.00</b>	<b>\$ 462.00</b>	<b>\$ 23.00</b>	
<b>Dec 11</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>\$ 1,407.00</b>	<b>\$ 452.00</b>		<b>\$ 1,205.00</b>
<b>Dec 18</b>					
<b>Dec 24</b>					
<b>Dec 25</b>					
<b>PAR</b>					
<b>BMO</b>					

**Thank you for your offerings**

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

The Stewards of Grace United Church wish to thank all of you for your financial contributions of time and money during the year. As we all get more comfortable in group settings, you will find more activity being held in our church building, with more activity comes an increase in operating costs of hydro, water and heat, please see if you have any room for an increase in your offerings. No amount is too small, thank you so much for all you do to keep this church family strong.

## Blue Christmas

A service of remembrance and hope.

We invite you for a service of reflection, comfort and hope for hurting hearts.

**Tuesday, December 20th at 7:00 pm**  
Grace United Church,  
120 Pine St., Gananoque



## **Christmas Day Service, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am** **"Christmas with Jammies"**

**Casual Worship Celebration with Carols, Christmas Stories,  
Cupcakes & Cookies.**

**Bring your own, Coffee, Tea, Cider or Hot chocolate.**



## 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.**



## Undecorating the Church

Volunteers are needed on January 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am, to undecorate the church.

### **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) – Wednesday evenings VIA ZOOM**

**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**

**Sunday, January 1, 2023 – Happy New Year!!**

**Service will be Virtual - No Service in the Sanctuary**

### 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.