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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 Haussler

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

Bulletin Dedication

*Today's bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of
Cheryl O'Leary*

*Forever in our hearts,
Marilyn, Colleen and family*

**Welcome
to
Grace United Church**





Grace United Church

120 Pine St. Gananoque, ON K7G 1C7

Director of Music

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

Office Administrator

Laurie Cadue

Baby Shower for Jesus

Sunday, December 29, 2024

Worship Leaders

Tammy Fergusson & Colleen Harding

Prelude

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.

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Irma Nadeau, Winnipeg, Man.

Hymn: 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.
Refrain: 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.
Refrain: 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.
Refrain: 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.
Refrain: 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.

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The Candles will be lit by Avery Smith, Conor Smith and Anne Hlady

- A: On this day, we celebrate Jesus' birth by lighting each candle in the Advent Wreath.
- B: We light the Candle of Hope as we embrace the light brought into this world by the Christ Child.
- A: We light the Candle of Peace brought to us by the Prince of Peace.
- B: We light the Candle of Joy as we delight in welcoming Baby Jesus.
- A: We light the Candle of Love as we celebrate God's Great Gift of Love, the Birth of Jesus.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

We bring together the light of all the candles to light the Christ Candle in celebration of the Christ Child's birth. As we light the Christ Candle, we breathe deeply as the Spirit enters our hearts.

Opening Prayer

**O God of Christmas time,
The birth of your son Jesus fills us with awe and wonder.
it is the greatest gift we can receive -
A Saviour, who was brought to the world
The gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.**

**Amid the joyful traditions,
We acknowledge that sadness still troubles our hearts.
Still, there is the need for basic necessities and housing in our community.
May we continue to share the gifts that are heaven-sent
To each other, to the community, to the world.
So that we may all share in the joy that Jesus is born!**

Hymn: Voices United # 73

"The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy"

- 1 The virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
and they say that his name is Jesus.
- Refrain:** He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!
He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.
- 2 The angels sang when the baby was born,
the angels sang when the baby was born,
the angels sang when the baby was born,
and they say that his name is Jesus.

Refrain: He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!
He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.

3 The shepherds came where the baby was born,
the shepherds came where the baby was born,
the shepherds came where the baby was born,
and they say that his name is Jesus.

Refrain: He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!
He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.

Words and Music: West Indies Carol, from Edric Conner
Collection of West Indian Spirituals 1945.
Arr. John Barnard 1982 Words and music copyright © 1945
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(Please stand if you are able)

Christmas Action Prayer *Advent Unwrapped*

Holy One

May the Gift of Jesus

Be born in me

So that all might know

God's hope,

God's peace,

God's joy,

God's love,

Amen



Scripture Reading **Christina Gordon** Matthew 1: 18-25

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel',
which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke
from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord
commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no
marital relations with her until she had borne a son,
and he named him Jesus.

Hymn: Voices United # 56

"Jesus Our Brother"

- 1 Jesus, our brother, kind and good,
was humbly born in a stable rude,
and the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus, our brother, kind and good.
- 2 'I,' said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
'I carried the mother uphill and down,
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town;
I,' said the donkey, shaggy and brown.
- 3 'I,' said the cow, all white and red,
'I gave him my manger for his bed,
I gave him hay to pillow his head;
I,' said the cow, all white and red.
- 4 'I,' said the sheep with curly horn,
'I gave him my wool for his blanket warm,
he wore my coat on Christmas morn;
I,' said the sheep, with curly horn.
- 5 'I,' said the dove, from the rafters high,
'I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry,

we cooed him to sleep, my mate and I;
I,' said the dove, from the rafters high.

- 6 Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
in the stable dark were glad to tell
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

Words: French carol, 12th century, trans. Robert Davis, alt.

Music: medieval French melody, attrib. Pierre de Corbeil,
harm. Carlton R. Young 1987

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Scripture Reading Shirley Clark Luke 2: 8-20

The Shepherds and the Angels

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 Saviour,
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 favours!

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.

Anthem: *Mary Rocked the Little Baby – Besig, Price*

Message The Many Stories of Jesus
- Tammy Fergusson

Hymn: Voices United # 74

“What Child Is This”

1) *What child is this, who laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?*

***This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!***

2) *Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.*

***This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!***

3) *So bring him incense, gold and myrrh;
Come, one and all, to own him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.*

***This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!***

Words: William Chatterton Dix 1865.

Music: English Melody, 16th century Harmonization attrib. John Stainer 1871. Public Domain.

A Reading There Once Was A Person Named Giving
Julie Price

Invitation to the Offering

When Jesus was born, people from near and far brought gifts to praise and glorify his Holy Name - The Messiah! The Anointed One! Let us continue in this Spirit of Giving by giving back to our own community. Let this be a time where everyone can share and join in

and experience the miracle that God's only-begotten Son here among us, drawing all of us ever-closer in relationship with God.

These offerings are now presented

During the Hymn, please bring forward your offerings and place them in the offering plate.

Please bring your wrapped gifts and place them in the Manger.

Offertory Hymn: More Voices # 191

"What Can I Do?" (Sung twice)

What can I do?
What can I bring?
What can I say?
What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy.
I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love.
I'll do my share.



Words and music: Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy; arr. Alan C. Whitmore, 2005

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Offertory Prayer

Ever Giving God,

You are the giver of all gifts.

You know each need and hear each prayer.

We welcome today and these gifts that we give in Christ's Spirit of love and justice.

Use these gifts and use our lives for the building of your Kingdom in your world.

A Reading Gifts of the Earth

Alison Harding Hlady

Prayers of Hope and Healing

Closing Hymn: Voices United # 43

"Go Tell It On The Mountain"

Refrain: *Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.*

1 *While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.*

Refrain: *Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.*

2 *The shepherds feared and trembled*

*when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth!*

Refrain: *Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.*

3 *Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.*

Refrain: *Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.*

Words: John Wesley Work II 1907

Music: African – American spiritual 19th century, arr. United Reform Church (U.K.)

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Commissioning *Celebrate God's Presence*

As we go from our worship this day;
May the Joy of the Angels sing in our voices;
May the Hope of the Shepherds enliven our minds;
May the Strong Faith of Mary strengthen our spirits;
And may the Love of the Baby shine in our hearts.

Benediction *Responsive*

One: Follow the light of hope's guiding star.

All: Seek the child.

One: Listen to the words of a heavenly host

All: Find the child.

One: Offer as gifts the best that you have.

All: Serve the child.

One: Peace be among us.

All: God be with us.

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 Catherine.

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

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 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/>

2025 Donation Envelopes are available in the Sanctuary. If you do not see yours or would like envelopes, let Laurie know. 613-382-2161

Coming up at Grace United....

Monday, December 30 th	Office Closed
Tuesday, December 31 st 9am – 12pm	Office Closed Quilters
Wednesday, January 1st	Office Closed HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
Thursday, January 2nd	Office 8am – 1pm
Friday, January 3rd 9 to 10 am	Office 8am – 1pm Better Balance
Saturday, January 4th	Office Closed
January 5 th	Office Closed Worship Leader: Tammy Fergusson

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

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-R3mmIG7LnX1jKJnEg>

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

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