

WELCOME TO GRACE UNITED CHURCH

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: Colleen Harding Clerk: Julie Price

Board of Stewards: Chair: Vicki Leakey

Vice Chair: Cliff Edwards, Secretary: Mary Hausler

Official Board: Chair: Brian Brooks

613-382-2385 brooks525@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Bruce Wilson, Secretary: Diane Nuttall

Treasurer: Vicki Leakey

613-382-4015 vickileakey@gmail.com

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-](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNVYi-R3mmlG7LnX1jKJnEg)

[R3mmlG7LnX1jKJnEg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNVYi-R3mmlG7LnX1jKJnEg)

<https://www.facebook.com/GraceUnitedChurchGananoque>

Service from the previous week will be shown on COGECO channel 13 or
700HD at 10:30 am Sunday mornings



(A_Thrill_of_Hope_-_Advent_in_a_Box_Vol_2_-_2024_-_Lectionary_Graphics - Used by Permission)

***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

December 1, 2024 - Order of Worship

First Sunday of Advent - HOPE

Beginning of Lectionary Year C

Communion Sunday

World Aids Day – December 1

WE GATHER AS ADVENT PEOPLE

Organ Prelude: *Meditation on "Whittlesey" - David Young*

Welcome – Colleen Harding

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:

"Advent offers permission to see the world as it really is while still hoping for a future we can only sometimes glimpse."¹

Lighting the Christ Candle

(The Christ candle is lit.)

(Please stand as able)

Gathering Song of Praise Voices United #4

"God of All Places"

(Please be seated)

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - Advent I²

First Sunday of Advent (Focus: Isaiah 64:1–9)

Reader 1: O God, we light the first candle of Advent. (A member of a family lights the first candle.)

Reader 2: We kindle it with hope. We long for you to come to our world, to break through and reign with compassion, justice, and peace.

All: We remember times we longed for God to be present to us, this congregation, and this world.

Reader 1: The prophet Isaiah also cried to God to tear open heaven and come down. He called God's people to do right. Isaiah called them to be refashioned like clay by God, the potter. This Advent, we call out to God.



¹ Kate Bowler – 2024 Advent Resources

² https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/worship_worship-ways_year-a_ace_advent-liturgy-for/ November 23, 2024

(We Light the Candle of HOPE)

All : Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from you. We ask for your mercy and reform us in your image. This Advent, visit us with your justice, love, and peace. Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting Song - Voices United #1

"O Come, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Words by Rev. Jeff Ducette

Enniskillen Tyrone United Church

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.**



Words: Rev. Jeff Ducette, Enniskillen Tyrone United Church. Used with permission.
Music: 15th century plainsong melody. Arr. Healey Willan.
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WE SEEK WISDOM

Prayer of Illumination (All): O God of our people and Lord of every nation, let your Word ring out from the mountains and your Spirit shine forth in the earth, so that all may hear your Good News, and all may do your will; we pray through Jesus our Hope. **Amen**

Scripture Reader: Brian Brooks

Reader: Let us open our hearts, and minds to hear the Word of Hope
All: Let us listen for that Living Word.

Gospel of Luke 21:25-36 (NRSV)

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Anthem: *Rejoice, Your Light Has Come - Mary MacDonald*

Life Lesson: *"Advent: Watching and Waiting with HOPE..."*

Song of Assurance - Voices United #2

"Come, thou Long-Expected Jesus" (Tune: Hyfrydol – VU 333)

AN ADVENT COMMUNION LITURGY ¹

**Invitation to the Feast that is Prepared
by the Love of God...**

One: Come, come from distraction to attention.

**All: Come from loneliness to
God's gathered community.**

One: Come from anxiety and stress into God's Peace.

All: Come from labour to rebirth.

One: Come to God's table knowing that the love offered here
sustains and unites us.

**All: Knowing that the cup offered here reminds us of God's love
poured out in the Life of Jesus, the fruit of love and justice.**

One: Come, let us lay aside those things that inhibit our participation in
God's New Day and let us pray and give thanks:

**All: We give you thanks, God of Hope and Prince of Peace,
who gives deep Joy and embellishes us with eternal Love.
Through the words of your prophets and the faith of your
followers you prepare the way of our redemption and bring
Hope through new birth. Though we often grow weary of
waiting, your signs call us to actively wait for that day when
all things shall be new. Standing firm in this assurance we give
you praise:**

One: Holy Wisdom, Comforter, Advocate, Friend, may these gifts of
creation bless our lives with the presence and power of the infant
child... We gather these and all unspoken prayers, thankful that



we may turn to you as our Father and Mother who loves us, and we
pray:

