

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.

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.

Director of Music

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

Office Administrator

Laurie Cadue

January 7, 2024 - Order of Worship

First Sunday of the New Year ¹

Epiphany & Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

WE GATHER AS ADVENT PEOPLE

Organ Prelude: *Meditation on "Woodworth"* -
William Bradbury

Welcome – Shirley Clark

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.

1

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Community in Action – Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Spiritual Focus:

"Epiphany: *A New Year, a New Vision...*

Baptism: *A New Self, a New Responsibility..."*

Lighting the Christ Candle (Responsive)

One: Dearly Beloved, the following six words shape our call to serve the Creator, as United Church of Canada - **Deep Spirituality. Bold Discipleship. Daring Justice.** Therefore, as People of Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship and Daring Justice let us read the following vision statement of this United Church of ours, as one family.

**All: Called by God, as disciples of Jesus,
The United Church of Canada seeks to be a bold, connected,
evolving church of diverse, courageous,
hope-filled communities united in deep spirituality,
inspiring worship, and daring justice.**

One: Through the assurance of Christ's Love, Courage, and Presence we Light the Christ Candle and be reminded we are NOT alone we live in God's World. *(The Christ candle is lit.)*



2

(Please stand as able)

Gathering Song of Praise: Voices United #87

"I Am The Light of the World"

**Refrain: 'I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**

1 When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found
their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun:

**Refrain: 'I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**

2 To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth
and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above!

**Refrain: 'I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**

3 To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see God's children everywhere!

**Refrain: 'I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**

4 To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth!

**Refrain: 'I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**

Words and music: Jim Strathdee 1967

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(Please be seated)

Opening Prayer: A Prayer of Bold Discipleship (Responsive)

One: Loving God, In our discipleship we will be bold.

**All: As bold disciples, we will listen carefully to those who
Experience life differently from us. In our discipleship we will
be bold. As bold disciples, we will work out our own faith
and explore that of other faith communities. In our
discipleship we will be bold. As bold disciples, we will meet**

with the powerful ones but will not submit to them. In our discipleship we will be bold. As bold disciples, we will experience love in a little child with their carers and will humbly worship. Amen

WE SEEK WISDOM

(Please stand as able)

Song of Illumination More Voices #154

"Deep In Our Hearts"

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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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(Please be seated)

Time with Youth and Young at Heart

"Lessons from a Pomegranate"



Song of Commitment

"They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love" (Verses 1 & 2)

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

Chorus:

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in this land.

Chorus:

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

Words: 1966 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 Lorenz Publishing Company (Admin. by Lorenz Corporation),

Music: 1966 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 Lorenz Publishing Company (Admin. by Lorenz Corporation)

WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES

Prayer of Illumination (All): Touch us with your Word, Loving God, stir up within us fresh ways of enlivening your Word for our day. Hold us with your Word, Loving God, challenge us as we search for your way

in our faith community. Shake us with your Word, Loving God, set us ablaze with a determination to be bolder disciples. In the name of Jesus we pray, **Amen**

Scripture Reader: Christina Gordon

Reader: Listen for the Sacred Story,

All: our ears and hearts are open.

Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the

child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Our second reading

Gospel of Mark 1:9-11

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."



Reader: For the Sacred Story is God's story,

All: for the Sacred Story is our story,

Reader: for the Sacred Story is our source and inspiration.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem – *River in Judea* - arr. John Leavitt

Life Lesson: "On the Path of a NEW LIFE..."

(Please stand as able)

Song of Assurance – More Voices #157

"I Am a Child of God"

Verse 1 I am a child of God,
I am a glimpse of God's new creation.
I am a child of God,
I am a child of God.



Verse 2 I am an endless prayer,
I am a yearning for contemplation,
I am an endless prayer,
I am an endless prayer.

Words and music: Cheryl and Bruce Harding, 2002

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(Please remain standing)

Prayers of Hope and Healing – Renewing Our Baptismal Vows

(Renewal of Baptismal Promises from Book of Worship United Church of Christ U.S.A.)

Invitation

One: Do you renew and affirm the promises of your Baptism?

All: I do.

One: Do you recognize the call of God to people always?

All: I do.

One: Do you embrace the way of Jesus in ministry?

All: I do

One: Do you accept the nurture of God who renews your spirit each day?

All: I do.

One: Do you accept and embrace others who seek a liberating faith in God?

All: I do.

One: In renewing your baptismal vows,
remember your Baptism as a mark of acceptance
and welcome into the care of Christ's church
where you may begin again your Christian faith and life.

