Contact information: Call Rev. Takouhi to book a visit. (Wednesday to Sunday) Rev. Takouhi (direct Line) 613-777-0880 Email: RevTakouhi@Terrautopia.ca

**Office** (Laurie Cadue) 613-382-2161 grace.gan@outlook.com <u>Church Office Hours:</u> Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 8:00am to 1:00 p.m. (Closed on Wednesdays)

### **Boards of Grace United**

### Session: Chair: Barb Jenkins:

613-583-2077barbjenkins1@gmail.comVice Chair: Marg WorthClerk: Tammy FergussonBoard of Stewards: Chair: Denise Wood:<br/>613-876-7739seelion89@gmail.comVice Chair: Cliff Edwards,Secretary: Diane NuttallOfficial Board: Chair: Brian Brooks612-202-2205

613-382-2385 brooksb525@gmail.com Vice Chair: Bruce Wilson, Secretary: Diane Nuttall

The 2023 Directory are out on the table in the Narthex

### **Bulletin Dedication**

This weeks' Bulletin is dedicated to the memory of Don Harding, who was an enthusiastic member of Grace United Church his entire life. Donald had a quiet and unassuming influence on the lives of countless people in the church and the town of Gananoque.

Lovingly and gratefully remembered by sons,

Paul & John Harding and Families.

# WELCOME TO GRACE UNITED CHURCH



# 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. **Office Administrator Director of Music** Laurie Cadue

Mr. Paul Harding, B. Mus., B. Ed.

December 17, 2023 - Order of Worship Third Sunday of Advent -JOY



# WE GATHER AS ADVENT PEOPLE

**Organ Prelude:** Choral Prelude: In Dulci Jubilo - J.S. Bach

Welcome – Vicki Leakey

### 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 & Peace – 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.)

# Gathering Call (Responsive): Luke 1:46b-47, 49 One: There will be signs in the heavens Mark 13:24–27 and distress among the nations.

# All: When Christ returns in power and glory people will faint with fear.

One: But when you see these things, lift up your heads: All: our redemption is drawing near! One: Heaven and earth may pass away, Mark 13:31

All: but the Word of God will stand unshaken.

### (Please stand as able)

### Gathering Song of Praise & Worship: Voices United #60

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem: come and behold him, born the King of angels;



### O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2 God of God, light of light,lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;very God, begotten, not created:

### O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
 sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
 glory to God in the highest:

# O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

4 See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear; we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;

# O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

# O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Words: English trans. Frederick Oakeley 1841 et al. Music: attrib. John Francis Wade ca. 1743 Descant: Sir David Willcocks. Public Domain

### (Please be seated)

# Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - Advent III

Readers/Participants: Colleen Harding, Avery, Anne and Conor

Voice 1: Uncontainable, Uncontrollable, bubbling up

an explosion of energy.

- **Voice 2:** What the weary long for, what children often embody, what makes the Divine smile JOY.
- **Voice 1:** It cannot be paid for, but is a priceless treasure.



**Voice 2:** As we hope for your arrival, as we pray for peace in your living, as we wait and watch and wonder how you might reveal yourself to us, God give us Joy in your Advent.

### (Candle of Joy is Lit - Pink candle).

- **Voice 1:** Joy is not a commodity that can be bought or sold, but lives deep in the human spirit. Helps us hear that truth and believe it. Let go of what our consumer culture says will bring us happiness money, success, a scramble to the top that leaves us flat.
- **Voice 2:** If we have robbed others of what they need in our clamour and quest for more than our fair share, forgive us. Help us hear Your Call to turn around and begin again. God of love, we were made in Joy. You want us to live in Joy.

You Love us with unmeasurable JOY. May we live that way.

- **Voice 1:** May the candle of Joy light our way. Let us Pray together.
- **All:** In You, O God, there is Pure Joy,

Unshakable Peace and Unending Hope.

In this Season of Advent, may our past be restored with the Present Joy, and our future be revealed with Joyful songs. May our roots grow deeper in the Presence of Your Accord. Help us to sing songs of Joy even when darkness abounds. May the music never end, even in the night. With confidence we trust You are with us. **Amen.** 

From The True Gift Lives on – By Rev. Takouhi

#### (Please Stand as able)

### Song of Proclamation – Voices United #59

"Joy to the World"

3 Joy to the world! The Lord is come:

let earth receive her King! Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and pature sing

and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

- Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:
  let all their songs employ,
  while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
  repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
  repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground: he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.