**All: Our Mother and Father who resides in our hearts
Sacred is your cool name. May the world have
eternal peace. And love be the ruler. Provide us with
what we need to live happy lives. May we have the courage
to forgive others as You have forgiven our sins and help us
see that everyone makes mistakes. Help us to resist
temptations Help us to always follow the path of LOVE. For
this world is your kingdom. You are the source of love that
will never end and will always be with us. Make it happen!!!
Amen.**



*Kaitlyn, Kara, Liv, Heather & Rev. Takouhi
Bay of Quinte Youth Conference – October 24, 2015*

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

Leader: These are the Gifts of God, for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Communion Elements are Received

Jesus the Bread of Life

Jesus the True Vine

(We come forward to receive the elements.

Those who are unable to step forward, we will bring the elements to them.)

Prayer after Communion (All): For the bread we have eaten, for the
cup we have tasted, for the life we have received, we thank you God.
Grant that what we have been given here, may fill us with eternal Hope.
As we grow in the Way of Your Love, may our lives become Faithful
Actions of Justice for all. In the name of the One who demonstrated
Hope for ALL the Earth. **Amen.**

Song of Commitment - Voices United #381

"Spirit of Life"

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

Words and music: Carolyn McDade 1981
Harm. Grace Lewis-McLaren 1992, alt.
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WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

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

-7-

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD TO BE THE CHURCH

(Please stand as able)

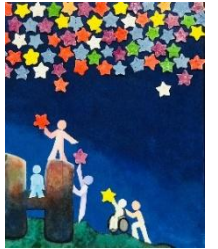
Song of Going Forth: Voices United #7

"Hope is a Star"

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude: *Finale on "Hyfrydol" - Henry Coleman*



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.

-8-

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 to Denise & Steve
Happy 57th Anniversary to Brian & Linda.**

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

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/>

Are you wondering what will happen to Grace United Church once our beloved Reverend Takouhi moves away after Christmas? The Visioning Committee is working hard to find solutions, but we need your help. Please join us at the next meeting on ZOOM, December 6th at 10:00 am, by contacting Tammy Fergusson at 613 328-7766.



Don't forget about our FundScrip Program. By ordering gift cards, you also give back to Grace United Church. There are order forms in the Narthex and some great promotions on now. Gift card order can be sent right to your home. Need help, ask Denise Wood or Laurie.

Thank you Advent Decorating Team

On Tuesday the 26th Grace United sanctuary was prepared for the Christmas Season. Many thanks to Barb and Randy Jenkins, Tammy and Angus Fergusson, Paul and Colleen Harding, David Charles and Joan MacKinnon, Joan Shaw, Connie and Steve Thompson, Dianna Grier, Marg Worth and Paul and Carolyn Scott.

If you can assist with undecorating will happen on Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 10 a.m. and your help would be most appreciated. Contact Barb Jenkins or the church office.

May the blessings of Christmas last the whole year through!

WRITE YOUR NAME & THE AMOUNT ARE ON YOUR DONATION ENVELOPE

If you would like envelopes, there is a sign-up sheet available on the table in the Narthex.

Offerings November 2024

Date	Attend	General	M&S	Benevolent (SGM)	Anniversary
Nov 3	33	\$ 722.50	\$ 177.50	\$ 26.50	\$ 70.00
Nov 10	36	\$1787.50	\$ 307.50	\$ 26.50	\$ 20.00
Nov 17	36	\$ 1617.50	\$ \$177.50	\$ 26.50	\$ 20.00
Nov 24	31	\$ 1173.50	\$ 227.50	\$ 67.00	
BMO					
PAR					

Thank you for your generosity.

If you would like envelopes, there is a signup sheet available on the table in the Narthex

Daily Prayers for Advent: the UCW are selling devotional pamphlets for \$5 each. A daily read during Advent. These are available at the back of the Church

UCW Christmas Lunch.

The UCW Christmas lunch is scheduled for Monday, December 16th 12:00pm at the Gananoque Curling Club. Lunch is \$20 and will include Chicken pot pie, salad & dessert. *(All the ladies of the church are welcome to attend, you do not need to be a UCW member.)* There will also be a Secret Santa for those who wish to participate (max \$20). Contact Denise by December 10th to confirm your spot. 613-876-7739

Rev. Takouhi has taken a new position serving Trinity United Church in Smiths Falls. This will be much easier for her, as it is closer to her family. Rev. Takouhi's last service for Grace United will be on Christmas Eve.

On Sunday, December 15th following service there will be a farewell luncheon for Rev Takouhi, catered by the Roast Beef Company. All are invited. Cost by donation.

