

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

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Order of Worship

Women's History Month

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

Organ Prelude: Meditation on "Count Your Blessings"
- Johnson Oatman Jr.

Welcome – Denise Wood

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.*

Call to Worship (Responsive):

One: O mortal, can these bones live? Ezek. 37:3

All: Only the Lord God knows.

One: O people, hope in the Lord.

All: With the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to redeem.

(Please stand as able)

Gathering Song of Praise: Voices United #217

"All Creatures of Our God and King" (Verses 1, 3, & 5)

- 1 All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing:
hallelujah, hallelujah!
- Bright burning sun with golden beam,
soft shining moon with silver gleam,
sing praises, sing praises,
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!



3 Earth, ever fertile, day by day
brings forth rich blessings on our way:
sing praises, hallelujah!
The flowers and fruits that verdant grow,
let them God's glory also show:
sing praises, hallelujah!
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

5 Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship God in humbleness:
sing praises, hallelujah!
Praise God eternal, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one:
sing praises, hallelujah!
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Words: William Henry Draper c.1899-1919, based on a poem by St. Francis of Assisi
Music: German, published 1623, Cologne
Public domain

(Please be seated)

A Prayer of the Day (All):

Lord God, Great I Am,
you are resurrection and life.
As we worship you this day
show us who we are:
bearers of good news,
messengers of resurrection;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

WE SEEK WISDOM

(Please Remain Seated)

**Count Your Blessings – Gananoque Refugee
Settlement Group – Sam MacLeod**



(Please stand as able)

Song of Commitment: Voices United #87

"I Am The Light of the World" (verses 1 & 4)

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.**

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)

WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES

Prayer of Illumination (All):

O Lord, we wait for you,
and in your Word we trust.
By the power of your Spirit,
set our hearts and minds
on the source of life and peace:
Jesus Christ our Light and our Way. **Amen.**

Scripture Reader: Vicki Leakey

Reader: Let us listen to the Living Word of God

All: our ears and hearts are open.

Gospel Reading: John 3:1-21

Nicodemus Comes to see Jesus at night

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him,



"Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that

their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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

All: Amen

Anthem – *Without His Cross* - Joseph Martin

Life Lesson: "Altered by God's Creativity..."

(Please remain seated)

Song of Assurance More Voices #90

"Don't Be Afraid" (Sing through Twice)

Don't be afraid.
My love is stronger,
my love is stronger
than your fear.
Don't be afraid.
My love is stronger
and I have promised,
promised to be always near.



Words: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1995

Music: John L. Bell, 1995

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Prayers of Hope and Healing

The Lord's Prayer

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: *Public, Intentional, Explicit Inclusion*

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



"God so loved the world that God gave..."
Loving the world means being as concerned with what happens on the other side of town as on the other side of the world. Through the gifts we offer to ministries of this church and those of Mission and Service, we can love the world on God's behalf. Let us present our offering.

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): Ezek. 37:11–14

Holy God, giver of life,
we thank you for raising us up and joining us together as one people,
your people, flesh and bone in the body of Christ.
As you have delivered us from death, use our lives to proclaim the
good news of new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Song of Commitment & Going Forth Voices United #562

"Jesus Calls Us..."

1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding,
saying, 'Christian, follow me.'

- 2 Long ago apostles heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.
- 3 Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, 'Christian, love me more.'
- 4 In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
'Christian, love me more than these.'
- 5 Jesus calls us: by your mercies,
Saviour, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander 1852, alt.
Music: William Herbert Jude 1874 . Public Domain



Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude: Finale on "*Lasst uns erfreuen*" - German melody

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 Marg Worth and Diane Kirkby.

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

FOOD BANK Requests for MARCH Cookies & Crackers, Canned Fruit, Canned Meat

On Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024, Grace United Church will officially welcome full members.

If you are considering making Grace United Church Your Spiritual Family Home, please contact Rev. Takouhi at revtakouhi@terrautopia.ca
Or by phone - direct line: 613-777-0880 By March 17.

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 March 2024

Date	Attend	General	M&S	Benevolent (SGM)
March 3	39	\$ 1307.50	\$ 212.50	\$ 45.00
March 10				
March 17				
March 24				
March 31				
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/>

Easter Pie Orders

Place your order now for your Easter Pies

Apple, Blueberry, Bumbleberry, Cherry, Strawberry, Strawberry/Rhubarb, Rhubarb \$15

Raspberry \$20

Call Betty at 613-382-3315

Pick up Date – March 21, 3:30 to 6:00pm





The Knifty Knitters are busy and looking for donations of yarn, specifically, DK worsted weight or sport yarn. (NO BABY YARN PLEASE). Yarn can be dropped off on Sunday mornings or during office hours.

Coming up this week at Grace United....

Sunday, March 10 10:30 am Worship	Office Closed Worship Leader, Rev. Takouhi
Monday, March 11 6:00pm	Office 8am-1pm YOGA
Tuesday, March 12 9am – 12pm 5:30 to 7:30pm	Office 8am – 1pm Quilters BootCamp/Zoomba
Wednesday, March 13	Office Closed
Thursday, March 14 10:30 to 12 pm 2:00pm 5:30 to 7:30	Office 8am – 1pm Choir Practice (10:30 – 12pm) Nunny Bags Magic Show Boot Camp / Zoomba (5:30-7:30)
Friday, March 15 2:00pm	Office 8am – 1pm Nunny Bags Magic Show
Saturday, March 16	Office Closed
Sunday, March 17 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.

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.