

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 Barb 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.

GRACE UNITED CHURCH CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



Merry Christmas

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

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025

Worship Leader, Rev. Erin Burns

Prelude: *O Holy Night - Placide Cappeau, Adolphe Adam. Eng. Transl. John Sullivan Dwight*

Soloist: Dennis Murphy

We Gather as a Grateful People

Words of Welcome

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.**

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Sung Call to Worship: Voices United #60
O Come, All Ye Faithful (Verses 1, 3, 5)

Opening Prayer (Unison)

**Mysterious God,
you come to us this season
softly as a mother's sigh,
as startling as the cry of a newborn child.
Be in our hearts, we pray,
that we might be cradled in your love
and stirred by your glory.
We pray in the name of the One
whose coming we celebrate,
Jesus Christ, the Bethlehem baby. Amen.**



Opening Carol: Voices United #7
Hope is a Star (Verses 1-4)

Advent Wreath:
Colleen Harding



Let us pray: (Unison)

**God of this Christmas Eve, the birth of your son
Jesus fills us with awe and wonder. It is the
greatest gift we can receive, a saviour who brought
gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen.**

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Voices United #6

A Candle is Burning (Verse 5)

**We honour Messiah with Christ-candle's flame,
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.**

Words: Sandra Dean 1986

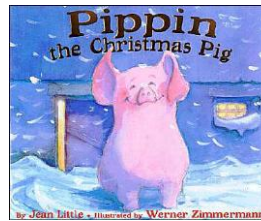
Music: James R. Murray 1887

Used with the blessing of the author.

We Listen

Story Time:

Pippen the Christmas Pig
by Jean Little



Hymn: Voices United #69

***Away in a Manger* (Verses 1-3)**

Scripture Reader: Vicki Leakey

Reading: Luke 1:26-33 - Mary's Choice

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for

you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."



Hymn: Voices United #64

***O Little Town of Bethlehem* (Verses 1,2,3)**

Scripture Reader: Brian Brooks

Reading: Luke 2:1-7 - The Birth

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

Hymn: Voices United #59

Joy to the World (Verses 1, 2, 4)



Scripture Reader: Chuck Galway

Reading: Luke 2:8-14 – The Angels and the Shepherds

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

Hymn: Voices United #48

Hark the Herald Angels Sing (Verses 1-3)

Scripture Reader: Julie Price

Reading: Luke 2:8:15-20

¹⁵ 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.' ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn: Voices United # 75

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Story: "The Christmas Guest"

Tom Currie



Hymn: Voices United # 44

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (Verses 1 & 2)



We Respond to God's Grace

Offering Invitation and Dedication

Invitation

Under the bright shining stars, with the Shepherds, we come to meet the newborn Jesus.

As we celebrate his birth, we are invited to share what we are able, with the ministry here at Grace United Church, and in all the world through the Mission and Service Fund. We celebrate and dedicate *all* that is shared, whatever it may be – our time, our talents, our openness, our creativity, our presence, or our financial gifts.

Let us celebrate the great gifts this community has to offer, dedicating ourselves again to be voices of hope and peace and joy and love in the world!

The Offering is Presented



Offertory Hymn: Voices United #55 (Vs. 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: Gustave Theodor Holst 1906

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn: Voices United #91

The First Noel & Pastoral Prayer

Minster - PRAYER



1. The First Noel the Angels did say

**Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep
Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel!**

Minster - PRAYER

2. They looked up and saw a star

**Shining in the East beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night
Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel!**

Minster – PRAYER

3. And by the light of that same star

**Three Wise men came from country far
To seek for a King was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went
Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel!**

Minster – PRAYER

**4. This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took it's rest
And there it did both Pause and stay
Right o'er the place where Jesus lay
Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel!**

Minster - PRAYER

**5. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made Heaven and earth of nought
And with his blood mankind hath bought
Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel!**

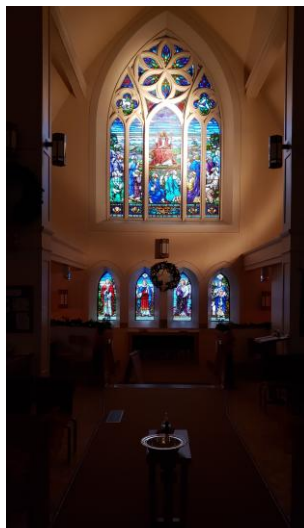
Words: Charles Wesley 1739, alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn 1840,
adapt. William Hayman Cummings 1856. Public Domain

Minster - PRAYER

Lord's Prayer (Unison)

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.

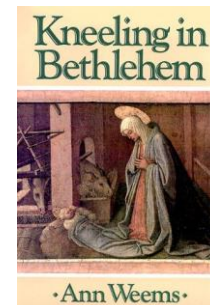
-9-



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.**

Sending Out

**Poem: *From Kneeling in Bethlehem*
by Ann Weems
Reader: Lilith Burns-Murphy**



Carol and Candle Lighting:

(Please stay seated during the hymn and blow out your candle at the end of the Hymn)

Voices United #67 *Silent 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.

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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

Music: Franz Gruber 1818

Public domain.

Commissioning and Blessing

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 to you, wherever you are;

Good tidings for 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.

16th-century English carol, popularized by Arthur Warrell.

Public Domain

Organ Postlude



**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 Offering

Our offering tonight is being collected at the door - it
will be available after the service as well. Donations
this evening will go to the Grace United Benevolent
Fund, to be distributed to local charities and to families
and individuals in the community in need, in the
months ahead.

Your donations are gratefully appreciated.

Guest Worship Leaders – Dec & Jan.

Sundays at 10:30am

Dec. 28 - Tammy Fergusson (Baby Shower)

January 4th – Paul Whiteley

January 11th - Paul Whiteley

January 18th – Tammy Fergusson

January 25th – Tammy Fergusson