

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:

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

Email: RevTakouhi@Terraautopia.ca

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

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-R3mmlG7LnX1jKJnEg>

<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



The Eternal Flame in Yerevan, Armenia
(The center of the circle is at a depth of 1.5 meters)
dedicated to the 1.5 million Armenians killed during
the genocide of 1915.



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

Motion M-587 (2015) Declares Month of April as Genocide Recognition and Condemnation Month in Canada.

April 23, 2023

We Remember the 108 Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide

Third Sunday of Easter

Order of Worship

WE GATHER AS UNITED AND UNITING PEOPLE

Prelude: *Meditation on "Just As I Am"*

Welcome – Veronica Shepherd

Community in Action – Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Spiritual Focus:

"With God's Spirit there is Life, & More ABUNDANT Life!"

Lighting the Christ Candle

(The Christ candle is lit.)

Gathering Call (Responsive)

One: Blessed be the God of our Saviour, Jesus Christ! *1 Pet. 1:3–9*

All: God has given us a new birth in the living hope of the resurrection.

One: God has given us an inheritance that is imperishable and unfading.

All: In this we rejoice, even when difficulties surround us.

One: For although we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and believe in him because his Spirit is evident to us.

All: The outcome of our faith is Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that surpasses all understanding.

Thanks be to God!

(Please stand as able)

Gathering Song of Praise: Voices United #580

"Faith of Our Fathers"

- 1 Faith of our fathers, living still
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy,
whene'er we hear that glorious word:
faith of our fathers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.
- 2 Faith of our mothers, daring faith,
your work for Christ is love revealed,
spreading God's word from pole to pole,
making love known and freedom real:
faith of our mothers, holy faith,
we will be true to you till death.

3 Faith of our sisters, brothers too,
who still must bear oppression's might,
raising on high, in prisons dark,
the cross of Christ still burning bright:
faith for today, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.

4 Faith born of God, O call us yet;
bind us with all who follow you,
sharing the struggle of your cross
until the world is made anew.
Faith born of God, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.

Words: v. 1 Frederick W. Faber 1849, v v. 1-4 Joseph R. Alfred 1981, alt.
Music: Henri Frederick Hemy 1864; adapt. James George Walton 1874
Words (v v. 2-4) copyright © 1981 Joseph R. Alfred
Reprinted with permission under One License A-736946. All rights reserved.

(Please be seated)

A Prayer of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide – April 24, 1915¹ (All):

Holy and life-giving God,
we come to you today with trust,
knowing that your Spirit hovers over all existence,
bringing life out of nothingness,
beauty out of ashes,
and resurrection from the depths of the earth.

3



Today, we remember the atrocities of the Ottoman Empire, that was marked on April 24, 1915, when many Armenian priests, scholars, and community leaders were lined up and assassinated ruthlessly. We also remember many Armenians who were deported and sent into exile in the deserts. Some survived by crossing rivers of living water and found new life.

Tender God, we cry for all the victims of the Armenian Genocide. The cry of the 1.5 million Armenian victims can still be heard, and the soil absorbing their blood still refuses to yield.

God of Life, the Armenian Genocide was one of the worst atrocities of the 20th century, Turkey attempting to eliminate the Armenian race, the very first nation to accept Christianity as a nation;* but the oppressor was defeated because your persistent love stands by the oppressed.

Therefore, today, we praise you for your grace, mercy, and power upon the Armenians, whose faith remains to be their compass, whose hope helps them soar, and whose joy helps them sing and dance even in despair.

We pray with thanksgiving,
in the name of the One who was, and is, and shall be forever. **Amen.**

4



¹ Copyright © 2023 by Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian & TerraUtopia Inc. Reproduction in whole or in part of this publication may be used by all churches in worship and be reproduced for the purposes of worship in their church bulletin, online, and other gatherings.

WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES

Time with Youth and Young at Heart

"Armenia: The First Christian Nation..."

Prayer (All):

Dear God, Thank You for your Love.

This morning we are grateful that your Love reaches to the ends of the world and changes lives to the better.

Your promises never get lost, just like the Spirit of Jesus. Help us to be open to your promises that transform us and call us to transform the world. In Jesus name.

Amen.

Song of Illumination: Voices United #376

"Spirit of the Living God"

- 1 Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
- 2 Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!

