

WELCOME TO GRACE UNITED CHURCH

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 are out on the table in the Narthex

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



Memorial plaque on the exterior wall of École Polytechnique (Montreal, Quebec) commemorating the fourteen women who were killed on Dec. 6, 1989, simply because they were women.

***Where Everyone is Part of the Family
&
Worship is a Lifestyle NOT an Event***



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

December 10, 2023 - Order of Worship

Second Sunday of Advent - PEACE

**We Remember the fourteen women who were killed on
Dec. 6, 1989, at Montreal's École Polytechnique,
simply because they were women.**

WE GATHER AS ADVENT PEOPLE

Organ Prelude *Still, Still, Still* - Austrian Carol

Welcome – Dave Charles

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

(Two Candles besides the Christ Candle are lit along with the candle of Hope – Advent Wreath)

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

Spiritual Focus:

"Advent: Redirecting our lives to God's authority and aligning ourselves to the coming of the Realm of God!"



Lighting the Christ Candle

(The Christ candle is lit.)

Call to Worship (Responsive)

One: The days draw near;

All: The journey to God's Future continues.

One: On our path, so far, we have met the Hope founded in God.

All: Today we seek Peace.

One: We gather as God's people, to celebrate.

All: May our worship celebration fill our hearts

One: Fill them with abundant Hope and Peace.

All: May we share them with everyone we meet.

One: Come, let us worship The One

who is the Fountain of All Goodness, Hope and Peace...

(Please stand as able)

Gathering Song of Praise Voices United #29

"Hark, the Glad Sound"

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

2 He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

Words: Philip Doddridge 1738, alt.
Music: Thomas Haweis, 1792. adapt. Samuel Webbe 1808
Public Domain

(Please be seated)

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - Advent II

Voice 1: We light this candle of PEACE.

Yearning for Hope and Peace in all
the places of our world.

(Candle of PEACE is lit)

Voice 2: We pray for Peace in our families,
communities, country and the
entire creation. We yearn for **PEACE Everywhere.**

Voice 1: Today as we light the candle of **PEACE.**

We remember all the women who were senselessly killed
on December 6, 1989, at Ecole Polytechnique, in Montreal.



Voice 2: We also lift up all the Indigenous women who have been
killed or missing.

Voice 1: We lift all victims of war, violence, oppression. All men,
women, children, all creatures – all CREATION.

Voice 2: God of Peace – Grant us YOUR Peace.

Voice 1: Let us Pray together the following prayer as one family.

All: O God of Peace, we know you are not far from us. Help us to see
your Presence as you hold us tenderly in your arms. As a mother who
embraces her child within her arms, may we, restless children that we
are, realize that we are embraced in Your Peace and equipped with
Your Hope. We pray humbly in the name of the Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

*From **The True Gift Lives on** – By Rev. Takouhi*

(Please remain seated)

Advent Candle Lighting Song - Voices United #1

"O Come, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

1 - O Come, O Come Emmanuel

We plead that all despair in us be quelled,
Your breath of hope is all that we need
That all the fear within us will recede.

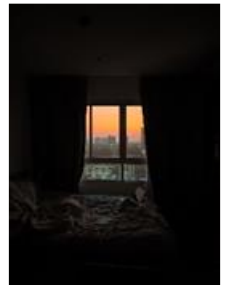
Refrain:

Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel!
Come bring us Hope,
Wherever we shall dwell.

2 - Oh come divine Messiah, please come now.

Come Prince of peace, O come please keep your vow
to never leave us all alone.

Please come among us and make yourself known.



Refrain:

**Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel!
Come bring us Peace,
Wherever we shall dwell.**

Words: Rev. Jeff Doucette, Enniskillen Tyrone United Church. Used with permission.
Music: 15th century plainsong melody. Arr. Healey Willan.
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WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES

Prayer of Illumination (All): As we praise and bless you today, O God, through this worship. We ask that you plant seeds of Hope and Peace within us once again. May our ears open and our hearts awake, as we hear scripture. May these words we are about to hear bring us courage, comfort and, also challenge. May we grow with Your Spirit and into Your Likeness. **Amen**

Time with Youth and Young at Heart

"Meaning of Christmas Decorations?"

