



WELCOME TO GRACE UNITED CHURCH



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***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

Maundy Thursday¹

Love Altered

"Love, as I have Loved You"

March 28, 2024



Welcome

Introduction: *What is Maundy Thursday?* **John 15: 9-17**

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's

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¹ Portions of this liturgy was written by Rev. Michelle Torigian, the senior pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ in Belleville, Illinois.

friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

Invocation:

Holy God, Companion in the Room,

We enter the space where the story begins. As evening extinguishes daylight, we begin the task of remembering the story. Our minds race as we place ourselves around the table with Christ. Our souls become quieter as the bread is broken and the cup is poured. May we recall tonight's story as one that has drawn us together over time... May the readings and rituals bless our heavy hearts worn down by this world. Heal us with each word, each sense, each breath. Amen.

Call to Worship (Responsive):

One: The week has come to wrestle with the story.

Many: The week has come to reveal the profane.

One: The day has come to embody the sacred.

Many: The day has come to reflect on love.

One: The hour has come to remember the story.

Many: The hour has come to bring peace to our souls.

Voices United 372 *"Though I May Speak"*

1 Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

2 Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

3 Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

Words: Hal Hopson 1972.

Music: trad. English melody' adapt. Hal H. Hopson 1972

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Prayer of Transformation and New Life (All):

Holy Deliverer,

Tonight, we have reached the all-too-familiar story of the eve before the execution. While there are times when we relate very well to Jesus in this story, we forget that we have been Judas, Peter, and the disciples. We have allowed ourselves to become part of someone's story of pain. Our words have pierced another's hearts. We have betrayed our



neighbor instead of filling this world and another's soul with love. Instead of living with the heaviness of guilt, allow us to create peace around us and within us. Invite us to share our repentance and to reconcile whenever possible. May we live into the mandate to love one another as you love us. **Amen.**

Words of Grace:

Through the redeeming love of Christ,
God has poured grace upon us.

May the mercy of God transform us into bearers of love
in a wounded world. **Amen.**

Voices United # 333 *"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"*

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

2 Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.



3 Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley 1747

Music: Rowland Huw Prichard ca. 1838

Public Domain



Voices United # 266 - *"Amazing Grace"*
(vv. 1-3)

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

Hand Washing and Blessing Ritual

This is a blessing of the hands. In our world today, our hands are used to care for us and others, prepare food, extend a greeting, and work - whether laboring in the fields, manufacturing items, or administration. Our work provides for others and ourselves, extending the love of Christ in our world.

A Blessing in the Washing of Hands

God of Blessings,
Like water, your grace flows freely over us,
Releasing the shame of the past,
Refreshing us for the future.
Such restoration is a balm to our spirits.
May these hands be a conduit of your love into the world.
May they build systems and spaces of care.
May they deliver words of kindness across the virtual universe,
And may they provide the necessities to our neighbors in need.
Allow the bounty of your blessings which passes through our hands
To alleviate heartbreak and illuminate beauty
As we wander throughout your kin-dom. **Amen.**

(Please remain seated)

Voices United # 266 - "Amazing Grace" (vv. 4-5)

4. The Lord has promised good to me,
this word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Words: John Henry Newton 1779, alt.

Music from Virginia Harmony 1831 - Public Domain

Prayer of Gratitude

Holy One, with gratitude, we celebrate this space and time with your children. With thanksgiving, we remember Jesus the Christ, the one who shared light with the world, even when the shadows lengthened. Give us strength to re-enter this world sharing love and grace to our neighbors around us. **Amen.**

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.**

(Please stand as able)

Benediction

As we head into the night,
may we commune with God our fears and frustrations.
May we reach out to our neighbors as we yearn to settle our souls.
May we know the strength of the Holy Spirit as we endure moments of
trial and moments of joy. **Amen.**

Voices United # 144 – *“Were You There”*

1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

3. Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
4. Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

****(at the 5th verse we begin to leave the sanctuary quietly)***

5. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Words and music: African-American spiritual,
arr. Melva Wilson Costen 1987
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**Join us on Good Friday for the Walk of the Cross.
Beginning at Christ Church, 30 Church street and proceeding
through town with various stops, concluding at Grace United.
All are welcome!**

**Easter Sunday Celebration Worship with Communion
We are blessed to have a Brass Quintet enriching our worship
experience at 10:30 a.m. in person or YouTube.
Pre-service Brass mini-recital at 10:15 a.m.
All Are Welcome!**