

**Contact information:**

Call Rev. Takouhi to book a visit. (Wednesday to Sunday)

Rev. Takouhi (direct Line) 613-777-0880

Email: [RevTakouhi@Terraautopia.ca](mailto:RevTakouhi@Terraautopia.ca)

**Office** (Laurie Cadue) 613-382-2161 [grace.gan@outlook.com](mailto:grace.gan@outlook.com)

**Church Office Hours:**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 8:00am to 1:00 p.m.

**(Closed on Wednesdays)**

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**Boards of Grace United**

**Session: Chair: Barb Jenkins:**

613-583-2077      [barbjenkins1@gmail.com](mailto:barbjenkins1@gmail.com)

Vice Chair: Colleen Harding      Clerk: Julie Price

**Board of Stewards: Chair: Vicki Leakey**

Vice Chair: Cliff Edwards,      Secretary: Mary Hausler

**Official Board: Chair: Brian Brooks**

613-382-2385      [brooksb525@gmail.com](mailto:brooksb525@gmail.com)

Vice Chair: Bruce Wilson,      Secretary: Diane Nuttall

**Treasurer: Vicki Leakey**

613-382-4015      [vickileakey@gmail.com](mailto:vickileakey@gmail.com)

**Bulletin Dedication**

*This weeks' Bulletin is dedicated to the memory of Don Harding, who was an enthusiastic member of Grace United Church his entire life.*

*Donald had a quiet and unassuming influence on the lives of countless people in the church and the town of Gananoque.*

Lovingly and gratefully remembered by sons,  
Paul & John Harding and Families.

**WELCOME  
TO  
GRACE UNITED CHURCH**



*(A\_Thrill\_of\_Hope\_-\_Advent\_in\_a\_Box\_Vol\_2\_-\_2024\_-\_Lectionary\_Graphics - Used by Permission)*

***Where Everyone is Part of the Family  
&  
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

### 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

**December 15, 2024**

Order of Worship

**Third Sunday of Advent -JOY**



**WE GATHER AS ADVENT PEOPLE**

**Organ Prelude:** *Choral Prelude: In Dulci Jubilo - J.S. Bach*

**Welcome – Denise Wood**

### **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.**

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## Community in Action – Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

### **Spiritual Focus:**

*“Advent’s Joy is for **ALWAYS** not just at Christmas...”*

### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

*(The Christ candle is lit.)*

*(Please stand as able)*

### **Gathering Song of Praise & Worship:**

**Voices United #60 - “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

*(Please be seated)*

### **Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy - Advent III**<sup>1</sup>

#### **Third Sunday of Advent**

*(We focus on John 1:6–8, 8–11)*

**Reader 1:** We light the third candle of Advent.

*(With the first two candles burning, a family member lights the third candle.)*

**Reader 2:** We look to John, the one you sent, to point us to your light. The light will come into our world and enlighten everyone.

**Reader 1:** God sent John the Baptizer to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus Christ, the true Light of the World. John called for people to repent of their sins and to live faithfully. He baptized with a cleansing water and proclaimed the new life that Christ, the one who would follow him, would bring. This Advent, we ask for God’s mercy and a joyful new beginning.

-2-

**All: Merciful God, we give thanks that you send messengers like John to call us to greater faith. We ask that in these days we prepare for you in prayer and acts of holy compassion. Forgive us and lead us to your light. Amen.**

*(Please Stand as able)*

**Song of Proclamation:**

**Voices United #59** *"Joy to the World"*

**WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES**

**Prayer of Illumination (All):**

As we praise and bless you today, O God, through this worship. We ask that you help us understand the JOY that comes from You. May these words we are about to hear help us experience Your Hope, Your Peace and Your Joy every single moment of our lives. May we live our days for Your Purpose and Glory. **Amen**

**Time with Youth and Young at Heart**

*"JOY – Helps our Fears Disappear..."*



**Song of Assurance:**

**Voices United #365** *"Jesus Loves Me"*

**Scripture Reader: Barb Jenkins**

Reader: Let us open our hearts, and minds to hear the Word of Peace

**All: Let us listen for the Living Word that offers Hope, Peace and Joy.**

**Gospel of Luke 3:7-18 (NRSVAE)**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear

fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. AMEN!

**Reader:** Here ends today's reading.

**All: May the Spirit of Joy add understanding to our hearing.**

*(Please stand as able)*

**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.

**Life Lesson:** *"God's Faithfulness to us is JOY...  
The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength..."*

**Musical Gift:** *The Littlest Carol - Mac Huff*  
**Soloist:** *David Grant*

<b>WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE</b>
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**Prayers of Hope and Healing**

**The Lord's Prayer**

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,  
for ever and ever. **Amen**

*(Please stand as able)*

**Song of Good News**

**Voices United # 48:** *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

*(Please be seated)*

**Your Generosity Matters:** *Giving Gifts with Vision*

**Our Offerings – Supporting God's Ministries:**

*Let us partner up with God and give Generously with Joy and Gratitude.  
Our Offerings are Shared...*