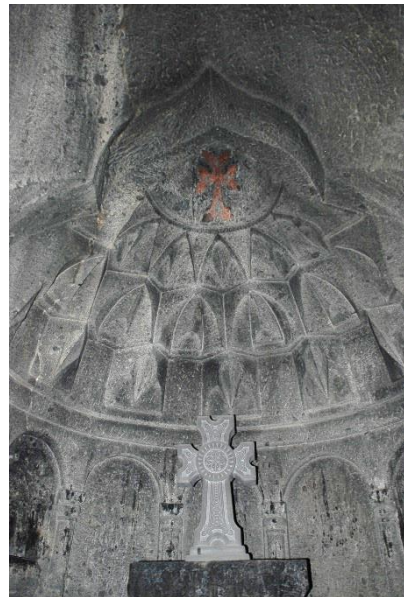
Words: v.1, Daniel Iverson 1926; v.2, Michael Baughen 1982

Music: Daniel Iverson 1926; arr. Darryl Nixon 1987

Words (v.1) and music copyright © 1935, 1963 Birdwing Music.

Words (v.2) copyright © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.

Used with permission under One License #A-736946. All rights reserved.



Scripture Reader: Denise Wood

Reader: Listen for the Sacred Story,

All: our ears and hearts are open.

Hebrew Bible: Ezekiel 37:1-14 (NRSV)

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall

know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

Reader: Here ends today's reading.

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 – *I Believe* - Drake, Shirl, Stillman, Graham; arr. Harding

Life Lesson "Hope: An Illogical Answer"

Song of Assurance: More Voices #90

"Don't Be Afraid" (2X)

Don't be afraid.

My Love is stronger,

my love is stronger than your fear.

Don't be afraid.

My Love is stronger,

And I have promised, promised to be always near.

Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1995

Music: John L. Bell, 1995

Words and music copyright © 1995, 2007 by WGRG, Iona Community, Scotland
Reprinted with permission under One License A-736946. All rights reserved.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

Prayers of Hope and Healing

Հայր մեր - Hayr mer - Our Father- Sung in Armenian

Choughik Dimirdjian & Rev. Takouhi

Music: Makar Grigori Yekmalyan

Your Generosity Matters

Real-Time Relief Really Makes a World of Difference: Thivan Hoang's Work

Our Offerings – Supporting God's Ministries:

*Our offerings make the deserts sing with Living Water
and quench the thirst of many who thirst.*

(Please stand as able)

Offertory Song: Voices United #541

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

Words: Thomas Ken ca. 1674

Music: Genevan Psalter 1551

Public domain.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (All): Ps. 116:17

Almighty God, by your grace, accept the fruit of our labor and the offering of our lives. Let us be a sacrifice of thanksgiving in union with our risen Lord, who lives in us and through our actions of Love. **Amen.**

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

(Please stand as able)

Song of Going Forth: Voices United #684

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

- 1 Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:
- 2 Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
 O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
 so much to be consoled as to console,
 to be understood as to understand,
 to be loved as to love with all my soul.
- 3 Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Words: attrib. to St. Francis 1220

Music: Sebastian Temple 1967; arr. Betty Pulkingham 1976

Music copyright © 1968 Franciscan Communications Centre.

Reprinted by permission under One License A-73-6946. All rights reserved.

Sending Forth & Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude: *"Arrival of the Queen of Sheba" (from "Solomon") - 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 Joan Sword, Connie Paddle and Connor Abrams. A very special birthday to Helen Merkley who celebrates 102 years this week.

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 CreditCard through CanadaHelps.

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

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 April 2023

Date	Attend	General	M&S	Local	LENT
April 2	51	\$ 2,002.50	\$ 492.50	\$ 125.00	\$ 70.00
April 9	89	\$ 1,515.50	\$ 430.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 25.00
April 16	42	\$ 782.50	\$ 157.50		
April 23					
April 30					
PAR					
BMO					

Thank you for your generosity.

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)

Official Board Meeting – today following service.

Visioning Committee Pot-Luck Lunch, April 30th following service.

Guest, Rev. Dr. Peter Bartlett. Join us as we share a time of fellowship and a discussion about the future of the church. Bring your favourite dish to share. **All are invited.** A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex.

Mark your Calendars

Mary’s Merry Minstrels are back.

Saturday, May 13 2023 at 7:00pm

With a new program, of Old Time Country and Gospel Music.

Join us for some toe tapping, hand clapping music.

All are welcome – by Donation.

