

Contact information:

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**



CHRISTMAS EVE

*“O Come Let Us
Adore Him!”*

(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 24, 2024
Christmas Eve
Order of Worship
7:00 P.M.



WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Organ Prelude –

*(We prepare our hearts to Welcome the Infant Child –
Emmanuel – God with Us!)*

Welcome: Barb Jenkins

(Please Stand as Able)

Gathering Song of Praise & Worship: Voices United #60

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him, born the King of angels;
**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

2. God of God, light of light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created:
**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:
**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**
4. See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**
5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

Words: English trans. Frederick Oakeley 1841 et al. Music: attrib. John Francis Wade ca. 1743
Descant: Sir David Willcocks. Public Domain

Gathering Call (Responsive)¹:

One: For you who are filled to the brim with happiness,

All: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

One: For you who are mourning the loss of family and friends,

All: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

¹ Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2024. – December 14, 2024

One: For you who feel like you are tripping about in darkness,

All: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

One: For you who rest in gratitude and contentment,

All: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

One: For you who feel the ache of loneliness,

All: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

One: For you who are surrounded by unlikely yet beautiful
companionship,

All: Jesus Christ, the joy of the world, is born.

One: Come, let us worship the birth of our Savior!

All: Come, let us worship God who came to dwell among us!

Carol: Voices United #64

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,



and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.

3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessed gift of heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Words: Phillips Brooks 1868.

Music: Lewis Henry Redner 1868.

Public Domain.

(Please Be Seated)

Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Liturgy²- Paul & Colleen Harding

Reader 1: Rejoice, people of God! The light has come into the world.

(A member lights the four Advent Candles.)

Reader 2: O God, now we light the candle of your nativity!

(With all Advent candles lit, a member lights the center white Christ candle.)

² https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/worship_worship-ways_year-a_ace_advent-liturgy-for/ Dec. 14, 2024



Reader 1: With the company of heaven and with sounds of great joy,
you come to us. This is the time of light and resplendent joy.

**All: We have known times when God has come and brought life
and light to our world. God has been born among us.**

Reader 1: The prophet Isaiah proclaimed a time when those who
walked in the shadows would see a great light. A light would shine and
a child would be born to us.

Reader 2: The evangelist Luke painted the nativity sky and repeated
the heavenly song of the angels, "Glory, peace on earth and goodwill!"
John declared that this great light is Christ, the Word made flesh. This
great light lives among us. By it we behold God's glory—full of grace
and truth. At Christ's nativity, we now rejoice.

**All : God, our Life and Light, thank you for coming this night to us.
Thanks for touching all heaven and earth with your splendor.
In every corner of the world, shine this night with your
peace. In every corner of our hearts, shine this night with
your Peace, Mercy and Grace. Amen.**

(Please stand as able)

Carol Voices United #7

"Hope is a Star"

1 Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

2 Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

3 Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

4 Love is a flame that burns in our heart,
Jesus has come and will never depart.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

Words: Brian Wren 1985

Music: Joan Collier Fogg 1987

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(Please be seated)

WE SEEK WISDOM FROM THE SACRED STORIES

Prayer of Confession & Illumination ³ (Responsive):

One: God of Light,
we confess that we have gone astray and have left Your light.
We follow the dim lights of the world of success and fortune.
We follow the dim lights that call us
to be more religious by following rules.
We follow the fading light of personal salvation.

**All: Forgive us for not seeking the true Light
of Your love for all the world.**

**Forgive us for not following the ways of Jesus,
who commanded us to love one another.**

One: Call us to be light-bearers of love, compassion and justice,
in which the Mystery of Your Love is revealed.

May your Word be Alive to us, in us and through us again.

All: **Amen.**

(Please stand as able)

Carol: Voices United #1

"O Come, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 1, 2, 6, 7)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

6 O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us the Prince of Peace.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Words: From the Latin Antiphons for Advent. Ca. 9th century, trans. John Mason Neal 1851, et al
Music: 15th century plainsong melody. Arr Healey Willan. Words copyright ©The Church Pension
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(Please be seated)

The First Lesson: Luke 1:26–35- Barb Jenkins

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

Reader: Here ends the First Lesson **All: Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as able)

Carol: Voices United #48

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'

***Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'***

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

***Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'***

3 Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,



risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

***Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'***

Words: Charles Wesley 1739, alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn 1840,
adapt. William Hayman Cummings 1856. Public Domain

(Please be seated)

The Second Lesson: Luke 2:1–20 - Vicki Leakey

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying

in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reader: Here ends the Second Lesson

All: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as able)

Carol: Voices United #50 "He is Born"

**He is born, little Child divine;
play on the reeds while the lutes are strumming.
He is born, little Child divine;
join the song to announce the day.**

1. Through long ages of the past,
prophets have foretold his coming;
through long ages of the past,
now the time has come at last!

