

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)

NOTE – The church office will be closed from 1pm, December 24th to January 2nd at 8am.

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 Haussler

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-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

**WELCOME
TO
GRACE UNITED CHURCH**



(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

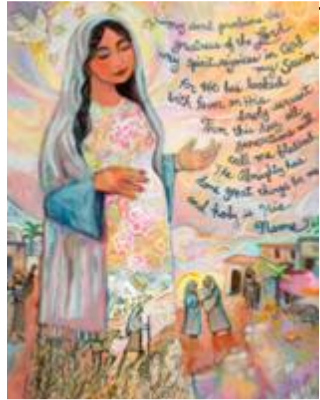
Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro B.A., B.Th., M.Div.

Director of Music

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

Office Administrator

Laurie Cadue



December 22, 2024

Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent – LOVE

Mary's Sunday

WE GATHER AS ADVENT PEOPLE

Organ Prelude: *Meditation on "Hyfrydol"*

Welcome – Vicki Leakey

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's Love: We did not know we needed."¹

Lighting the Christ Candle

(The Christ candle is lit.)

Call to Worship (Responsive) Luke 1:46b & 49

One: My soul magnifies the Lord.

My spirit rejoices in God my saviour.

All: For the Mighty One has done great things, and holy is God's name.

(Please stand as able)

Gathering Song of Hope Voices United #2

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" (Tune: Hyfrydol VU 333)

(Please be seated)

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - Advent IV²

Fourth Sunday of Advent (We focus on Luke 1:26–38)

Reader: O God, we light the fourth candle of Advent.

(With the first three candles burning, the fourth candle is lit.)

Reader: We hear your angel Gabriel and witness the faith of Mary. Fill us with your grace and light.

Reader: Mary was a young, strong, spiritual woman.

Even though her

life was not easy, she heard God's voice and said yes. Her song was a prayer that would uplift those who were downtrodden.

¹ The Weary World Rejoices – Kate Bowler

² https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/worship_worship-ways_year-a_ace_advent-liturgy-for/ November 24, 2024



Her lyrics shattered the proud and called the world to change. She would bear within her the promised child, Jesus, the Light of the World. This Advent, we respond to God's beckoning to us as well.

**All: Revealing God, visit us and fill us with your Spirit.
Bring your good news to life within us. Give us courage to carry your light into the injustices and shadows of this world.
Amen.**

(Please Stand as able)

Carol of Miracle & Wonder – Voices United #64

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES

Prayer of Illumination (All):

As we praise and bless you today, O God, through this worship. We ask that you help us understand Your Love that surpasses ALL understanding. May these words we are about to hear help us experience Your Hope, Your Peace, Your Joy and Your Love every single moment of our lives and share them with Others abundantly.
May we live our days for Your Purpose and Glory. **Amen**



Time with Youth and Young at Heart

"Love trumps fear"

Song of Commitment – More Voices #221

"I Am Walking a Path of LOVE" (x2)

I am walking a path of Love,
I am walking a path of Love,
I am walking a path of Love,
Lead me home,
Lead me home.

Words and Music: Janet Bauman Tissandier
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Liturgical Dance: *Debra Marra Donaldson*

Scripture Reader: *Rev. Takouhi*

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

Gospel of Luke 1:46-55 - "My Soul is Alive with Thoughts of God"

An adaptation of Mary's Magnificat, by Rev. M. Barclay

My soul is alive with thoughts of God.
What a wonder, Their liberating works.
Though the world has been harsh to me,
God has shown me kindness,
seen my worth,
and called me to courage.
Surely, those who come after me will call me blessed.
Even when my heart weighs heavy with grief,
still, so does hope abide with me.

Holy is the One who makes it so.
From generation to generation,
Love's Mercy is freely handed out;
none are beyond the borders of
God's transforming compassion.
The power of God is revealed
among those who labor for justice.
They humble the arrogant.
They turn unjust thrones into dust.
Their Wisdom is revealed in
the lives and truths of those on the margins.
God is a feast for the hungry.
God is the great redistributor of wealth and resources.
God is the ceasing of excessive and destructive production
that all the earth might rest.
Through exiles and enslavement,
famines and wars,
hurricanes and gun violence,
God is a companion in loss,
a deliverer from evil,
a lover whose touch restores.
This is the promise They made
to my ancestors,
to me,
to all the creatures and creations,
now and yet coming,
and in this promise,

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I find my strength.
Come, Great Healer,
and be with us.

Reader: Here ends today's reading.

**All: May the Spirit who worked in Mary's Heart work in our hearts
as well.**

Anthem: *Mary, Did You Know*

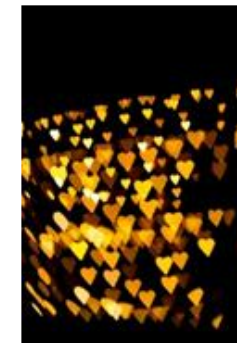
Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

Life Lesson: "God's **LOVE** Includes..."

