

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

Treasurer: Vicki Leakey

613-382-4015

vickileakey@gmail.com

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



Altered By the Spirit ©Michelle Walka. BelovedArtandPractice.com

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

***(Remember to pass this bulletin to someone else
You never know how you will Bless them)***



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

February 18, 2024



Order of Worship

First Sunday of Lent / Communion

**WE GATHER AS PEOPLE WHO WALK IN THE WILDERNESS OF LIFE
WITH GOD'S PRESENCE & PEACE**

Organ Prelude: variation of "In Christ there is no East or West"

Welcome – Brian Brooks

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:

"Lent: A time of Self-Reflection, Spiritual Discipline, Commitment, and Community..."

Lighting the Christ Candle:

*We light this candle to spread the **Light of Christ**, into the corners which seek to hinder us from the truth— we are reminded that **we are loved**, even in the wilderness of our lives.*

Gathering Call:

Come to the Lord with openness, John 3:1–2, 14–15
seeking God's presence whatever it brings.
Bring doubt, bring belief.
Seek the Lord and live.

(Please stand as able)

Gathering Song of Trust in the Wilderness

Voices United #288 - *"Great is Thy Faithfulness"*

1 Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm 1923, alt.

Music: William M. Runyan 1923; desc. Joachim Segger 1995

Words and music copyright © 1923, renewal 1951 Hope Publishing Company

Descant copyright © 1995 Hope Publishing Company

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(Please be seated)

A Prayer of Confession & Forgiveness (Responsive):

One: Holy God,

We confess that we have rejected the refuge you offer.

**All: We try to hide behind self-sufficiency and pride,
but you see us, and love us still.**

One: We confess that we have chosen strife over peace;
we want to be right more than we want to be in right
relationship.

**All: Forgive us for the ways we have rebelled against you
and harmed our neighbors in action, thought, or
indifference.**

One: We confess that we have settled for convenient comforts,
for palm-sized imitations of mercy and justice.

**All: Your mighty hands break the bow and topple the throne,
yet also gather and shelter us like a mother hen.**

One: We confess that you know what we need and gladly provide it.

**All: Grant us the courage, patience, and trust
to receive and share your love.
Amen.**

WE SEEK WISDOM

(Please Remain Seated)

Song of Illumination: Voices United #382

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

1 Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

- 2 Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with thine,
to do and to endure.
- 3 Breathe on me, breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.
- 4 Breathe on me, breath of God:
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

Words: Edwin Hatch, 1878
Music: Robert Jackson 1887
Public Domain.

WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES

Prayer of Illumination (All):

God of signs and wonders,
we come to your Word again and again,
seeking understanding and the new life it offers.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
illumine our hearts and minds
so that we may believe this testimony
and have eternal life.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
our Teacher and Companion, we pray. **Amen.**

John 3:1–15

Scripture Reader: Linda Brooks
Reader: Let us listen to the Living Word of God
All: our ears and hearts are open.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:9-15 The Baptism and Testing of Jesus

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." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Jesus Announces the Good News

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Reader: May God's Spirit add understanding in our hearing.

All: Amen

Anthem – *"Lord, I stretch My Hands to You"*
-Jay Althouse

Life Lesson: *"Altered at the Edge of Belonging..."*



WE SEEK PEACE & COMMUNION

(Please stand as able)

We prepare our hearts for Communion: Voices United # 480

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

1 Let us break bread together on our knees,
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain: When I fall down on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees,
let us drink wine together on our knees.

Refrain: When I fall down on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

3 Let us praise God together on our knees,
let us praise God together on our knees.

Refrain: When I fall down on my knees
with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

Words and music: African-American spiritual 19th cent.

Harmony copyright © 1974 F. R. C. Clarke

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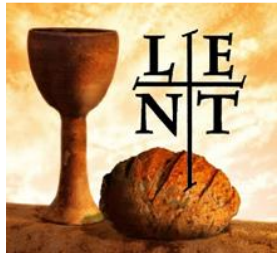
(Please be seated)

GOD'S BANQUET... OUR PARTICIPATION...

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.



All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks,
Creator God, for you made the world and all that is in it. You
called us into relationship with you, providing all we need for an
abundant life..... With the faithful of every time, of every
generation and every place, we pray the words of Jesus:

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.**

One: You are Holy God, and blessed is Jesus. He turned away from
violence, teaching the world the way of peace. He rejected power.
that corrupts, choosing instead to live as a servant among us. He
did not turn stones into easy bread but instead offered us the
bread of life—justice, freedom, spiritual health, and unconditional



love—so that we might never be hungry again. Showing the depth of your love, he offered us the cup of the new covenant, sealed with his Life.... Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours. **Amen.**

(We place the River Rocks in the Bowl set on the Baptismal Font – as we bring all our shortfalls, worries and fears to God. Those who are unable to come forward, those serving the elements will bring their rocks forward).

Sharing the elements –

Jesus the Bread of Life – Bread for the Journey.

Jesus the True Vine – The Cup of the New Covenant.

(Water is poured over the rocks while we pray).

Post-Communion Prayer (All): God of the grain and the ground.



