

Contact information:

Call Rev. Takouhi to book a visit. (Wednesday to Sunday)

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

brooksb525@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.

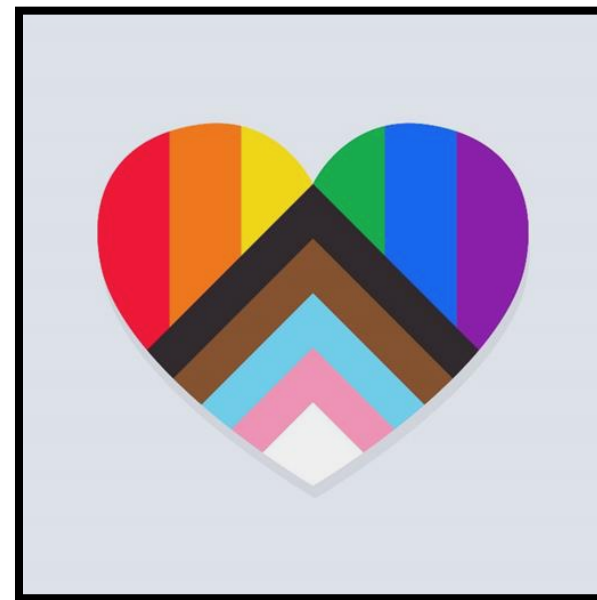
Service will also be shown live on YouTube.

<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



***Where Everyone is Part
of
God's Family***



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

July 16, 2023

Seventh Sunday of Pentecost

Grace United Church's First Pride Worship Celebration *Order of Worship*

WE GATHER AS UNITED AND UNITING PEOPLE

Prelude: *You Raise Me Up* - Brendan Graham, Rolf Løvland

Welcome – Colleen Harding

Land Acknowledgement (Responsive):

One: Grace United Church takes seriously the commitments made to First Nations communities through the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, especially through the Calls to Action to churches like us.

All: Therefore, we acknowledge, this day, that we gather for worship on the traditional territories of the original nations of this land, and we acknowledge with respect, their history, their spirituality, and their culture.

Community in Action – Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Spiritual Focus:

“GOD chose a rainbow as a sign of hope for the future of humanity and life on Earth. Today we are invited to do our part and work together to co-create something as beautiful and bright as a rainbow for ALL People who are created in God’s Image.”

Lighting the Christ Candle – The Source of ALL Light
(The Christ candle is lit.)

Lighting the Rainbow Coloured Candles ¹
(from the Christ Candle)

Red = Life.

We light the red candle, symbolizing life in all its richness.

Orange = Healing.

We light the orange candle, symbolizing healing.

Yellow = Sunlight.

We light the yellow candle, symbolizing sunlight.

Green = Nature.

We light the green candle, symbolizing nature.

Indigo/Blue = Harmony/Serenity.

We light the blue candle, symbolizing harmony.

Violet = Spirit.

We light the violet candle, symbolizing Spirit.

¹ Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike Licence. UCC 2019 - Stories from the Heart: Worship Service for Pride Sunday – July 2023

(Please stand as able)

Call to Worship (Responsive):¹

One: King Nebuchadnezzar constructed a huge golden statue and used his power and political influence to declare that everyone in the kingdom should worship his statue. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to conform.

All: The world is constantly using power structures, money, oppression, and marginalization to encourage individuals to silence their uniqueness and conform to the status quo. It's okay to reject pressure to conform.

One: Once they refused to be like everyone else haters told the king that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego should be punished for being different.

All: Sometimes people will try to pressure or bully us to be just like everyone else in order to make them feel better. It is okay to love who we are and who God made us to be.

One: After Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to change the king threatened them with violence and embarrassment. They still refused to change.

All: Bullies will use their power and influence and encourage everyone to meet their standards. It is okay to stand up to bullies and live your truth without the approval or acceptance of others.

One: After Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not conform they were put into a fiery furnace as punishment for not changing. Never be surprised at the lengths people go through to reject your individualism.

All: The three survived the flames and through their witness the power structures that supported their oppression were changed. Standing up for the right thing can bring positive change.

One: The LGBTQIA community is currently under attack all over the world. Politicians, individuals, and even some churches are using their power and influence to harm these and other underrepresented groups.

All: Let us live and walk in our truth. Let us encourage others to do the same. Let us not be ashamed or afraid to be who God created us to be. Let us resist all forms of hate. God is love and God loves all. Amen.

