

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

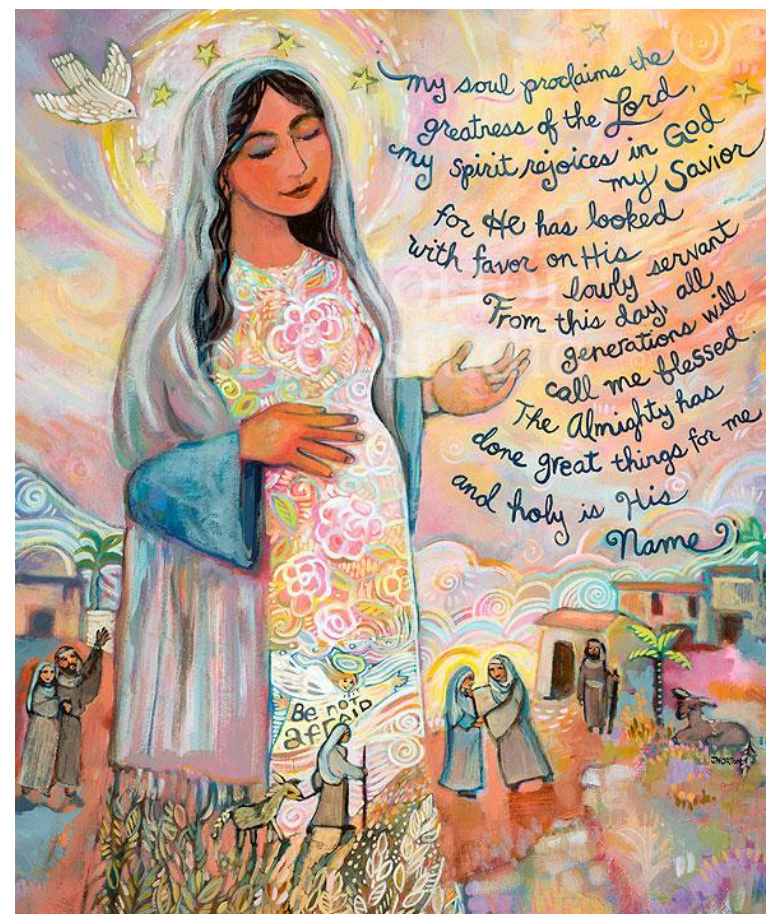
Rev. Takouhi will be away on a much-needed break to enjoy some
Comfort and Joy with her family.

December 25, 2023 – January 4, 2024. For any pastoral
emergencies, please contact Liz Church @ 902-441-5357.

However, Barb DeJeet will be leading worship on December 31.

Pass the word, invite friends, and come hear the Good News of
God through a different voice.

WELCOME TO GRACE UNITED CHURCH



("Canticle of Mary" by Jen Norton – December 28, 2018, used with permission)

**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 24, 2023 - Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent

LOVE

WE GATHER AS ADVENT PEOPLE

Organ Prelude Meditation on "Irby" - Henry John Gauntlett

Welcome – Diane Kirkby & Tom Marlor

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 & Joy – 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) Luke 1:46b & 49

One: My soul magnifies the Lord.

My spirit rejoices in God my saviour.

All: For the Mighty One has done great things, and holy is God's name.

(Please stand as able)

Gathering Song of Praise Voices United #17

(Tune: Londonderry Air VU#586)

"O Ancient Love"

1. O ancient love, processing through the ages;
O hidden love, revealed in human form;
O promised love, the dream of seers and sages:
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.
O homeless love, that dwells among the stranger;
O lowly love, that knows the mighty's scorn;
O hungry love, that lay within a manger;
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.



2. O gentle love, caressing those in sorrow;
 O tender love, that comforts those forlorn;
 O hopeful love, that promises tomorrow:
 O living Love, within our hearts be borne.
 O suffering love, that bears our human weakness;
 O boundless love, that rises with the morn;
 O mighty love, concealed in infant meekness:
 O living Love, within our hearts be borne.

Words: Michael Joncas 1994

Music: Traditional Irish Melody, arr. John Barnard 1982

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(Please be seated)

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - Advent IV

Voice 1: Let your light shine. Let your spirit soar.
 Throw open your mind.
 Hand over your heart.
 Here comes LOVE.

Voice 2: It shines in the darkness.
 It sings in the shadows.
 It will not cringe and cannot be contained.

Voice 1: It was the hope of the saints, the call of the prophets.
 It was the fire in the belly of the Baptist
 and the courage of Mary.

Voice 2: Lamp in the window, beacon on the hill, star in the night sky.
 The Love that leads us home.



(Light the last purple candle)

Voice 1: On this fourth Sunday of Advent,
 we light the candle of Everlasting Love.

**All: We light the candle of Everlasting Love.
 May it light the way.**

Voice 2: As one family let us pray the following prayer:

All: O God, Source of Eternal Love. You are the beginning of All Joy,
 the accomplisher of all Peace and the source of all Hope.
 On this Sunday of Love, may we be aware that you have come to
 us, and continue to come to us daily. Break all of our
 assumptions that we may find the Wonder and the Awe of Your
 Love in every breath we take. We pray in the name of Immanuel
 — God with us — Love Eternal. **Amen.**

From The True Gift Lives on – By Rev. Takouhi

(Please Remain Seated)

Advent Candle Lighting Song - Voices United #1

“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.