**He is born, little Child divine;
play on the reeds while the lutes are strumming.
He is born, little Child divine;
join the song to announce the day.**

2. O how lovely, O how pure
is this perfect child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure,
gracious gift to humankind!

**He is born, little Child divine;
play on the reeds while the lutes are strumming.
He is born, little Child divine;
join the song to announce the day.**

3. Lowly lodged in a stable poor,
laid on straw for his infant cradle.
Lowly lodged in a stable poor,
God came down to our mortal aid.

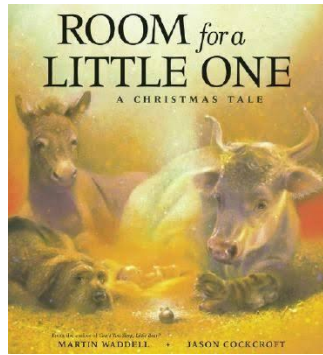
**He is born, little Child divine;
play on the reeds while the lutes are strumming.
He is born, little Child divine;
join the song to announce the day.**

4. Jesus, Lord of all the world,
coming as a child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world,
grant to us your heavenly peace.

**He is born, little Child divine;
play on the reeds while the lutes are strumming.
He is born, little Child divine;
join the song to announce the day.**

Words: trad. 19th – century French carol, trans. George Evans 1963
Music: 18th – century French carol, harm. Carlton R. Young 1988
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(Please be seated)



“Room for a Little One: A Christmas Tale”

By: Martin Waddell & Jason Cockcroft

Read by- Rev. Takouhi

(Please stand as able)

Carol: Voices United #59

“Joy to the World”

- 1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and
nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.



- 4 He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts 1719, alt.

Music: attrib. George Frideric Handel 1742

arr. Lowell Mason 1836 Public Domain

(Please be seated)

Prayers of the People ⁴ (Responsive):

One: We have waited for a long time for your hope,
your joy, your love to shine in the darkness
of this world, Almighty God.

Even now, in our gathering here, we await
you. In our hearts, we still hope that your
light will blaze forth, banishing the
shadows of this world and guiding all the
people back to you.

**All: Yet you did not come into this world
in a show of power and glory.**

You did not shine forth for all of creation to behold.

A tiny spark –

a newborn baby,

visible to parents and curious animals.

**A host of angels – away from the populated areas,
singing to migrant workers.**

A sparkling star –

guiding foreigners to see what neighbors could not.

⁴ Adapted from Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, Pastor at First Church Congregational in Rochester, NH.



One: Open our hearts, merciful God, to the sparks of your presence still in this world, that we might behold your presence in the least likely of places, and among the least likely of people.

**All: God with us,
kindle your spark within us,
that together we may shine forth your light,
we might banish the shadows of this world,
we might be the continuation of the Christmas miracle:
Emmanuel is in this world,
God is with us, now and evermore.
Illumine our hearts, gracious God,
that we might speak anew the words your Son will teach us...
Amen.**

WE RESPOND IN LOVE

Our Gifts to the Purpose of Love – Our Offertory:

*We share as we are able with Care and Compassion
for the World that God Loved and still Loves So Much...*

Offertory Song - (Tune VU 44 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear") (x2)

We bring our gifts to you O God.
We bring our dreams and prayers.
Receive them, bless them, send them out.
To show the world we care.



The Prayer of Jesus (All): *(From the New Zealand Prayer Book)*

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 testing, 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.

MOVING IN GOD'S WAY...

Sharing the Christ Light

Lighting of the candles –



(Please stand as able)

Carol: Voices United #67

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

- 1 Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.
- 3 Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.



Words: Joseph Mohr 1818; English trans. John Freeman Young 1863, et al.
Music: Franz Xavier Grüber
Public domain

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Blessing *"We Wish You a Merry Christmas"*

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Good tidings we bring to you and your kin
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Postlude



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.

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

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 Catherine.

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

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	\$ 1203.00	\$ 203.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 660.00
Dec 22					
Dec 24					
Dec 19					
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 CreditCard through CanadaHelps.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/118944701RR0001-grace-united-church/>

**Baby Shower for Jesus
Sunday, December 29th
10:30am**

You are invited to a baby shower for Jesus. This informal celebration will be held downstairs in the auditorium with carols, readings, prayers, coffee and treats.

Please bring a wrapped gift suitable for a young child, or a monetary gift. These gifts will be passed on to a local family.

**Come and bring a friend!
Let's fill the manger!**

Grace United Church
120 Pine St., Gananoque
(613) 382-2161

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.