4 He rules the earth with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts 1719, alt. Music: attrib. George Frideric Handel 1742. arr. Lowell Mason 1836 Public Domain

### WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES

**Prayer of Illumination (All):** Holy God of Advent, who has been here before time began and still comes to us daily with Love and give us Joy. We pray that you speak to us in waiting, watching, hoping, and longing. We know that you turn our sorrow into Joy and our darkness into Light. Speak to us once again, by your Word of Life once again. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, God with us. **Amen** 

### Scripture Reader: Elaine Davidson

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 126 (NRSV):

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Reader: Here ends today's reading.

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

**Anthem** – Rejoice, Your Light Has Come - Mary MacDonald

Life Lesson: "God's Faithfulness: JOY..."

# WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

### (Please stand as able)

2

3

### Song for Baptism: Voices United # 644

"I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"

- I was there to hear your borning cry,
   I'll be there when you are old.
   I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
   to see your life unfold.
  - I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.



- 4 If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
  I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.
- 5 In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young.
  I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
- 6 When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
  I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.
- 7 I was there to hear your borning cry,I'll be there when you are old.I rejoiced the day you were baptized,to see your life unfold.

Words and Music: John Ylvisaker 1985; Music: Ron Klusmeier 1974 Words and music copyright © 1985 John Carl Ylvisaker Reprinted with permission under One License A-736946. All rights reserved.

**Minister**: (*Mark 10:13-16*) People were bringing little children to Jesus. The disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus saw this and said to them

### All: "Let the little children come to me..."

**Minister:** Members and friends in and through Christ, today we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism through the Gift of Grace. Ordinary element such as water helps us experience a Sacred moment through The Spirit.

When you heard the wonder of the word,

you were raised to praise the living Lord,

I was there to cheer you on;

to whom you now belong.

All: We are one body and one spirit. Our Hope is rooted in the

**Creator, who continues to create in, through and with us. Minister:** There is One God, One Faith, One Baptism,

One Creator of us all.

**Session Rep.:** On behalf of the congregation of **Grace United Church**, I present *Hadley Ann Dunn* the daughter of *Matthew Douglas Robert Dunn & Erica Ann Thompson Dunn* for initiation into the Body of Christ.

# **COMMITMENT OF PARENTS**

**Minister:** *Matthew & Erica* today is a special day. You have decided to Baptize your daughter *Hadley Ann*. The act of Baptism is accepting the claim that your child is called **Beloved by God**, and you accept this gift with gratitude. As parents, you are entrusted to nurture and guide your child in the path of God's Light.

I ask you now, in the presence of God and of this community:

Do you confess your faith in God as Creator; Jesus the embodiment of God's Love; and the Spirit God's presence in and among us?

# Parents: We do, God being our helper.

Do you commit yourselves to follow the way of Love as demonstrated in the life of Jesus in your private and public life?

# Parents: We do, God being our helper.

Will you support the life and work of the church in this community and/or wherever you are found?

# Parents: We will, God being our helper.

Will you share your faith with your child, and ensure that the Compassionate Teachings of Jesus are planted in him?

# Parents: We will, God being our helper.

### **COMMITMENT OF GODPARENTS**

**Minister:** Jordyn Thompson as godparent will you grow in faith with Hadley Ann, trusting that, "You are not alone, you live in God's world"?

# Godparent: I will, God being my helper.

**Minister:** Recognizing that many persons nurture and influence the life of a child, will you support *Hadley Ann* and her parents as she grows in faith?

# Godparent: I will, God being my helper.

**Minister:** Sharing your faith is the most precious gift to *Hadley Ann*. We are glad to hear and to witness your commitment.

### **COMMITMENT OF CONGREGATION**

**Minister**: As a baptized and baptizing church let us covenant with this family, one another, and God.

# All: As a baptized and baptizing church, we commit ourselves anew to nurture and support one another.

**Minister:** Let us stand as able and say together the New Creed (*Please stand as able*)

All: We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.



We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's

presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. *A New Creed - The United Church of Canada, General Council, 1968* 

#### (Please be seated)

### **Pouring of Water**

# Prayer of Thanksgiving (Responsive)

- **Minister:** Creator God, you formed this world out of the dark waters of chaos. And time and again you have saved us as we have passed through the dark waters of life.
- All: We remember the flood and your gracious promise sealed in the rainbow. We remember Jesus, and the way he was protected by the waters of Mary's womb. We remember John, and the way he baptized. We remember the disciples, and the way in which they shared in the ministry of Jesus, his death, resurrection, and the sharing of the Gospel throughout the world.
- **Minister:** So we come before you today, grateful for the promise and the power of water. We pray that your Holy Spirit blesses this gift and this child who will receive it. Embrace her in your Love and Cover her in your Peace.

All: Amen.