*(All who wish to walk up to the Baptismal Font
are welcome to do so, as we sing MV 157)*

(Please be seated)

Song of Assurance – More Voices #157

"I Am a Child of God"

Verse 1 I am a child of God,
I am a glimpse of God's new creation.
I am a child of God,
I am a child of God.

Verse 2 I am an endless prayer,
I am a yearning for contemplation,
I am an endless prayer,
I am an endless prayer.

Verse 3 I am an angry voice,
I am compassion and consternation,
I am an angry voice,
I am an angry voice.

Verse 4 I am a cry for peace,
I am commitment and dedication,
I am a cry for peace,
I am a cry for peace.

Verse 5 I am a song of joy,
I am the moment of jubilation,
I am a song of joy,
I am a song of joy

Verse 1 I am a child of God,
I am a glimpse of God's new creation.
I am a child of God,
I am a child of God.

Words and music: Cheryl and Bruce Harding, 2002

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The Prayer that Jesus taught his followers.

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.**



(Please stand as able)

Offertory Song: Voices United # 538

"For the Gift of Creation"

For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

Words and music: Steve Garnaas-Holmes 1991
Words and music copyright © 1991 Abingdon Press



Prayer of Thanksgiving – (All):

Gracious and loving God, bless now these gifts and those offered
through PAR or online, that through them we transform lives, inspire
meaning and purpose, and build a better world. Remind us that in
giving freely as you do, O God, we embody your own self-giving
nature. Thanks be to you. **Amen**

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

Your Generosity Matters: *Learning the Gospel at Camp*

Our Offerings – Supporting God's Ministries:

*As one year ends and another begins, together we commit to continue
making a difference. The generosity of time, talent and finances are
transformational gifts beyond measures.
We share as able because we know every gift shared for the glory of God
is a Perfect Gift. Thank you for your partnership.*

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

(Please remain standing)

Song of Commitment & Going Forth: Voices United #575

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

- 1 I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
- I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!



- 2 I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
- 3 I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
- 4 I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Words and music: African-American spiritual
Music arr. Wendell Whalum
Public Domain

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude: *Finale on "Lobe Den Herren" - Stralsund Gesangbuch*

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 Vicki Leakey.

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. 2024 Envelopes are out and ready for pick up.

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				125.00	
Dec 24	58	\$ 2,081	\$200.00	\$50.00	\$ 20.00
Christmas Eve				\$ 438.00	
Dec 31	24	\$ 2,130.00	\$ 272.50	\$ 20.00	
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 are located on the table in the Narthex.

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/>

Church Board Meetings

- Session Meeting – Sunday, January 14th – following service**
- Stewards Meeting – Tuesday, January 23rd – 10:00 am**
- Official Board Meeting – Sunday, January 28th – Following Service.**
- Annual Congregation Meeting – Date to be Confirmed.**

Are you interested in sitting on one of the church boards?

Session, & Stewards, Trustees, welcome new members.
 Session is responsible for the Spiritual representation of Grace United.
 The Board of Stewards are responsible for the Finances of Grace United.
 Trustees are responsible for all property that is held in Trust for the United Church of Canada.
 To join a Board, nominees need to be approved at the Annual Congregational Meeting in February.
Need more information, speak to one of the Board Chairs, listed on the back cover of the Order of Service.

Memory Tree.

\$645.00 was raised through your generous donations to the Memory Tree. People may pick up their ornament after Sunday morning's service.

Coming up this week at Grace United....

Sunday, January 7 10:30 am Worship	Office Closed Worship Leader, Rev. Takouhi Renew Baptism Vows
Monday, January 8 6:00pm	Office 8am – 1pm YOGA
Tuesday, January 9 9am – 12pm 3:30 – 4:30 5:30 – 7:30	Office 8am – 1pm Quilters YOGA Boot Camp / Zoomba
Wednesday, January 10 9am to 12 pm	Office Closed Seniors – Beginner French (9-10:30) Step 2 French (10:30 – 12)
Thursday, January 11 10:30 to 12 pm 1:30 to 7:30	Office 8am – 1pm Choir Practice (10:30 – 12pm) Seniors – Pilates (1:30-2:30) Chair YOGA (3:30 – 4:30) Boot Camp / Zoomba (5:30-7:30)
Friday, January 12	Office 8am – 1pm
Saturday, January 13	Office Closed
Sunday, January 14 10:30 am Worship	Office Closed Worship Leader, Rev. Takouhi

Mark your Calendars for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Tuesday, February 13th – 4:30 to 6:30 pm - Good will Offering
Like to help out?

Volunteers are always welcome. Speak to Murray Roantree.