Gathering Song: More Voices #1

"Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome)"

- 1) Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live.
A place where saints and children
tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace.
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

- 2) Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true.

¹Rev. Derek Terry, United Church of Christ – U.S.A. <https://openandaffirming.org/worship/> July 7, 2023

Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace.
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

Refrain:

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

3) Let us build a house where love is found,
in water, wine and wheat.
A banquet hall on holy ground,
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space,
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us;

Refrain:

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

4) Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone.
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear
the image of God's face.
Let us bring an end to fear and danger;

Refrain:

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

5) Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard.
And loved and treasured, taught and
claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace.
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter;

Refrain:

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place**

Words and music: Marty Haugen.

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(Please be seated)

Invitation to Prayer of Transformation (Confession)¹

Prayer for Transformation and New Life (Confession) (All):

Loving God, sometimes we have dishonored ourselves and others in our longing to fit in and to be accepted. At times we have rejected the individuality of others. Sometimes we have allowed the pressure to be popular cause us to bully ourselves and others. Occasionally we have been silent when we have witnessed people being dishonored because of their truth. Please change our hearts and help us to love our own humanity and the awesomeness of other humans. Please help us forgive ourselves for the harsh things that we have said and thought about ourselves and others. Each person is a unique and beautiful expression of God's divine light and love. We confess that we forget this sometimes and pray that you help us to do better. Starting now.

¹Rev. Derek Terry, United Church of Christ – U.S.A. <https://openandaffirming.org/worship/> July 7, 2023

Assurance of Pardon (Responsive):

One: Assuredly God forgives us all of our wrongdoings— those we committed consciously and unconsciously.

All: Thank you God for your forgiveness.

Let us forgive others as God continuously forgives us.

Amen

(Please stand as able)

Song for the Journey: More Voices #145

"Draw the Circle Wide"

Refrain:

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.

Let this be our song: no one stands alone.

Standing side by side, draw the circle,

draw the circle wide...

- 1) God the still-point of the circle
Round you all creation turns
Nothing lost but held forever
in God's gracious arms

Refrain:

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.

Let this be our song: no one stands alone.

Standing side by side, draw the circle,

draw the circle wide...

- 2) Let our hearts touch far horizons
So encompass great and small
Let our loving know no borders
Faithful to God's call

Refrain:

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.

Let this be our song: no one stands alone.

Standing side by side, draw the circle,

draw the circle wide...

- 3) Let the dreams we dream be larger
Than we've ever dreamed before
Let the dream of Christ be in us
Open every door!

Refrain:

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.

Let this be our song: no one stands alone.

Standing side by side, draw the circle,

draw the circle wide...

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WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES

Time with Youth and Young at Heart - Mx. Sam Crosby

"Why Gananoque Pride Alliance Matters"

Song of Illumination: More Voices #154

"Deep in Our Hearts"

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
Deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
Deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
Deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
Deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Words: John Oldham, 1995

Music: Ron Klusmeier, 1996

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Scripture Reader: Vicki Leakey

Reader: We listen for the Sacred Story,

All: our ears and hearts are open.

Daniel 3:16-28 (NRSV): Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary, and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire. Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?" They answered the king, "True, O king." He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god."

Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them.

Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.

Reader: Here ends today's reading.

May the Spirit of Wisdom add understanding to these words.

All: Thanks be to God.

Ministry of Music: *Amazing Grace* - John Henry Newton
Like a Prayer - Madonna, Patrick Leonard

Guest musician: **B Heaslip**

Life Lesson: "Faithful to Who You Are"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

Song of Hope & Healing: More Voices #90

"Don't Be Afraid" (3X)

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

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Prayers of Hope and Healing:

The Lord's Prayer (contemporary version - All):¹

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey.

**Our Parent, who is among us, blessed be your Creation.
May your reign be a reality here on earth.**

¹ <https://www.manyvoices.org/blog/resource/contemporary-lords-prayer/>

**May we become more interested in building your kin-dom here
and now than in waiting for it to come down from above.**

Let us share our bread with those who hunger.

Let us learn to forgive as well as to receive forgiveness.

Help us through the time of temptation, delivering us from all evil.

For ours are the eternal blessings that you pour upon the earth.

Amen.

