

United Church Lapel Pins are available for all who would like one. Donations are appreciated. The pins are located on the table with the Sunday Donation Envelopes at the back of the church.

Contact information:

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

Boards of Grace United

Session: Chair: Barb Jenkins:

613-583-2077 barbjenkins1@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Marg Worth , Clerk: Tammy Fergusson

Board of Stewards: Chair: Denise Wood:

613-876-7739 seelion89@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Cliff Edwards, Secretary: Diane Nuttall

Official Board: Chair: Brian Brooks

613-382-2385 brooks525@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Bruce Wilson, Secretary: Diane Nuttall

The 2023 Directory will be out soon

If you are not able to join us in person or want to watch the service again.

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.

*Welcome
To
Grace United Church*





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

March 26, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March: Women's History Month

Order of Worship

**43rd Anniversary of the Assassination
of Archbishop Oscar Romero March 24, 1980**

WE GATHER AS UNITED AND UNITING PEOPLE

Prelude: *Meditation on "Passion Chorale" - Hans Leo Hassler*

Welcome – Raymond & Pam Shea

Community in Action – Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Spiritual Focus:

*"The **Season of Lent** Reminds Us of **Who We are**
and to **Whom We Belong...**"*

Lighting the Christ Candle

(The Christ candle is lit.)

Gathering Call (Responsive) *Ezek. 37:3; Ps. 130:7*

One: O mortal, can these bones live?

All: Only the Lord God knows.

One: O people, hope in the Lord.

**All: With the Lord there is steadfast love
and great power to redeem.**

(Please Stand as Able)

Gathering Song of Praise: Voices United #373

"As Comes the Breath of Spring"

- 1 As comes the breath of spring
with light and mirth and song,
so does your Spirit bring
new days brave, free, and strong.
You come with thrill of life
to chase hence winter's breath,
to hush to peace the strife
of sin that ends in death.
- 2 You come like dawning day
with flaming truth and love,
to chase all glooms away,
to brace our wills to prove
how wise, how good to choose
the truth and its brave fight,
to prize it, win or lose,
and live on your delight.

3 You come like songs at morn
that fill the earth with joy,
till we, in Christ newborn,
new strength in praise employ.
 You come to rouse the heart
 from drifting to despair,
 through high hopes to impart
 life with an ampler air.

4 You breathe and there is health;
you move and there is power;
you whisper, there is wealth
of love, your richest dower.
 Your presence is to us
 like summer in the soul;
 your joy shines forth and then
 life blossoms to its goal.

Words: David Lakie Ritchie 1929, alt.

Music: Charles J. Dale 1904

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(Please be seated)

Prayer of the Day (All): John 11:1–45

Lord God, Great I AM, you are resurrection and life. As we worship you
this day show us who we are: bearers of good news, messengers of
resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Time with Youth and Young at Heart:

"Jesus invites the community to help..." – John 11: 1-45

Repeating Prayer

(Please Stand as Able)

Song of Assurance: More Voices #585

"Jesus Bids Us Shine"

- 1 Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light,
like a little candle burning in the night.
In this world is darkness, so let us shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.
- 2 Jesus bids us shine first of all for him;
well he sees and knows it if our light grows dim:
Jesus walks beside us to help us shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.
- 3 Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around;
many kinds of darkness in the world are found:
sin, and want and sorrow; so we must shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.

Words: Susan Warner 1868, alt.

Music: Edwin O. Excell

Public Domain.

(Please be seated)

Scripture Reader: Raymond & Pam Shea

Reader: Listen for the Sacred Story,

All: our ears and hearts are open.

Gospel: John 11:1-45 (NRSV)

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his

fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But

some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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 – *A Green Hill Far Away* - Don Besig, Nancy Price

Life Lesson "*Beyond Resurrection...*"

(Please remain seated)

Song of Trust: Voices United # 472

"O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts"

- 1 O Jesus, joy of loving hearts,
the fount of life, the light of all
from every bliss that earth imparts
we turn, unfilled, to hear your call.
- 2 Your truth unchanged has ever stood;
you plead with all to call on you,
to those who seek you, you are good,
to those who find you, life is new.
- 3 We taste your everliving bread,
and long to feast upon you still;
we drink of you, the fountainhead,
our thirsting souls from you we fill.
- 4 O Jesus, ever with us stay;
make all our moments calm and bright;
chase the bleak night of sin away;
shed o'er the world your holy light.