In this wilderness of life, you feed us with heavenly bread and satisfy our thirst with the True Vine. We praise you for this banquet, simple yet abundant. We also praise you for Renewing and Restoring us with your Living Water and nourishing us with your Love. May we go forth from here and feed all who hunger and quench

the thirst of all who thirst in the name of Jesus, our Companion, Friend and the True Bread of Life. **Amen.**

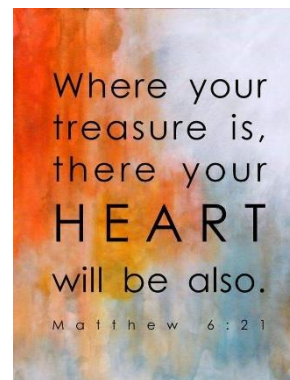
WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

Your Generosity Matters: Leading Generations



MISSION AND SERVICE FUND

Invitation to Offer Ourselves, Finances, Gifts and Talents to God



In plenty or in want, all that we have is a gift from God. In faith and gratitude, we return now a portion of what we have so abundantly received, as grateful recipients of the promises of God.

Passing the offertory plates - Music

(Please stand as able)

Offertory Song: Voices United # 541

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

Words: Thomas Ken.ca 1674

Music: Genevan Psalter 1551

Public Domain

Prayer of Thanksgiving – (All): Gracious and rebirthing God, we offer these gifts and those already given through PAR and online. May they be transformed into bread to feed the world, welcome for the lost, and ways to fulfill Jesus' mission of shalom for the world. **Amen.**



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

Song of Commitment & Going Forth Voices United #651

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

- 1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.
- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.



Words: Welsh, William Williams 1745,
English trans. Peter Williams and William Williams 1776.
Music: John Hughes 1905. Public Domain

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude: *"The Older I Get"*
(Wright, Sarah Turner, Hailey Whitters)

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 Tim Bass and Connie Thompson.

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 January 2024

Date	Attend	General	M&S	Benevolent (SGM)
Feb 4	35	\$ 1247.50	\$ 282.50	\$ 25.00
Feb 11	32	\$ 1057.50	\$ 152.50	\$ 0.00
Feb 18				
Feb 25				
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 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/>

PIE ORDERS

While Tom & Carol are away on holiday, pies can be ordered by calling Betty Matthews at 613-382-3315

Donation Tax Receipts are in the mail.



World Day of Prayer

Friday March 1st, 2024

At 2:00pm

Hosted by Christ Church
30 Church St., Gananoque

All are welcome

Coming up this week at Grace United....

Sunday, February 25 10:30 am Worship/Communion Following Service	Office Closed Worship Leader, Rev. Takouhi Annual General Meeting
Monday, February 26 6:00pm	Office 8am-1pm YOGA
Tuesday, February 27 9am – 12pm 1:00pm 5:30 to 7:30pm	Office 8am – 1pm Quilters Stewards Meeting BootCamp/Zoomba
Wednesday, February 28 9am to 12 pm	Office Closed Seniors – Beginner French (9-10:30) Step 2 French (10:30 – 12)
Thursday, February 29 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, March 1	Office 8am – 1pm
Saturday, March 2	HoozHear? 7:30-9pm
Sunday, March 3 10:30 am Worship Service	Office Closed Worship Leader, Rev. Takouhi

United Church Women – Lent Offerings

During Lent, offerings in the Lent Envelopes or mark Lenten Donations are for the UCW and their programs.

THANK YOU

to all the volunteers and for the donations of supplies that made our pancake supper such a huge success. Lots of pancakes, syrup & sausages were enjoyed, and a great night of fellowship was had by everyone. The proceeds for the night were,

\$1405.95 Revenue - \$92.45 Expenses = \$1313.50 Proceeds.



**HoozHear?
Returns**

A talented group of young musicians, playing a variety of instruments and performing many genres of music for your entertainment.

**Saturday, March 2nd at 7:30pm
Grace United Church
120 Pine St., Gananoque On
Tickets: \$15**

Available at Church Office 613-382-2161
Gananoque Visitors Centre 613-382-8044
Beggars Banquet Books 613-463-8998
Or online through CanadaHelps.

HoozHear?
www.facebook.com/hoozhear
HoozHear@crystalizermusicstudio.ca

HoozHear? Return

March 2, 2024

7:30 pm

Tickets are \$15 and available this morning from a Members of Stewards.

You can also contact the church office 613-382-2161 or purchase online through Canada helps. Click on the Link below
[HoozHear? Music Concert - CanadaHelps](#)

Count Your Blessings

Each week throughout Lent, we hope you will use our calendar as a reminder to count your blessings every day and collect a donation (by Easter Sunday) towards bringing Hamse's family from their refugee camp to join him in Canada.

At this time, The Gananoque Refugee Settlement Group is working toward settling a young man and his mother, who are the mother and brother of a wonderful young man in Kingston, named Hamse. Hamse came here as a refugee 4 years ago from Ethiopia after escaping war and an ethnic massacre in Somalia. Hamse works full time at Costco and is just finishing up full time education at St. Lawrence College and will soon be ready to join the health sector.

Hamse's mother and brother remain in one of the world's largest refugee camps in Ethiopia, where everyday is a battle for survival.

Hamse very much hopes to help his mother and little brother escape from the refugee camp and settle in Canada, where we are sure they will be as successful and as wonderful as Hamse.

Pick up your "Count Your Blessings Calendar" at the back of the Sanctuary or on line. graceunitedgananoque.com or on our Facebook page.

On Easter Sunday, bring your "Count Your Blessings" donations. Please have donations in a separate envelope or cheque, made out to **Grace United Church**, identified as "**Count Your Blessings**". Everything collected through this project will go to the Refugee Settlement Group.