Your Generosity Matters:

"Protecting Love Around the World: Michael Blair's Work"

Invitation to Generosity (Call to Offering)

*God has blessed us beyond measure and our own generosity is an
opportunity to use a portion of our blessings to minister to others.
The Holy is calling us to gather our gifts and offer them to God in
worship. Let us gather our gifts and worship through our generosity.*

Offering Dedication Prayer (Responsive):

One: It is a gift to be able to give something away.

**ALL: We are called to be a part of something bigger
than ourselves.**

One: Spirit of Love, look upon us now.

ALL: Bless these gifts; those we can see and those we cannot.

One: May our hopes come true for the better world we dream of

ALL: As we work together in love. Amen. ¹

¹ <https://openandaffirming.org/worship/> - July 6, 2023 - (MK, 2020)

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

(Please stand as able)

Song of Commitment: Voices United #138

"My Love Colours Outside the Lines"

1. My love colours outside the lines,
Exploring paths that few could ever find
And takes me into places where I've never been before
And opens doors to worlds outside the lines.
2. My Lord colours outside the lines,
turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
and takes me into places where I've never been before
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

Refrain:

**We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to
drown, body and soul need a soaking from time to time.
And we'll never move the gravestones if we're not prepared to
die and realize there are worlds outside the lines.**

3. My soul longs to colour outside the lines,
tear back the curtains, sun come in and shine,
I want to walk beyond the boundaries,
where I've never been before,
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

Refrain:

**We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to
drown, body and soul need a soaking from time to time.
And we'll never move the gravestones if we're not prepared to
die and realize there are worlds outside the lines.**

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Sending Forth & Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude: *This is the Day* - Bruce Harding

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 Rev. Takouhi or the church office if there is someone you know who is in need or a visit, in hospital or any other needs.

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 Bruce Wilson and Cheryl O'Leary.

Happy 62nd Wedding Anniversary to Tom & Carol Currie.

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



Grace United Church has a hearing assistance system which broadcasts via Bluetooth. If you have a Bluetooth setting on your hearing aid, you can pair it with the church's PA system. If you have Bluetooth earbuds or headphones, you can do the same. Ask Paul Harding for assistance.

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/>

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 July 2023

Date	Attend	General	M&S	Local/Benevolent
July 2		\$ 2477.50	\$ 192.50	0
July 9	40	\$727.50	\$152.50	0
July 16				
July 23				
July 30				
PAR				
BMO				

Thank you for your generosity.

Fundscrip – Raising Money

Fundscrip is still alive and doing well and we want to thank you for your help and participation. Our original goal was to raise \$2000; we achieved \$1536 so far, so let's keep going.

During July, the following deals are available for you during holiday time. These also make great birthday, graduation, and anniversary gifts. There are many cards that are electronic and refillable. If there is anyone wishing to have

assistance with their order or want to participate in a group order, we will be sending in an order on July 30th so please get your order form at the back of the church to fill in. Anyone needing assistance, contact either Denise Wood or Linda Brooks They will be happy to help.

All of the usual retailers are still available.

Remember you can:

Pay with gift cards: Instead of credit/debit/cash for your everyday items & gifts

Shop as usual: With cards from over 230 leading retailers, there's no need to change your shopping habits. \$100 is \$100 at your chosen retailer

Raise Funds: Each purchase automatically includes a donation for your group that can quickly add up over time

For an example: During July, The Keg is donating 7% for each card purchase; Airbnb 5%; Cineplex Theatre 5%; You can check their website for further deals each month.

YOUR CHURCH WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP!

Linda Brooks 613-382-2385 Denise Wood 613-876-7739

Official Board Meeting – Sunday, July 30th following service.

Coming up this week at Grace United....

A monthly calendar is also available in the Narthex.

Sunday, July 16 10:30 am PRIDE SERVICE	Office Closed Morning Worship Rev. Takouhi
Monday, July 17	Office 8 am to 1 pm
Tuesday, July 18 9 – Noon 5:30 – 6:30pm	Office 8 am to 1 pm Quilters BootCamp
Wednesday, July 19	Office Closed
Thursday, July 20 1 to 2 pm 5:30 to 6:30	Office 8 am to 1 pm Chair YOGA Bootcamp
Friday, July 21	Office 8 am to 1 pm
Saturday, July 22	Office Closed
Sunday, July 23 10:30 am Worship	Office Closed Worship Leader, Rev. Takouhi