(Please stand as able)

Song Voices United #6

"A Candle is Burning" (verses 1 & 2)

- 1 A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.
- 2 A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:



for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

Words: Sandra Dean 1986
Music: James R. Murray 1887
Used with the blessing of Mrs. Sandra Dean

(Please be seated)

Scripture Reader: Joan MacKinnon

Reader: Let us open our hearts, and minds to hear the Word of Peace
All: Let us listen for that Living Word of Reconciliation and Peace.

Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13 (NRSV)

Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. *Selah* Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. **Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.**

Reader: Here ends today's reading.

All: May the Spirit of Peace add understanding to our hearing.

Anthem – *Advent Noel* - Anna Page, Jean Shafferman

Life Lesson: *"The Peace of God is ALWAYS Paired with Justice..."*

(Please stand as able)

Song of Assurance - Voices United #44

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold,
'Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.
- 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the love song which they bring.
O hush the noise, and cease your strife,
to hear the angels sing.



- 4 For, lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Words: Author unknown.

Music: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

Public domain.

(Please be seated)

Prayers of Hope and Healing

"Blessing in the Chaos"¹ – by Jan Richardson

The Lord's Prayer (sung VU 960)

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,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**



¹ <https://sanctuaryofwomen.com/WomensChristmasRetreat2023> - December 6, 2023

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

Your Generosity Matters:

Update: The Holy Bible is n Mohawk

Our Offerings – Supporting God's Ministries:

*Mindful of the abundance we have received in Christ,
we offer ourselves and our gifts to the world.*

(Please stand as able)

Offertory Song: More Voices # 33 (verse 1 & 2)

"Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope"

1 *Jesus came bringing us hope,
Jesus came bringing us hope,
Jesus came bringing us hope,
hallelujah forever more!*

2 *Jesus came bringing us peace,
Jesus came bringing us peace,
Jesus came bringing us peace,
hallelujah forever more!*

Words and music: traditional song. Cameroon, arr. More Vloices, 2007
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(Remian standing)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (All): Love takes many forms,
O God, and peace is more than the absence of war. Compassion can be
shared in a bowl of soup, and justice must be shared. Let these gifts we
give be all these things and more, because we have given them into
your care and use. **Amen.**

Rev. Kate Crawford, Huron Shores U.C., Grand Bend, Ont.

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD TO BE THE CHURCH

Song of Going Forth: Voices United #5

"All Earth is Waiting"

- 1 All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.
- 2 Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel.'
One whose name is 'God with us', our Saviour shall be,
through whom hope will blossom once more
within our hearts.
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,
open new highways, new highways for our God,
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.
- 4 In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.
Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

Words: Catalonia Alberto Taule 1972. English trans. Gertrude C. Suppe 1987 alt.
Music: Alberto Taule, 1972; harm Skinner Chavez-Melo 1988
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Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude: *Finale on "The First Noel"*

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 this week to Paul Scott & Bonnie Serson.

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

Annual Congregation Christmas Breakfast

Plans are underway for the annual Congregation Christmas Breakfast. The breakfast will be held on Sunday, December 17th, prior to service. All are invited. We would like to have an idea of how many to prepare for. If you plan on attending, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. The cost will be by donation.

MAKE SURE YOUR NAME & THE AMOUNT ARE ON YOUR DONATION ENVELOPES

If you would like envelopes, there is a sign-up sheet available on the table in the Narthex.

Offerings December 2023

Date	Attend	General	M&S	Benevolent	White Gift
Dec 3	43	\$ 4112.50	\$ 232.50	\$ 35.00	\$ 280.00
Dec 10					
Dec 17					
Blue Christmas					
Dec 24					
Christmas Eve					
PAR					
BMO					

Thank you for your generosity.

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 (Included in Bulletin)

https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/form_par-authorization.pdf

PAR Forms are available at the back of the church

by CreditCard through CanadaHelps.