3 Come dry our tears that stream down from our face.

Come God-With-Us and bring joy to this place.

Our broken spirit longs for new life

That we might let go all that brings us strife.

Refrain:

Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel!

Come bring us Joy,

Wherever we may dwell.

4 O Son of God, come to us from above,

Come fill our words and actions with your love.

From all injustice may we resist

That we might show your kingdom in our midst.

Refrain:

Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel!

Come bring us Love

Wherever we may dwell.

Words: Rev. Jeff Doucette, Enniskillen Tyrone United Church. Used with permission.

Music: 15th century plainsong melody. Arr. Healey Willan.

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Prayer of Illumination (All): Astonishing God, send your Holy Spirit upon us as we await the coming of the infant child, Emmanuel. Fill us with good things that we may conceive Your Love and give birth to Your Reign on earth and glorify you according to Your Word; through Jesus- Your Word made flesh. **Amen**

Liturgical Dance: *Debra Marra Donaldson*

Scripture Reader: *Rev. Takouhi*

Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town... where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth...filled with the Holy Spirit...exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb..."

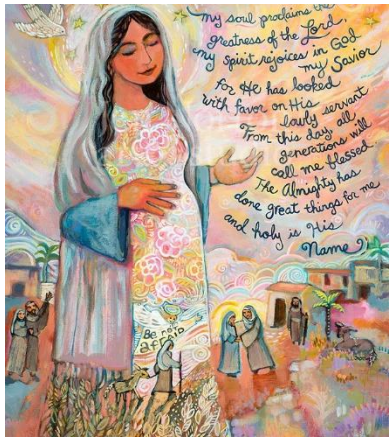
And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

(Please Refrain from applause)

Anthem – *Mary Rocked the Little Baby* - Don Besig, Nancy Price
Soloist: Christina Kaya

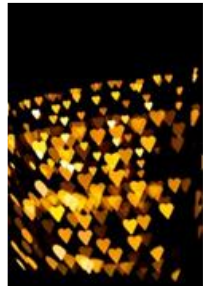
Life Lesson: "Saying 'YES' to LOVE..."



Song of Assurance - Voices United #58

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

- 1 Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is born for all.
Christ the babe is born for all!
- 2 Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till
the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.
Christ the babe was born for you!



Words: Polish Carol, trans. and para. Edith M.G. Reed 1921

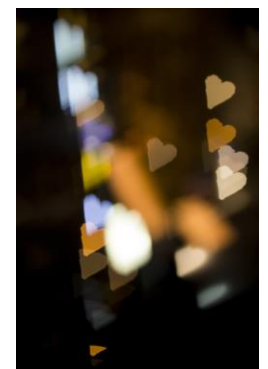
Music: Polish folk melody, harm A.E. Rusbridge Harmony copyright © 1960 A.E. Rusbridge.

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Prayers of Hope and Healing

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.**

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

Your Generosity Matters: Nourishing Spirits through Tradition

Our Offerings – Supporting God's Ministries:

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

Offertory Song: Voices United # 55 (verse 4)

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

- 4 *What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.*



Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti ca. 1872

Music: Gustav Theodor Holst 1906

Public domain

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (All):

Holy God, Your Love is magnified in the birth of Jesus. Bless these gifts that we offer to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry in your coming reign of justice and peace. **Amen.**

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD TO BE THE CHURCH

(Please stand as able)

Song of Going Forth: Voices United #73

"The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"

- 1 The virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
and they say that his name is Jesus.

Refrain:

**He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.**

- 2 The angels sang when the baby was born,
the angels sang when the baby was born,
the angels sang when the baby was born,
and they say that his name is Jesus.

Refrain:

**He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!**



**He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.**

3 The shepherds came where the baby was born,
the shepherds came where the baby was born,
the shepherds came where the baby was born,
and they say that his name is Jesus.

Refrain:

**He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.**

Words and Music: West Indies Carol, from Edric Conner Collection of West Indian Spirituals 1945.
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Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude: *Finale on "Mendelssohn" - 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 Birthday this week Carol Green.

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

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	72	\$ 2,277.50	\$ 202.5	\$ 25.00	\$ 125.00
Blue Christmas					
Dec 24					
Christmas Eve					
PAR		\$ 1,680.00	\$98.50	\$ 57.50	
BMO		\$ 450.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 75.00	

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/>

Coming up this week at Grace United...

Sunday, December 24 Advent 4 - LOVE 10:30 am Worship 7:00pm	Office Closed Morning Worship, Rev. Takouhi Christmas Eve Service
Monday, December 25th	Office Closed - Christmas Day Merry Christmas
Tuesday, December 26th	Office Closed BOXING DAY
Wednesday, December 27th	Office Closed
Thursday, December 28th	Office Closed
Friday, December 29th	Office Closed
Saturday, December 30th	Office Closed
Sunday, December 31st 10:30 am Worship	Office Closed Worship Leader, Barb DeJeet

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

