

**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.**

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**Contact information:**

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

Email: [RevTakouhi@Terraautopia.ca](mailto:RevTakouhi@Terraautopia.ca)

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**Office** (Laurie Cadue) 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)**

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**Boards of Grace United**

**Session:** Chair: Barb Jenkins:

613-583-2077      [barbjenkins1@gmail.com](mailto:barbjenkins1@gmail.com)

Vice Chair: Marg Worth      Clerk: Tammy Fergusson

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

613-876-7739      [seelion89@gmail.com](mailto:seelion89@gmail.com)

Vice Chair: Cliff Edwards,      Secretary: Diane Nuttall

**Official Board:** Chair: Brian Brooks

613-382-2385      [brooks525@gmail.com](mailto:brooks525@gmail.com)

Vice Chair: Bruce Wilson,      Secretary: Diane Nuttall

**The 2023 Directory will be out soon**

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

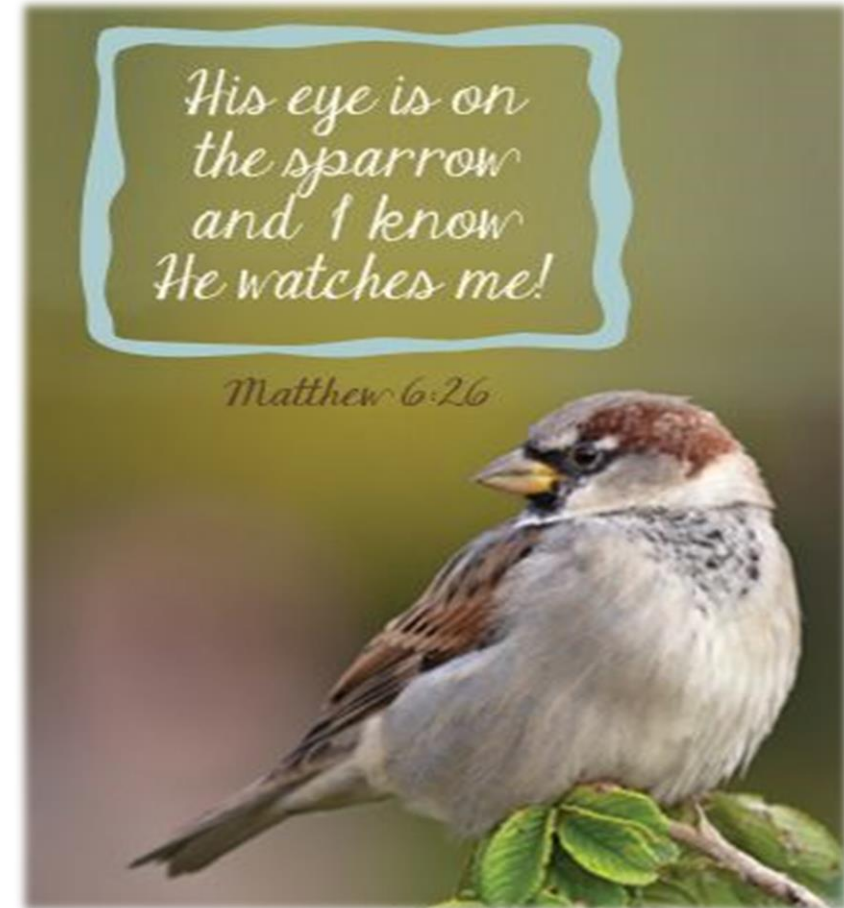
*Service will also be shown live on YouTube.*

<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



**May 21, 2023**



## 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

May 21, 2023

### Ascension Sunday

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Worship Leader, Rev. Kathy Walton

*Order of Worship*

## WE GATHER AS UNITED AND UNITING PEOPLE

**Prelude:** *Largo (from 'Xerxes') - G.F. Handel*

**Welcome – Diane Kirkby & Tom Marlor**

**Community in Action – Birthdays & Anniversaries**

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

### Spiritual Focus:

*How are we to be separate from the world we live in, yet love it still?*

### Lighting the Christ Candle

*(The Christ candle is lit.)*

**The First Reading: Acts 1:6-14 "The Ascension of Christ."**

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not

for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of<sup>[a]</sup> James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

### Gathering Call (Responsive):

One: Christ among us, Christ within us, Christ beside us.

**All: We have gathered as your friends and family to hear your story, our story.**

One: And to lift our hearts, our minds, our listening ears for your blessing.

**All: Gather us in and send us out, strengthened, refreshed, and filled with your spirit. In song and silence, we worship the Risen One.**

*(Please stand as able)*

**Gathering Song of Praise: Voices United # 336**

“Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

- 1 Christ whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ the true, the only light,  
sun of righteousness, arise,  
triumph o'er the shades of night.  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
daystar, in my heart appear.
- 2 Dark and cheerless is the morn  
unaccompanied by thee;  
joyless is the day's return,  
till thy mercy's beams I see,  
till they inward light impart,  
glad my eyes and warm my heart.
- 3 Visit then this soul of mine,  
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, radiancy divine,  
scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display,  
shining to the perfect day.

Words: Charles Wesley 1740, alt.

Music: (Tune: Dix – VU 81) Conrad Kocher 1838, adapt. Wm. H. Monk 1861

Public domain.