Musical Gift: *Love in Any Language* -

Jon Mohr and John Mays

Soloist: Sheri Shenton



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

Prayers of the People - A Blessing for the Coming of Justice³ (All)

Blessed are we,
starting to see the height and depth and breadth
of God's love that includes all of us,
even the not-so-perfect.

Blessed are you, Mary, for saying yes to the big risk
of being God's dwelling place.

Blessed are we, like Mary,
starting to sing our own songs of joy
at the thought that maybe this
Advent we too can start to trust it,

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to risk it, to live it out,
the love that decides to love first,
before it is earned or deserved,
the love that your incarnation
embodies to the full.



Blessed are we,
breathing in the truth that we belong,
and so does everybody else.

The Lord's Prayer⁴

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come
on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.

Amen

Your Generosity Matters: A Place to Thrive – Julie Price

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4 (Alternate Version from the New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book)

Our Offerings – Supporting God's Ministries:

*Let us partner up with God and give Generously with Joy and Gratitude.
Our Offerings are Shared...*

(Please stand as able)

Offertory Song: More Voices # 33

"Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope"

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (All):

God of grace and wonder, we offer these gifts in response to your call.
As Mary responded with faith, we too say, "Here we are, let it be to us."
Use these offerings to further your kin-dom on earth. Empower us to
be bearers of Christ's presence, bringing hope and love to our
community. May our giving reflect the promise of Emmanuel, God with
us, and bring light and joy in this Advent season. In Jesus' name, we
pray. **Amen.**⁵ (Luke 1:26-38)

(Please be seated)

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

(Please stand as able)

Song of Going Forth Voices United #509

"I, The Lord of Sea and Sky"

Commissioning & Benediction:

Choral Amen

Postlude: *Finale on "Mendelssohn" - Felix Mendelssohn*

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⁵ <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/come-let-us-adore-him/fourth-sunday-of-advent-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes/fourth-sunday-of-advent-year-c-offertory-prayer#:~:text=Come%2C%20Let%20Us%20Adore%20Him,-Fourth%20Sunday%20of&text=On%20this%20Fourth%20Sunday%20of,hope%20actively%20moving%20toward%20fulfillment.-> December 6, 2024

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 church office if there is someone you know who is in need of 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 Carol.

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

Thank you to our guests today, Debra Mara Donaldson for her beautiful interpretive dance and to Sheri Shenton for her lovely solo. We are grateful to both of you for making today and extra special service.

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 December 2024

Date	Attend	General	M&S	Benevolent (SGM)	White Gift
Dec. 1	40	\$ 2024.65	\$ 227.50	\$ 26.50	
Dec. 8	35	\$ 992.50	\$ 177.50	\$ 26.50	\$100.00
Dec 15	58	\$ 1108.00	\$ 203.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 660.00
Dec 22					
Dec 24					
Dec 29					
BMO					
PAR					

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/>

Today is White Gift Sunday – December 22nd

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.

Christmas Memory Tree

Again, this year we are offering you a very special way to have the memory of a loved one be a prayerful part of our Christmas Worship.

This Christmas, honour one or more loved ones who have passed, by placing their names on our Memory Tree in this beautiful sanctuary.

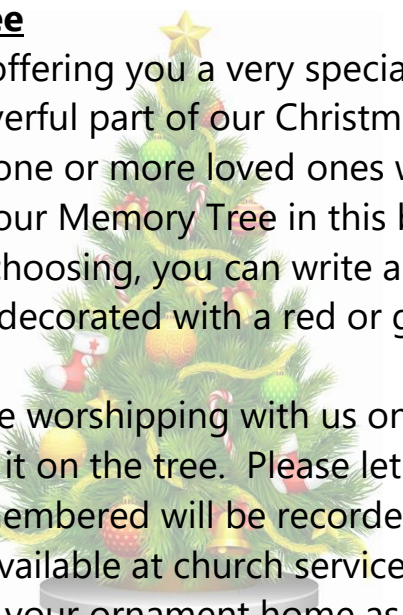
For a donation of your choosing, you can write a beloved name on a flat gold painted ornament decorated with a red or green ribbon and hang it on the Memory Tree.

For those of you who are worshipping with us on line, we can also write the name for you and place it on the tree. Please let Laurie know.

The names of those remembered will be recorded.

The ornaments will be available at church services during Advent. After Epiphany, you may take your ornament home as a keepsake.

Let's fill the tree, and our hearts, with Christmas memories of those we have loved!



A Christmas Prayer

*May the blessings of Joy
abide within you;
May the blessings of peace
rest upon you;
May the blessing of love
flow out through you;
May all the blessings of the Lord
Be yours at Christmas
and in the New Year.*



Do you know a family with a baby or young child that could use a little help? The Baby Shower for Jesus organizers would like to help local families in need. They already have some contacts, but if you know of others, please let Vicki, Tammy or Colleen know.