Words: 12th century; trans. Ray Palmer 1858, alt.

Music: Henry Percy Smith 1874

Public Domain.

Prayers of Hope and Healing

The Prayer that Jesus taught His followers (ALL)

The New Zealand Anglican Lord's Prayer

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain
our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

Amen. – *The New Zealand Book of Prayer | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa*

Your Generosity Matters:

Your Belief and Support Make all the Difference.

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): Ezek. 37:11–14

Holy God, giver of life, we thank you for raising us up and joining us together as one people, your people, flesh, and bone in the body of Christ. As you have delivered us from death, use our lives to proclaim the good news of new and abundant life. **Amen.**

<p>GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD TO BE THE CHURCH</p>
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(Please stand as able)

Song of Going Forth: Voices United #716

"My Life Flows On"

- 1 My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.
I hear the sweet, though far off hymn
that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear the music ringing:
It finds an echo in my soul -
how can I keep from singing?
- 2 What though my joys and comforts die?
My Saviour still is living.
What though the shadows gather 'round?
A new song Christ is giving.
No storm can shake my inmost calm,
while to that Rock I'm clinging:
since Love commands both heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

- 3 When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,
and hear their death knells ringing:
when friends rejoice both far and near,
how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell and dungeon vile
our thoughts to them are winging:
when friends by shame are undefiled,
how can I keep from singing?
- 4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin;
I see the blue above it;
and day by day this pathway smooths,
since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing:
all things are mine since I am Christ's -
how can I keep from singing?

Words and music: Robert S. Lowry 1869, alt.

Sending Forth & Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude: *March (from "Occasional Overture") - G.F. Handel*

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.

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 Gillian McCarney

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 Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) Forms

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/>

Thank you to all who continue to support the FUNDSCRIP gift card fundraising program. Reminder, Gift Cards can be ordered anytime you like and shipped right to your home. Also each month, there are specials that give back more to Grace United. If you need help placing an order speak to Denise Wood or Linda Brooks.

PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME & AMOUNT ON YOUR DONATION ENVELOPES
 If you would like envelopes, there is a sign-up sheet available on the table in the Narthex.

Offerings March 2023

Date	Attend	General	M&S	Local	LENT
Mar 5	39	\$ 1089.72	\$ 232.50	\$ 25.00	
Mar 12	53	\$ 70.50	\$170.50	\$20.00	\$50.00
Mar 19	42	\$ 1605.00	\$ 170.00	\$.15.00	
Mar 26					
PAR					
BMO					

Thank you for your generosity.

Your Lenten Offerings are for the United Church Women (UCW) and provide funds allowing them to support others in our community through various outreach programs.

Room for Rent?

Do you or anyone you know have a room that they would like to rent for the summer and possibly longer?

A young lad who will be graduating in the fall is looking for a place to stay in Gananoque this summer and longer if possible. She has a job with the Thousand Islands Playhouse and would need lodging from the end of April until September or longer if possible. Contact the church office for more information.

Pies are now available to purchase. Please call Carol Currie at 613-382-4376 to place your order. Apple, Blueberry, Bumbleberry, Cherry, Peach, Rhubarb, Strawberry & Strawberry Rhubarb are \$15 – Raspberry is \$20 – (no crumble topping at this time.)

Pick up Date is Thursday, March 6th. 3pm to 6pm.

Dick Abrams is now at Carveth Nursing home, room 252. If you happen to be at Carveth, please drop by and say hi to him.

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023 - "Washing of the Hands" at 7:00pm. Rev. Takouhi will lead the gathering.

Walk of the Cross – Friday, April 7th, 2023, 10:00am. Starting at Christ Church, proceeding through town with various stops along the way to Grace United Church. All are welcome.

Grace United Church presents,
"The Servant at Supper"

Good Friday, April 7, 2023 at 3pm
 Eleanor Glenn describes the events taking place as she witnesses them at:

The Last Supper - The Crucifixion
The Resurrection

All are Welcome – Good will Offering



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)