



Grace United Church

120 Pine St. Gananoque, ON K7G 1C7

Ordained Minister

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

Minister Emeritus: Rev. J. Harry Seeley B.A.

Director of Music

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

Office Administrator

Laurie Cadue

May 15, 2022

Fifth Sunday of Easter - Order of Worship



WE GATHER AS A COMMUNITY OF GRACE

Prelude: Carter Family Medley

Welcome – Brian Brooks

Community in Action – Birthdays & Anniversaries

Centering Music: *We Centre Our Hearts on God's Love*

Spiritual Focus:

To **Love One** Another is to **Love Your Betrayer and Denier...**

1

(Please stand as able)

Call to Worship (Responsive):

One: Alleluia!

All: Christ is alive; let all the people praise him.

One: Let all creation sing with joy.

All: Alleluia!

Song of Praise: Voices United #334

"All Hail the power of Jesus' Name"

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him, crown him,
crown him, crown him Lord of all.
2. O seed of Israel's chosen race now ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him, crown him, crown
him, crown him Lord of all.
3. Crown him, you martyrs of your God, who from his altar call;
praise him whose way of pain you trod, and crown him, crown him,
crown him, crown him Lord of all.
4. Let every tongue and every tribe, responsive to the call,
to him all majesty ascribe and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.
5. O that, with all the sacred throng, we at his feet may fall,
join in the everlasting song, and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.

Words: Edward Perronet 1780, et al

Music: William Shrubsole 1779

Public Domain

(Please be seated)



2

Prayer of the Day (All): Rev. 21:5, Acts 11:1–18; John 13:34

Surprising God, in the resurrection of Jesus Christ you make all things new. Long ago you called your church to a love beyond all social and cultural differences and gave them the gift of your Holy Spirit to open their hearts to enact such love. Give us that same spirit of openness, that we too might discern new directions in our day for your dream to reconcile and heal all creation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WE SEEK WISDOM

(Please remain seated)

Song of Illumination: Voices United # 382

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

1. Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
2. Breathe on me, breath of God, until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with thine, to do and to endure.
3. Breathe on me, breath of God, till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.
4. Breathe on me, breath of God: so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

Words: Edwin Hatch 1878

Music: Robert Jackson 1888

Public Domain

Scripture Reader: Linda Brooks

Gospel of John: 13:31-35 (NRSV)

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to

you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Anthem : *Just a Closer Walk With Thee* - Wm. Kirkpatrick / Martha L. Langton
arr. P. Harding **Grace United Church Choir**

Life Lesson: *"Love One Another. No Matter What!"*

WE SEEK PEACE & COMMUNION

(Please stand as able)

Song of Hope & Healing: Voices United # 402

"We are One as We Come"

1. We are one as we come, we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips there's a sense that God is near.
We are one as we sing, as we seek, we are found;
and we come needful of God's grace as we meet, together in this place.
2. We are one as we share, as we share brokenness and fear,
in the touch of a hand there's a sense that God is here.
We are one as we care, as we heal, we are healed;
and we share warmth in God's embrace as we pray together in this place.
3. We are one as we feast, as we feast, peace becomes the sign;
in the bread and the wine there's a sense of love divine.
We are one as we come, as we feed, we are fed;
and we feel God's refreshing grace as we meet at table in this place.
4. We are one as we hear, as we hear, heart and hand unite;
in the word we receive there's a sense that God is light.
We are one as we leave, as we love, we are loved;
and we seek justice in God's ways as we move together from this place.

Words: Doreen Lankshear-Smoith 1988. Music: Jeeva Sam 1978, arr. David Kai 1995

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(Please be seated)

Prayers of Hope and Healing
The Prayer that Jesus taught his followers

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.**



WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

Your Generosity Matter: *"Nourishing Bodies & Hearts" – Ashrafi's Story*

Our Offerings Make Miracles Evident

We Give Generously with Joy and Gratitude to Help Make Miracles Visible.

