

CHRISTMAS VACATION

Laurie will be away from December 22 to Jan 5th for Christmas Break. Please contact one of the people listed below for Church related items.

Barb Jenkins is the Rental Coordinator, contact her for Rental Inquiries 613-583-2077

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)

Boards of Grace United

Session : Chair : Colleen Harding

613-382-2405 colleen.g.harding@gmail.com

Vice Chair: TBD Clerk: Julie Price

Board of Stewards: Chair: Vicki Leakey

Vice Chair: Cliff Edwards, Secretary: Mary Haussler

Official Board: Chair: Chuck Galway

613 532 1217 lyndwayhills@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Dave Charles, Secretary: Diane Nuttall

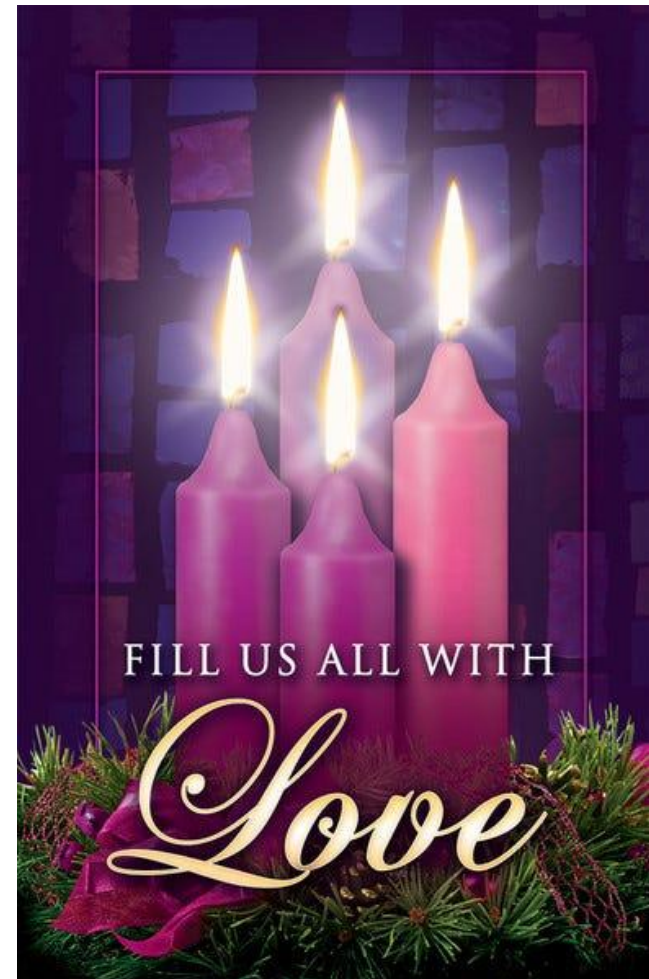
Treasurer: Vicki Leakey

613-484-6197 vickileakey@gmail.com

If you are not able to join us in person or want to watch the service again, watch on YouTube.

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



**Where Everyone is Part of the Family
and 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

Director of Music

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

Office Administrator

Laurie Cadue

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love

December 21, 2025

Worship Leader, Donna Norman

Pre-Service Mini-Recital:

Brass Quintet

We Gather as A Grateful People

Prelude: *Joy To The World"* - Lowell Mason

Arranged for brass quintet and organ by Todd Marchand

Welcome: Mary Haussler

Land Acknowledgement

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 and Anniversaries

Centring Music:

We Centre Our Hearts for Worship.

ADVENT HYMN: Voices United #6

A Candle Is Burning (Verse 1-4)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (Responsive)

One: On this fourth Sunday of Advent,
we come with love.

All: We watch, we wait, we wonder.

One: When we feel God's unfailing love,
we are able to give love and receive love
from our families, our friends,
our community of faith,
and yes even those we find hard to love.
There is enough love for all.

**All: We experience God's love
in the greatest gift for all of us,
in the birth of Jesus
who is bringing love to the world.**

One: As we light the fourth candle in our wreath,
we breathe in the Spirit of Love.

ADVENT PRAYER

God of Love,

We give thanks for your unfailing love and for the gift of love in the human relationships that give our lives meaning. May we come to the manger filled with your infinite love.