*(Please be seated)*

**Gathering Prayer (All):**

**Holy God and Loving Christ, we have come to celebrate with you a reunion of spirits, a return and rebinding of the great glory of heaven. We are awed by the story of the Risen One. We dare to claim your story as our own inspiration and seek to live your love in our lives each day. Find within each one of us the talents you have given us to steward, strengthen us to use them faithfully, and help us to live as your servants in our world. In Christ's own name we pray. Amen.**

**Song of Assurance:**

**Voices United # 213** *“Rejoice the Lord is King”*

- 1 Rejoice the Lord is King!  
Your risen Lord adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing  
and triumph evermore.  
**Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:  
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!**
- 2 Jesus the Saviour reigns,  
the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our sins,  
he took his seat above. **R**
- 3 God's kingdom cannot fail;  
Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;  
the keys of death and hell  
are to our Jesus given. **R**

4 Rejoice in glorious hope,  
for Christ, the judge, shall come  
to glorify the saints  
for their eternal home.

We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;  
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

Words: Charles Wesley 1746, alt.

Music: John Darwall 1770

Public domain.

## WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES

### Time with Youth and Young at Heart

#### Prayer of Illumination (All)

**Holy One, in the words that we share from the stories of our faith, awaken our spirits to the wonder of your love, and the gifts of your people. Open the ears of our hearts, that our mouths and our hands may be more effective in sharing your good news. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

**Scripture Reader: Diane Kirkby/Tom Marlor**

Reader: Listen for the Sacred Story,

**All: our ears and hearts are open.**

#### **Gospel of John 17: 1-11(NRSV) *Jesus Prays for His Disciples***

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people,<sup>a</sup> to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that

they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Reader: Here ends today's reading.

May the Spirit of Wisdom add understanding to these words.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem:** *There Is a Light* - Michael Barrett

**Reflection:** *In the World, Not Of It – a Riddle*

**Hymn: Voices United #591 "Jesus United by Your Grace"**

1 Jesus, united by your grace,  
and each to each endeared,  
with confidence we seek your face,  
and know our prayer is heard.

- 2 Help us to see in each a friend,  
each other's cross to bear;  
let all their friendly aid extend,  
and feel the other's care.
- 3 Up unto you, our living head,  
let us in all things grow,  
till you have made us free indeed  
and faithful here below.
- 4 Drawn by the lodestone of your love,  
let all our hearts unite;  
let us toward each other move,  
and move toward your light.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1742, alt.

Music: Thomas Augustine Arne 1762

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## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

### Prayers of Hope and Healing

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER, A Paraphrase: Voices United #916 (All):**

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and what 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 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 for ever. **Amen.**

### **Your Generosity Matters:**

*Rainbow Camp® Welcomes 2SLGBTQIA+ Young People and Allies*

### **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 after Offering (All):**

Creator God, you have blessed our lives with relationships that both  
inspire and challenge.

We offer these gifts so that we might continue to build relationships  
with one another and with your whole creation.

Bless these gifts that they may bring wholeness and life abundance to all your people.  
We pray. **Amen.**

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

*(Please stand as able)*

**Song of Going Forth: Voices United 420 "Go To the World"**

- 1 Go to the world! Go into all the earth.  
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,  
baptising as the sign of our rebirth.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
- 2 Go to the world! Go into every place.  
Go live the Word of God's redeeming grace.  
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
- 3 Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray;  
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.  
As servant Church, you follow Christ's own way.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
- 4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,  
for I am with you 'til the age shall end,  
when all the hosts of glory cry 'Amen!'  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Words: Sylvia Dunstan 1985 Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams 1906  
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## Sending Forth & Benediction

### Choral Amen

**Postlude:** *Overture to the "Fireworks Music" - G.F. Handel*

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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.*

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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 Betty Matthews, Christina Kaya, Reta Berry and Shirley Clark. Happy 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Gerard & Laurie Cadue.**

**Would you like your Birthday or Anniversary added to our announcements contact Laurie at the church Office and give her the details.**

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 Pre-Authorized Remittance (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 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 May 2023**

Date	Attend	General	M&S	Local
May 7	44	\$ 627.50	\$ 152.50	
May 14	47	\$ 639.50	\$ 177.50	
May 21				
May 28				
PAR		\$ 1210.00	\$ 343.50	\$ 12.50
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)

**Coming up this week at Grace United....**

A monthly calendar is also available in the Narthex.

<b>Sunday, May 21</b> 10:30 am	<b>Office Closed</b> Morning Worship
<b>Monday, May 22</b>	<b>Office CLOSED - Victoria Day</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 23</b> 9 – Noon 5:30 pm	Office 8 am to 1 pm Quilters Boot Camp
<b>Wednesday, May 24</b> 3:30 pm 2:30 – 8:30	<b>Office Closed</b> YOGA 1000 Islands Directory Photos
<b>Thursday, May 25</b> 10:30 am 1:00 pm 5:30 pm 2:30 – 8:30	<b>Office 8 am to 1 pm</b> Choir Practice MELT Exercise Boot Camp Directory Photos
<b>Friday, May 26</b> 10:00 to 12:00 2:30 to 8:30	<b>Office 8 am to 1 pm</b> Conversational French Directory Photos
<b>Saturday, May 27</b> 9:30 to 3:00	<b>Office Closed</b> Directory Photos

**Photo Directory**

**To book your appointment for your photos, contact Julie Price at 613-382-4304 or a sign-up sheet is at the back of the church.**

**Dates are May 24, 25 & 26<sup>th</sup> 2:30 to 8:30  
Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> 9:30 to 3pm**