



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

January 8, 2023 - Order of Worship

Baptism of the Lord

WE GATHER AS BAPTIZED AND BAPTIZING PEOPLE

Prelude: *Voluntary I: Adagio - William Russell*

Welcome – Shirley Clark

Community in Action – Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Spiritual Focus:

“Baptism Reminds Us of Who We Are...”

Gathering Call (Responsive)

One: Come, People of God!

All: We come, called by God to be witnesses to the Light.

One: with John the Baptizer,

All: with all the disciples,

One: with our sisters, brothers, and siblings throughout the ages,

All: we gather to sing, pray, to worship our God!

One: Alleluia!

All: Alleluia, amen!

Richard Bott, Vancouver B.C. (The Gathering 2022-2023 – page 41)

(Please Stand as Able)

Song of Approach: More Voices #135

“Called by Earth and Sky”

Refrain:

**Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of Life, sanctified
Called by earth and sky**

1. Precious these waters endless seas, deep ocean’s dream
Waters of healing, rivers of rain
The wash of love again

Refrain:

**Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of Life, sanctified
Called by earth and sky**

2. Precious this gift the air we breathe, wind born and free
Breath of the Spirit blown through this place
Our gathering and our grace

Refrain:

**Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of Life, sanctified
Called by earth and sky**

3. Precious these mountains ancient sands, vast fragile land
Seeds of our wakening rooted and strong
Creation’s faithful song

Refrain:

**Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of Life, sanctified
Called by earth and sky**

4. Precious the fire that lights the way, bright dawning day
Fire of passion sorrows undone
Our faith and justice on

Refrain:

**Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of Life, sanctified
Called by earth and sky**

Words and music: Pat Mayberry 2005

Arr. Margaret Stubington 2005

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(Please be seated)

WE SEEK WISDOM

Prayer of Illumination (All)

Our Ever-Present Hope, draw us close to your message of promise and possibility that we might discern your call to us. Enable us to accept with receptive spirits and respond with eager hearts. Stir in us a desire to love unconditionally, even as you love us unconditionally. We ask, in the name of Ever-Present Christ, your beloved child. Amen.

Laura J. Turnbull, Penticton, B.C. (*The Gathering 2022-2023 – page 41*)

Song of Transformation: Voices United # 625

"I Feel the Winds of God"

1 I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift,
though heavy oft with drenching spray
and torn with many a rift;
if hope but light the water's crest,

3

and Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at his behest,
and brave another cruise.

2 It is the wind of God that dries
my vain regretful tears,
until with braver thoughts shall rise
the purer, brighter years;
if cast on shores of selfish ease
or pleasure I should be,
O let me feel your freshening breeze,
and I'll put back to sea.

3 If ever I forget your love
and how that love was shown,
lift high the blood-red flag above;
it bears your name alone.
Great pilot of my onward way,
you will not let me drift.
I feel the winds of God today;
today my sail I lift.

Words: Jessie Adams 1907

Music: English and Irish traditional melody, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams 1906

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Time with Youth and Young at Heart:

"You are Beloved of God"

4

Repeating Prayer

Song of Good News: Voices United #644

"I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry" (verses: 1, 2, & 7)

- 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.
- 7 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.

Words and music: John Ylvisaker 1985

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WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES

Scripture Reader: Elaine Davidson

Reader: Listen for the Sacred Story,

All: our ears and hearts are open.

Prophet Isaiah 42:1-9 (NRSV)

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the

nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Matthew 3:13-17 (NRSV)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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 Gift of Love* - Hal Hopson

Life Lesson "*Baptism: Accepting God's Love and Call!*"

Song of Surrender & Commitment: More Voices # 85

"Take, O Take Me as I Am" (3x)

Take, O take me as I am;

summon out what I shall be;

Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1995. Music: John L. Bell 19095

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WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

Prayers of Hope and Healing – We reflect in the Baptismal Font

(We hold quiet spaces with our silent prayers):

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.**

Your Generosity Matters: "*A Step Towards Peace*"

Our Offerings – Supporting God's Ministries:

Mindful of the abundance we have received from God,

we offer ourselves and our gifts to the world.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (All):

O God, in baptism, you claim us as your own.

We are a visible symbol of your ever-present love,

a love that we remember and give thanks for this day.

Therefore, we now give you symbols to represent *our* love.

May the money and time we offer show our devotion and

thanks to you. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Taylor Croissant, Southminster U.C., Lethbridge, Alta. (*The Gathering 2022-2023 – page 41*)



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

(Please stand as able)

Song of Going Forth: Voices United #710

"Shall We Gather at the River"

- 1 Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod;
with its crystal tide for ever
flowing by the throne of God?
Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.
- 2 Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown.
Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.
- 3 Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease,
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace.
Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;

gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

Words and music: Robert S. Lowry 1864

Public domain.

Sending Forth & Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude: *Voluntary I: Spirituoso - William Russell*

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.

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.

Our sincere condolences to Connie & Steve Thompson and family on the passing of Connie's mother Shirley Warren. Shirley passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 3rd at Carveth Care Centre. The service will be held at Tompkins Funeral Home on Tuesday, January 9th at 11:00am, visitation is on Monday, 3 to 7pm. Our prayers are with the family.



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 Vicki Leakey and Tom Tindal

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.

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

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

[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/>

Donation Envelopes for 2023 are out and ready for pick up. PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME ON YOUR ENVELOPES AS NUMBERS HAVE CHANGED. If you would like envelopes, there is a sign-up sheet available on the table.

Offerings January 2023

Date	Attend	General	M&S	Local	White
Jan 1					
Jan 8					
Jan 17					
Jan 22					
Jan 29					
PAR					
BMO					

Thank you for your offerings

(PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME & AMOUNT ON YOUR ENVELOPE)

Undecorating the Church

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

YOGA – Monday nights at 6:00pm and Thomas will be trying out Wednesday afternoon classes at 3:30pm. If interested, you must preregister through his website. www.yoga1000islands.com

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.

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: 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

Sunday, January 8th – 10:30am Worship Service, Rev Takouhi

Baptism of the Lord, renew our Baptism promises

Sunday, January 15th – 10:30am Worship Service, Rev. Takouhi

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.