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

Christmas Pie for Sale

There is a great variety of pies available. Don't miss out on your favourite variety. Order now for Christmas.

Mincemeat & raisin for our winter orders. (quantity limited)

**Bumbleberry, Apple, Peach, Blueberry,
Strawberry, Strawberry Rhubarb, Rhubarb,
Cherry Raisin, Mincemeat**

\$15 Each

Raspberry \$20 each

Pick up date for Christmas Orders is Dec 21, 3 to 6 pm

Red Wagon Food Drive

Here is a list of items for each date.

Monetary Gifts are also appreciated.



December 10th Canned goods

Tuna, Salmon, Flaked Chicken or Ham, Spam, Vegetables, Tomatoes, Chunky Soups, Stews, Mayonnaise, Ketchup.

December 17th - Snack Items & Miscellaneous.

Juice Boxes, Kids snack packs, Peanut free snacks, Granola bars, Crackers, Cookies, Popcorn, Cake mixes.

Christmas Market Update

Kitchen	\$ 1,478.50
Raffle	\$ 687.00
Bake Table	\$ 825.00
Pies	\$ 1,744.25
Silent Auction	\$ 698.00
Table Rental	\$ 540.00
Total	\$ 5,972.75

Thank you so much to everyone who made the Christmas Market a wonderful success. Proceeds for the day were just shy of \$6000.

Memory Tree honours loved ones

This Christmas, honour one or more loved ones who have passed, by placing their names on our special Memory Tree in our beautiful sanctuary. For a donation of your choosing, you can write a beloved name on a flat gold painted ornament decorated with a red or green ribbon and hang it on the Memory Tree. We can also write the name for you and place it on the tree. The ornaments will be available at church services during Advent, or you can order in advance by contacting Marilyn Belbin at 613-382-8885, or mbelbin@sympatico.ca. The names will be recorded and printed in the church bulletin. After Epiphany, you may take your ornament home as a keepsake. Let's fill the tree, and our hearts, with Christmas memories of those we have loved!

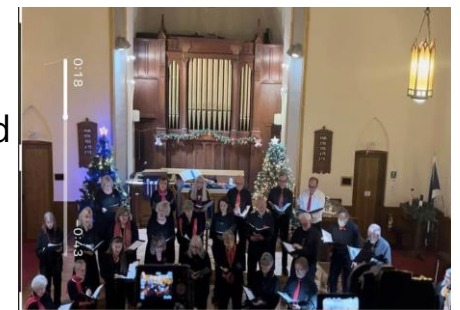
Gananoque Choral Society Concert

Sunday, December 10th , 2:30 pm, at Lansdowne United Church.

Cost: Adults \$15, Family \$30, Children \$5

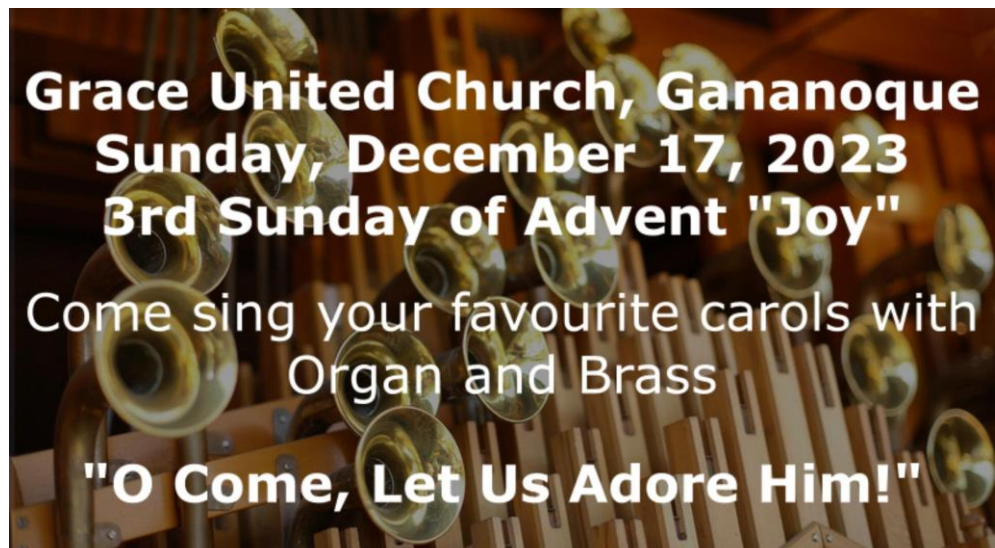
Melodia would like to thank all who came to support the bank drive in Gananoque. Many compliments were given the choir, guests, and our director Stella ter Hart. We would like to thank St. Andrews Presbyterian Church for hosting the concert. The audience filled the church to three-quarters capacity.