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Dedication (All):

Loving God, we give you thanks

for the ministry of reconciliation to which you call us in the name of Jesus Christ and his resurrection. Accept these gifts for your mission to heal all creation. May they be a testament to your love for us as we share them in love for you; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

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

(Please stand as able)

Going Forth: Voices United #703

"In the Bulb There is a Flower"

1. In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
2. There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
3. In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Words and Music: Natalie Sleeth 1986

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Sending Forth & Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude: *Get Together* William Chester Powers, Jr. 1960



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.

Would you like your Birthday or Anniversary added to our announcements? Please contact Laurie at the church Office and give her the details. Birthdays or Anniversaries can only be added with your written consent.

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 the church office if there is someone you know who is ill, in hospital or in need of pastoral care. ****

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of Lucille Jeroy. Lucille passed away peacefully on Thursday May 12th at Brockville General Hospital, surrounded by her family. A service was held at Tompkins Funeral Home on Saturday May 14th.

"Have I not commanded you to be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Offerings – May 8, 2022 - Attendance: 69

General	\$ 1,639.00
Mission & Service	\$ 177.00
Local Missions (<i>Community Kitchen</i>)	\$ 720.00

Thank you for your offerings

PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME & AMOUNT ON YOUR ENVELOPE

There are many ways you can partner up with God's Mission through Grace United Church and help make a difference.

e-transfer to grace.gan@outlook.com

by cheque –120 Pine ST. Gananoque, On K7G 1C7

Sign-up for PAR Forms

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/>

Did you know that Rev. Takouhi has a personal website where you can find her blogs, "Bread for the Journey" videos, prayers and so much more? Subscribe to her mailing list to receive news updates in your personal inbox. Go to www.revtakouhi.ca and subscribe to her mailing list. It is FREE!

June 5th is Pentecost Sunday – The Birthday of the Church!

Rev. Takouhi is looking for three Individuals who can share one of the three printed English Prayers in another language...

Please let Rev. Takouhi know, by June

1st - revtakouhi@terrautopia.ca

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This Community of Faith acknowledges all traditional territories, all ceded and unceded lands that we live upon - and give thanks for all the generations of people who have taken care of these lands before us and still do with us today. May we be open to historical truths and may we continue to learn from the past, shape our present time and build a better world with All People.



(Picture: Credit to Indigenous Ministries and Justice – The United Church of Canada)

Thank you to Murray Roantree and Brian Brooks who have worked diligently to repair the Pine St. Entrance door and make it more accessible for everyone. This has not been an easy task, as anyone who has tried to have renovations completed lately knows. We appreciate your time and dedication to Grace United.

Contact information:

Office (Laurie) 613-382-2161 grace.gan@outlook.com
Church Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:
8:00am to 1:00 p.m. **(Closed on Wednesdays)**

Rev. Takouhi (direct Line) 613-777-0880
Email: RevTakouhi@Terraautopia.ca

Session: Chair: Barb Jenkins
Vice Chair: Marg Worth, Clerk: Susan Barwell
Board of Stewards: Chair: Denise Wood
Vice Chair: Vacant, Secretary: Diane Nuttall
Official Board: Chair: Brian Brooks
Vice Chair: Bruce Wilson, Secretary: Diane Nuttall

The 2022 Directory will be available soon

Sunday, May 22nd – 10:30 am Worship Service
Worship Leader – Tammy Fergusson
Sunday, May 29th – 10:30 am Worship Service
Worship Leader – Tammy Fergusson
Sunday, June 5th – 10:30 am Service – Pentecost
Sunday, June 12th – 10:30 am Service – Trinity Sunday
Covenanting Service with Rev. Takouhi.
Preacher, Rev. Rosemary Lambie
Sunday, June 19th – 10:30 am Service – Father’s Day
Worship Leader – Barb DeJeet

Important Information

Service will also be shown live on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNVYi-R3mmIG7LnX1jKJnEg>

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

The service from the previous week will be shown on COGECO channel 13 or 700HD at 10:30 am Sunday mornings.

May 15, 2022

Dear Grace United Church,

Spring has sprung, and winter coats and shoes are put away. The time has come to open up our hearts and minds to the great outdoors and the Universe, to be recharged and rejuvenated, to make this world a better place.