Baptism in the Name of the Triune God

Blessing

Marking with the Sign of the Cross

Laying On of Hands – Prayer

### **PRESENTATIONS**

### Session Rep. Presents the Baptismal Candle & Baptism Certificate

(The baptismal candle is lit from the Christ Candle, signifying the light of Christ, and presented to the parents on the child's behalf)

**Session Rep.:** *Hadley Ann Dunn,* let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works for the glory to God. **Amen** 

# Caring & Sharing Team Member: Prayer Blanket

**Minister: Presentation of a Bible** 

### **INTRODUCTION TO CONGREGATION**

Minister:Members of Grace United Church I introduce to you,<br/>Hadley Ann Dunn a child of God, member of the Body of<br/>Christ. We welcome her into the Household of Faith, with<br/>deep Joy and Thanksgiving.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

(Please remein seated)

### Song after Baptism: Voices United #: 452

"You Have Put On Christ"

### You have put on Christ,

In Christ you have been baptised.

# Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

Words: from the Rite of Baptism ICEL, ca 1969 . Music: Howard Hughes 1977 Words copyright © 1969 and music 1977 Committee on English in the Liturgy Reprinted with permission under One License A-736946. All rights reserved.

### (Please stand as able)

# Song of Good News Voices United # 48

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King, peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!' Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;

12



Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail, the incarnate deity, pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!

### Hark! the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King!'

Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

### Hark! the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King!'

Words: Charles Wesley 1739, alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn 1840, adapt. William Hayman Cummings 1856. Public Domain

(Please be seated)

### Your Generosity Matters: Gifts with Vision: Transforming Lives

# Our Offerings – Supporting God's Ministries:

Let us partner up with God and give Generously with Joy and Gratitude.



(Please stand as able)

Offertory Song: More Voices # 33 (verse 1, 2 & 3)

"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!
- 3 Jesus came bringing us joy, Jesus came bringing us joy, Jesus came bringing us joy, hallelujah forever more!

Words and music: traditional song. Cameroon, arr. More Voices, 2007 Arrangement copyright © 2007 The United Church of Canada Reprinted with permission under One License A-736946. All rights reserved.

(Please Remain standing)

### **Offertory Prayer: The Prayer of Jesus (ALL)**

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 forever and ever. **Amen.** 

> GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD TO BE THE CHURCH

# Song of Going Forth Voices United #43

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

**Refrain:** Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere. Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

**Refrain:** Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere. Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.



- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth!
  - **Refrain:** Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere. Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.
- Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent our salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
   Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain,

over the hills and everywhere. Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

Words: John Wesley Work II 1907 . Music: African-American spiritual 19<sup>th</sup> century, arr. United Reformed Church (U.K.) . Arrangement copyright © United Reformed Church. By permission of Oxford University Press. Public domain.

# **Commissioning (Responsive):**

- One: Be patient, beloved, and let your hearts be strong, for the Joy of the Lord is your strength.
- All: We go forth knowing the Lord is with us always. Thanks be to God. Amen.

### **Benediction**

### **Choral Amen**

**Postlude:** Descant on "Venite Adoremus" - David Willcocks

# 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 46<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary to Dave Charles & Joan MacKinnon.

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

Our thanks to trumpeters Gillian MacDonald and Kate Harding Smith for adding a "touch of brass" to our service this morning. We appreciate your time and talents.

# Thank you to all the Organizer of our Christmas Breakfast this morning, it was a lovely way to start the day.

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	47	\$ 2732.50	\$ 527.50	\$ 25.00	\$ 65.00
Dec 17					
<b>Blue Christmas</b>					
Dec 24					
<b>Christmas Eve</b>					
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 Credit Card through CanadaHelps.

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

#### **Christmas Pie for Sale**

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

### 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!

# Blue Christmas Service December 21, 2023 - 7:00pm All are Welcome

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

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

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

Sunday, December 17th	Office Closed		
Sunday, December 17 <sup>th</sup>			
Advent 3 - JOY	Morning Worship, Rev. Takouhi		
10:30 am Worship	Special Musical Guests		
With Sacrament of Baptism			
Monday, December 18 <sup>th</sup>			
6:30 pm	YOGA		
Tuesday, December 19 <sup>th</sup>	Office 8am to 1 pm		
9 – Noon	Quilters		
5:30 to 7:30pm	Bootcamp/Zumba		
Wednesday, December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Office Closed		
Thursday, December 21 <sup>st</sup>	Office 8am to 1 pm		
3 to 6:00pm	Pie Sale Pick up		
7:00pm	Blue Christmas Service		
Friday, December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Office 8am to 1pm		
Saturday, December 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Office Closed		
Sunday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Office Closed		
10:30 am Worship	Worship Leader, Rev. Takouhi		
Advent 4 LOVE			
7:00pm Christmas Eve Service	Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Stories		
Sunday, December 31, 2023	Office Closed		
10:30am Worship	Worship Leader, Barb DeJeet		

# NOTE the church office will be closed from Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00pm and reopen on Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00am.