Spiritual Focus

Love Came Down at Christmas. . .
simple, complicated, world-changing Love.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship:*(Responsive)*

One: Sometimes it seems that our world
is utterly broken,
and we are overcome with despair.

**All: Sometimes it seems that the hurting world
has become devoid of love and compassion.**

One: Help us to rekindle the kind of fierce,
courageous, ever-present love
that is capable of healing the world.

**All: Open our lives and our hearts
to the radical love of the Christ child.
Help us to remember
that we, like Him, can transform kingdoms
by loving boldly and creating kinship.
Thanks be to God.**

**Gathering Hymn of Praise: Voices United #60
*O Come all Ye Faithful***

Prayer of the Day

We Reflect on the Sacred Stories

A Time for the Youth and Young At Heart

A Certain Small Shepherd

Hymn of Proclamation: Voices United #59

Joy to the World

Scripture Reader: Vicki Leakey

Scripture Reading: *Matthew 1:18-25*

Reader: Listen for the Sacred Story,

All: our ears and hearts are open.

Scripture Reading:

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about^[a]: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet^[b] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,^[c] because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" ^[d] (which means "God with us").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Reader: Here ends the reading.

For the Sacred Story is God's story,

All: for the Sacred Story is our story,

Reader: for the Sacred Story is our source
and inspiration.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: ***The Light of Christmas*** - Joel Raney
(The congregation is invited to sing Verses 1 & 2 of
"Silent Night" (VU #67))

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.

Morning Message:

Divinely human, humanly divine LOVE

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|----------------------------------|
| We Respond to God's Grace |
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Hymn of Assurance: **Voices United # 38**

Angels we have Heard on High

Prayers of Hope and Healing

Lord's Prayer (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.**

Your Generosity Matters:

An Advent Lesson from Children

Invitation to Offering

We give as able to spread God's Love with JOY!

The Offering is Received

Offertory Hymn: Voices United # 541

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Give thanks to God in love made known.

Creator, Word and Spirit one.

Words: Thomas Ken ca. 1674

Music: Genevan Psalter 1551. Public domain.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

God Sends Us into the World To Be The Church

Hymn of Going Forth: Voices United #48

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Commissioning

Benediction

Choral Amen: All

Postlude: Organ and Brass

Variations on "Adeste Fideles" - David Willcocks

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.

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 to 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 guest musicians this morning, the Brass Quintet, Gillian MacDonald, Rick Calich, Cory VanAllen, Dany Bilodeau and Marc Moeys. We are so very grateful to have you join us this morning.

We appreciate the generosity of Joan Shaw and Julie Price for their kind donations toward the cost of our special music this morning.

**Thank you to our Worship Leader this morning,
Donna Norman.**

**Christmas Eve service, December 24th will be led by
Rev. Erin Burns at 7:00pm. Sunday, December 28th is
our Baby Shower for Jesus in the hall, led by Tammy
Fergusson.**

December/ January Speakers

Dec. 24 - Rev. Erin Burns (Christmas Eve)
Dec. 28 - Tammy Fergusson (Baby Shower)
January 4th – Paul Whiteley
January 11th - Paul Whiteley
January 18th – Tammy Fergusson
January 25th – Tammy Fergusson

Offerings – December 2025

| Date | Attend | General | M&S | Benev. (SGM) | White Gift |
|---------|--------|------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|
| Dec. 7 | 27 | \$1474.50 | \$ 137.50 | \$ 37.50 | \$ 100.00 |
| Dec. 14 | 46 | \$ 1397.50 | \$ 127.50 | \$ 27.50 | \$ 570.00 |
| Dec. 21 | | | | | |
| Dec. 24 | | | | | |
| Dec. 28 | | | | | |
| BMO | | | | | |
| PAR | | | | | |

Thank you for your generosity.

**For 2026, Grace United Church will be using generic
donation envelopes as many in the congregation
now donate through PAR & E-transfer.**



**Baby Shower for Jesus
Sunday, December 28th
10:30 am**

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



**Christmas
Eve Service**

Grace United Church
7:00pm
A service of Carols & Stories
All are Welcome

Offerings received during our Christmas Eve Service will be
used to support local community needs.