There is an annual conference that takes place in the United States, which I have attended since 2013, called Festival of Homiletics – in other words, Festival of Preaching – Yes, who would want to attend a festival of preaching and listen to 4-5 sermons and lectures per day? I would, yours truly! Why, you

ask? Because to be in the presence of world-renowned preachers, authors and speakers, is a priceless gift. These individuals truly speak to the heart of ministry and ministers and offer food for thought, courage to preach and help us lead our communities of faith and beyond to make this world a better place.

May 2019 was the very last in-person gathering we had in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Since COVID hit the world, we have done this gathering virtually and it has been wonderful and inexpensive, but it is NOT the same. You all know there is some amazing energy that takes over us when we get together in person.

Back in November 2021, the festival organizers decided that the 2022 gathering will be both in-person and virtual. This year's fitting topic is *After the Storm: Preaching and Trauma*.

I was planning to participate virtually, as I was afraid to travel during COVID. However, my eldest sister, Silva Atolikian, passed away on Feb. 25, 2022, in Los Angeles. Losing a second sister in a three-month period woke me up and gave me the courage to decide to participate at this amazing gathering in person. I remembered that life is too short to let fear overrule the blessings that are waiting for me, especially when I am also triple vaccinated. Also seeing so many of my family members and friends travel back and forth, I gathered the courage to get up and get going – literally.

I e-mailed the organizer of the conference to ensure that there was still room for one more in-person attendee, as there are limited seats available due to COVID restrictions. She e-mailed me back expressing what a wonderful news this is – and yes, there is room for me.

You all know how busy a minister's life is. Balancing personal and congregational commitments. Learning how to celebrate the joys with those who are rejoicing, and crying with those who are journeying through dark and difficult moments of life. It took me a few days to let the M & P know about my change of plans from virtual to in-person participation. I also shared with them, as per their request, the cost of this in-person gathering. Of course, they were worried that the cost of this conference was more than double of what my allowance is. But I assured them that I will do like I have done since 2013, put everything on my credit card, and whatever is more than my allowance, my

husband and I will pay the rest, slowly. This once-a-year gathering is like fresh streams of water in the desert of a minister's soul – even my husband can tell the difference after my return from this event.

To make a long story short, beloved, three days after my conversation with the M & P, I received a phone call from the organizer asking me if I would be interested to attend the conference free of charge? I pinched myself and I said, what?!?

She said: All you need to do is help the conference staff, if needed to communicate something to the planning group, while I can still fully participate in listening to the sermons and lectures that I so crave for, and making my GUC Allowance enough to cover the portion of my study leave.



Beloved, why am I sharing all these details with you? Because you need to hear the **Good News of God's Provision. God provides all our needs, as long as we are not letting our fears control us.** You know it is said that courage is to do something despite your fears.

Dear GUC, trust God in everything and please pray for me, as I take a weeklong study leave and attend the Festival of Homiletics, in Denver, Colo. I will be back to work on Wed.

May 25. The worship leader for Sun. May 22 will be our wonderful Licenced Lay Worship Leader, Tammy Ferguson, who will also lead worship on May 29,

when I recuperate from our Regional Council's AGM, which will take place on May 27-28, via Zoom.

Remember to invite your family and friends to hear Gpd's Good News proclaimed through Tammy and the wonderful music that our music director and the choir offer every Sunday. **Attending Worship Celebration every Sunday should not be a big secret, but it should be a JOY to share with all.** You do not want to keep a Good Thing a secret, would YOU? Invite, invite, invite...

I cannot wait to return to the pulpit on June 5, Day of Pentecost, where



we will celebrate the Birthday of the Church. And on June 12, we will celebrate our covenanting service during our regular worship hour and the 97th Anniversary of the United Church's Union.

In the meantime, should there be any pastoral care needs, Rev.

Lynne Gardiner, my colleague, and Soul Sister, has agreed to step in.

You may reach her at: (613) 267-3855 or by e-mail:

pastor@bethelchurchrideauferry.ca

I remain your spiritual leader and God's servant-daughter,

Rev. Takouhi Demirdjian-Petro

Incumbent minister