White Gift Sunday – December 21st.

This year, your white gift donations will go to *The Gananoque and Area Community Kitchen*. They continue to offer cooking events here in our own kitchen once a month on the 3rd Wednesday. Numbers are increasing and they now feed about 25 to 30 participants who come from all walks of life and different needs such as help with cooking, loneliness, hunger, and community togetherness. They are working towards becoming a registered charity and are in need of funds to purchase supplies for their classes. Of course they also could use extra volunteers. Marion McLeod will join us on Sunday, December 8th to share with us what Community Kitchen does.

Red Wagon Food Bank

Our Annual Red Wagon Food Bank begins this Sunday, November 24th and goes until December 15th.

December 1st- Breakfast Items

Various Cereal, Oatmeal, Instant Oatmeal, Jams & Jellies, Peanut Butter, & Peanut Butter substitutes, Pancake Mix and syrup.

December 8th Canned Goods

Tuna, Salmon, Flaked Chicken or Ham, Spam, Vegetables, Tomatoes, Chunky Soups, Stews, Mayonnaise, Ketchup.

December 15th - Snack Items & Miscellaneous.

Juice Boxes, Kids snack packs, Peanut free snacks, Granola bars, Crackers, Cookies, Popcorn, Cake mixes.

NOTE: Cash Donations are always appreciated.

Blue Christmas Service

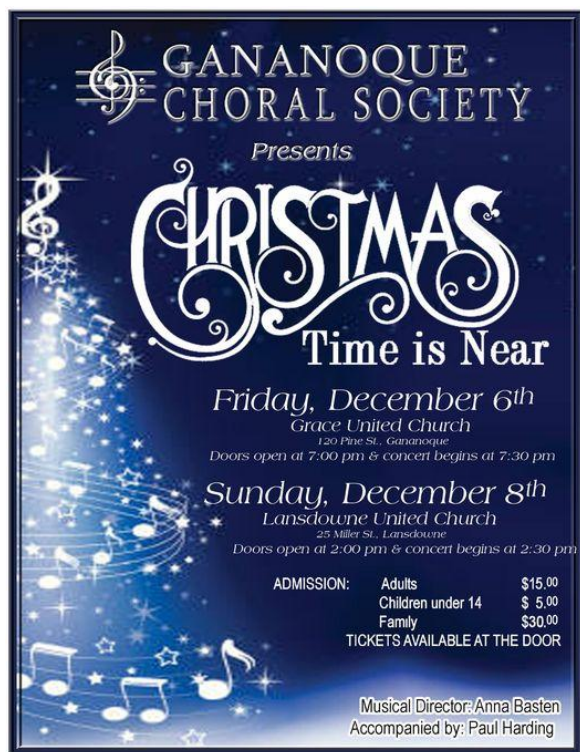
Wednesday, December 18th 7:00pm

Not everyone is up for cheery Christmas Season. People face different situations at different times of life. If you have said goodbye to a loved one, or grieving any other situation, you are invited to Grace United.

All are welcome.

THANK YOU to all who attended the Gordon Lightfoot show on Friday, November 22nd. Approximately 141 people enjoyed a wonderful evening of music. It was a very successful fundraiser for Grace United, bringing in just over \$2200 after expenses. Special thank you to the Board of Stewards, Paul Harding and to Cliff Edwards who has organized the concerts this year and donated their talents.

Our sincere thank you to all who participated in our Annual Christmas Market. We will have an update for you next week.



NEWSLETTER – Grace’s Chatter

There are copies of the latest edition of Grace’s Chatter available at the entrance of the church. With the mail strike on right now, please take a copy to someone you know would enjoy it.

Coming up at Grace United....

Monday, December 2nd 9 to 10 am 6 – 7 pm	Office 8 to 1pm Better Balance YOGA
Tuesday, December 3rd 9am – 12pm 9am – 12pm 5:30 – 6:30	Office 8am – 1pm Quilters Pies PILATES
Wednesday, December 4th 9 to 10 am 5:30-7:30pm	Office Closed Better Balance BootCamp
Thursday, December 5th 10:30 am 11:00am 6 to 9pm	Office 8am – 1pm Choir Practice Carveth Chaple Service Condo Meeting (Hall)
Friday, December 6 th 9 to 10 am 10:00 am 7:30pm	Office 8am – 1pm Better Balance Visioning Meeting (ZOOM) Choral Society Show
Saturday, December 7th 10am to 2pm	Office Closed Christmas Market
December 8 – 2 nd Sunday of Advent	Office Closed Worship Leader: Rev. Takouhi