We look forward to continuing the Melodia tradition next year to fundraise for the food bank. The audience and givings are growing every year. We raised close to \$2000.00.



Coming up this week at Grace United...

Sunday, December 10th Advent 2 - PEACE 10:30 am Worship	Office Closed Morning Worship, Rev. Takouhi
Monday, December 11th 6:30 pm	YOGA
Tuesday, December 12th 9 – Noon 5:30 to 7:30pm	Office 8am to 1 pm Quilters Bootcamp/Zumba
Wednesday, December 13th 3:30 pm	Office Closed YOGA
Thursday, December 14th 5:30 to 7:30	Office 8am to 1 pm Bootcamp/Zumba
Friday, December 15th	Office 8am to 1pm
Saturday, December 16th	Office Closed
Sunday, December 17th 8:30am 10:30 am Worship Advent 3 JOY <i>With Sacrament of Baptism</i>	Office Closed <i>Christmas Breakfast</i> Worship Leader, Rev. Takouhi <i>Special Musical Guests</i>



Grace United Church, Gananoque
Sunday, December 17, 2023
3rd Sunday of Advent "Joy"
 Come sing your favourite carols with
 Organ and Brass
"O Come, Let Us Adore Him!"



DECEMBER 21, 2023
7:00 P.M.

"Blue Christmas"

Grace United Church
 (120, Pine Street, Gananoque, ON)

All are welcome.

Not everyone is up to cheery Christmas Season. People face different situations at different times of life. If you have said goodbye to a loved one, or grieving any other situation, you are invited to Grace United.

Attend this gathering to take time to breathe in Love and Exhale Gratitude - reflect upon the Heart of Christmas, which is **Hope** in the middle of hardships; **Peace** in the middle of chaos; **Joy** in the middle of grief; and **Love** in the middle of loneliness.

This gathering is for ALL – it is a gathering in honesty about grief, hearing the consolation found in God's presence and love.

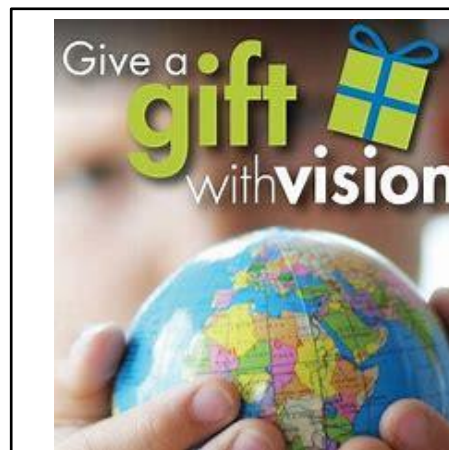
Join us as you are. **We will name our losses and remember those whom we have loved and lost from this physical world.** Take time to reflect upon the Spirit of Christmas and the True light of Christ. **And be reminded that there is Life even in the longest night.**

The Offertory Gifts from this evening will go to the BENEVOLENT FUND.

Grace United Ministry that reaches beyond the walls of the church building.



Artwork by: Jan Richardson - <https://www.janrichardson.com>



How It Works

The United Church of Canada developed Gifts with Vision in response to requests to be able to give gifts to relatives, friends, and loved ones that directly support projects developed by the church's Mission and Service partners.

Link for Catalogue <https://giftswithvision.ca/>