

United Church Lapel Pins are available for all who would like one. Donations are appreciated. The pins are located on the table with the Sunday Donation Envelopes at the back of the church.

Contact information:

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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: Vacant, Clerk: Tammy Fergusson

Board of Stewards: Chair: Denise Wood:

613-876-7739 seelion89@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Cliff Edwards, Secretary: Diane Nuttall

Official Board: Chair: Brian Brooks

613-382-2385 brooksb525@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Bruce Wilson, Secretary: Diane Nuttall

The 2023 Directory will be out soon

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

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.

*Welcome
To
Grace United Church*





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

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March: Women's History Month

Order of Worship

**43rd Anniversary of the Assassination
of Archbishop Oscar Romero March 24, 1980**

WE GATHER AS UNITED AND UNITING PEOPLE

Prelude: *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* - J.S. Bach

Welcome – Mary Haussler & Diane Nuttal

Community in Action – Birthdays & Anniversaries

Centering Music: *We Center Our Hearts for Worship.*

Spiritual Focus:

*"The **Season of Lent** Reminds Us of **Who We are**
and to **Whom We Belong...**"*

Lighting the Christ Candle

(The Christ candle is lit.)

Gathering Call (Responsive)

One: God does not see as mortals see.

We look on the outward appearance;

God looks on the heart.

**All: Jesus, Light of the World,
give us eyes to see as you see!**

One: Once we lived in darkness, but now—

as children of light, we are called

to what is good and right and true.

**All: Jesus, Light of the World,
give us eyes to see as you see!**

(Please Stand as Able)

Gathering Song of Praise: Voices United #112

"O God, How We Have Wandered"

- 1 O God, how we have wandered
and hidden from your face;
in foolishness have squandered
your legacy of grace.
But how, in exile dwelling,
we turn with fear and shame,
as distant but compelling,
you call us each by name.
- 2 And now at length discerning
the evil that we do,
by faith we are returning
with hope and trust in you.
In haste you come to meet us,
and home rejoicing bring,

in gladness there to greet us
with calf and robe and ring.

- 3 O God of all the living,
both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving,
our peace and hope assured.
Grant now that our transgressing,
our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing,
in pardon, and in peace.

Words: Kevin Nichols 1980 alt. Music: Henry T. Smart 1836
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(Please be seated)

Prayer of the Day (All): Holy God, why is it that we look, but do not see? Bring us again and again into your light until your ways become visible to us, and bear fruit in us. Touch us so that we are utterly changed, a "before" and "after," a "now" and "then"; that we may also say, "One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. In Christ's light, we pray. **Amen.**

WE SEEK WISDOM

Time with Youth and Young at Heart:

"Do You Trust the SHEPHERD?"

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;
he makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil; for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
thou anoints my head with oil,
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy[f] shall follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
for ever.

Repeating Prayer

Song of Assurance: Voices United #412

"This is the Day that the Lord Has Made"

1. This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made.
2. Open to us, open to us
your gates, O God, your gates, O God;
we will go in, we will go in,

to your holy place, to your holy place.

Open to us your gates, O God,
we will go in to your holy place.

Open to us, open to us
your gates, O God.

3. You are our God, you are our God,
we will praise your name, we will praise your name;
we will give thanks, we will give thanks,
for your faithfulness, for your faithfulness.
You are our God, we will praise your name,
we will give thanks for your faithfulness.

You are our God, you are our God,
we will praise your name.

4. This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made.

Words: v. 1 unknown; vv 2, 3 R. Gerald Hobbs 1987, 1995

Music: Fijian folk melody; arr. Darryl Nixon 1987

Words v. 2 copyright © 1987, 1995 and arrangement copyright © 1987 Songs for a Gospel People

WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES

Scripture Reader:

Reader: Listen for the Sacred Story,

All: our ears and hearts are open.

Gospel: John 9:1-41 (NRSV)

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe

that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he

said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.

Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

Reader: 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 – *Just As I Am, I Come* - Mary MacDonald

Life Lesson "Being Found..."

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

(Please remain seated)

Song of Trust: Voices United # 266

"Love Again" (Tune: Amazing Grace (New Britain) VU 266)

- 1 When love first stretched a human heart,
emerged from deep within,
our lives were changed forevermore;
that time must come again.
- 2 For quick as love did fear arise
and work to bring love down.
Its shadows lurk in troubled eyes
where love is barely found.

- 3 Before another moment wanes,
may we our love renew,
and pledge to build up what remains
of all that's good and true.
- 4 For only we can love and care,
commit to duty's call,
remember all that's right and fair,
and vanquish fear for all.
- 5 May love emerge, forever strong;
those bound in fear, released!
And we, inspired, shall end the wrongs,
love ever to increase.

Words: rGetta Vosper. Used with permission.

Music: from Virginia Harmony 1831, adapt. and harm. Edwin O. Excell 1900.

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Prayers of Hope and Healing

The Prayer that Jesus taught His followers (ALL)

The New Zealand Anglican Lord's Prayer

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 test, 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 forever.

Amen. - *The New Zealand Book of Prayer | He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa*

Your Generosity Matters:

Educating the Ministers of Tomorrow: Jennifer Janzen-Ball's Work

Our Offerings – Supporting God's Ministries:

Mindful of the abundance we have received from God,

we offer ourselves and our gifts to the world.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (All): In gratitude, O God, we come to your table, into your presence, into your house. For all that you have done for us, most especially, for bringing us into the light of Jesus Christ, we offer our thanks and praise. We long to live as children of light, doing what is pleasing to you and bearing the fruit of the light through Jesus Christ, who awakens those who sleep, and raises those who are dead to new life. In his name we pray. Amen.

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD TO BE THE CHURCH

(Please stand as able)

Song of Going Forth: Voices United #371

"Open My Eyes, that I May See"

- 1 Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.

Refrain:

**Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

2 Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.

Refrain:

**Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

3 Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.

Refrain:

**Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

Words and music: Clara H. Scott 1895
Public Domain

Sending Forth & Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude: *Chaconne - Henry Purcell*

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

NOTE – Due to privacy laws and confidentiality, the names of people on our list are not printed in the Order of Service.

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of Margaret Chitty. Margaret passed away peacefully on Monday, March 13th, at Kingston General Hospital with family by her side. A private celebration of life will be held later this year to honour Margaret. Our prayers are with the family.



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.

Food Bank Donations

The Food bank is asking the following items for their clients.

Cookies Crackers Baking products Jams

Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated.

Bring you donations to service on Sunday, March 26th.

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

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/>

PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME & AMOUNT ON YOUR DONATION ENVELOPES

If you would like envelopes, there is a sign-up sheet available on the table in the Narthex.

Offerings March 2023

Date	Attend	General	M&S	Local
Mar 5	39	\$ 1089.72	\$232.50	\$25.00
Mar 12				
Mar 19				
Mar 26				
PAR				
BMO				

Thank you for your generosity.

Your Lenten Offerings are for the United Church Women (UCW) and provide funds allowing them to support others in our community through various outreach programs.

Thank you to all who continue to support the FUNDSCRIP gift card fundraising program. Reminder, Gift Cards can be ordered anytime you like and shipped right to your home. If you need help placing an order speak to Denise Wood or Linda Brooks.

Room for Rent?

Do you or anyone you know have a room that they would like to rent for the summer and possibly longer?

A young lad who will be graduating in the fall is looking for a place to stay in Gananoque this summer and longer if possible. She has a job with the Thousand Islands Playhouse and would need lodging from the end of April until September or longer if possible. Contact the church office for more information.

Grace United Church presents,
"The Servant at Supper"

Good Friday, April 7, 2023 at 3pm
Eleanor Glenn describes the events taking place as she witnesses them at:
The Last Supper - The Crucifixion
The Resurrection

All are Welcome – Good will Offering



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)