*(Please stand as able)*

**Offertory Song:**

**More Voices # 33 (verse 1, 2 & 3)**

*"Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope"*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

*(Please be seated)*

<b>GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD TO BE THE CHURCH</b>
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*(Please stand as able)*

**Song of Going Forth Voices United #43**

*"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"*

## Commissioning & Benediction:

### Choral Amen

**Postlude:** Descant on "Venite Adoremus"  
- 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.

### 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 47<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary to Dave & Joan.**

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

## WRITE YOUR NAME & THE AMOUNT ARE ON YOUR DONATION ENVELOPE

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

### 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					
Dec 22					
Dec 24					
Dec 19					
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](mailto: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](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/>

**Daily Prayers for Advent: the UCW are selling devotional pamphlets for \$5 each. A daily read during Advent. These are available at the back of the Church**

### UCW Christmas Lunch - Cancelled

The UCW Christmas lunch is scheduled for Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled due to a conflict. However, the Ladies of Grace United are invited to the church meeting room on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm for Tea/Coffee and light refreshments. There will still be a secret Santa for those who wish to participate.

## **Christmas Memory Tree**

Again, this year we are offering you a very special way to have the memory of a loved one be a prayerful part of our Christmas Worship.

This Christmas, honour one or more loved ones who have passed, by placing their names on our Memory Tree in this beautiful sanctuary.

For a donation of your choosing, you can write a beloved name on a flat gold painted ornament decorated with a red or green ribbon and hang it on the Memory Tree.

For those of you who are worshipping with us on line, we can also write the name for you and place it on the tree. Please let Laurie know.

The names of those remembered will be recorded.

The ornaments will be available at church services during Advent. After Epiphany, you may take your ornament home as a keepsake.

Let's fill the tree, and our hearts, with Christmas memories of those we have loved!

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## **White Gift Sunday – December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

This year, your white gift donations will go to *The Gananoque and Area Community Kitchen*. They continue to offer cooking events here in our own kitchen once a month on the 3rd Wednesday. Numbers are increasing and they now feed about 25 to 30 participants who come from all walks of life and different needs such as help with cooking, loneliness, hunger, and community togetherness. They are working towards becoming a registered charity and are in need of funds to purchase supplies for their classes. Of course, they also could use extra volunteers.

**Our thanks to trumpeters Gillian MacDonald and Kate Harding Smith for their contribution this morning to the music of worship**

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## **NEWSLETTER – Grace's Chatter**

**There are copies of the latest edition of Grace's Chatter available at the entrance of the church. With the mail strike on right now, please take a copy to someone you know would enjoy it.**

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**Blue Christmas Service - Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**7:00pm**

**For those who are feeling a little down, the lose of a loved one.**

**A special service on reflection.**

**All are welcome.**



Join us in the hall following service today for a luncheon in honour of Rev. Takouhi as we say farewell and thank you for her service over the past four years.

**Grace United Church  
Christmas & Advent Services**

**December 1<sup>st</sup>** – 10:30 am - Advent One – **HOPE**

**December 8<sup>th</sup>** – 10:30 am - Advent Two – **PEACE**

**December 15<sup>th</sup>** – 10:30am - Advent Three – **JOY**

**December 18<sup>th</sup>** – 7:00 pm – **Blue Christmas Service**  
For those who have lost a loved one, or just feeling a little blue this season.

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Advent Four – **LOVE**  
Soloist, Sheri Shenton

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** – 7:00pm, **Christmas Eve Service**  
Candlelight service of Stories & Carols

**December 29<sup>th</sup>** – 10:30am – **Baby Shower for Jesus**  
Casual Service in the hall with Coffee/Tea & Treats

**Baby Shower for Jesus  
Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>  
10:30am**

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**

**Coming up at Grace United....**

<b>Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup></b> 9 to 10 am 6 – 7 pm	<b>Office 8 to 1pm</b> <b>Better Balance</b> <b>YOGA</b>
<b>Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup></b> 9am – 12pm 5:30 – 6:30	<b>Office 8am – 1pm</b> <b>Quilters</b> <b>PILATES</b>
<b>Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup></b> 9 to 10 am	<b>Office Closed</b> <b>Better Balance</b>
<b>Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup></b> 10:30 am 7:00 pm	<b>Office 8am – 1pm</b> <b>Choir Practice</b> <b>Melodia Food Bank Fundraiser</b>
<b>Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup></b> 9 to 10 am 2:00pm	<b>Office 8am – 1pm</b> <b>Better Balance</b> <b>FoxRun Chaple Service</b>
<b>Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Office Closed</b>
<b>December 22<sup>nd</sup></b> <b>Forth Sunday of Advent – Love</b>	<b>Office Closed</b> <b>Worship Leader: Rev. Takouhi</b>
<b>Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup></b> 7:00pm	<b>Christmas Eve Service</b> <b>Worship Leader, Rev. Takouhi</b>
<b>Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup></b> 10:30am	<b>Baby Shower for Jesus</b> <b>In the lower hall</b>

**NOTE – The church office will be closed from 1pm, December 24<sup>th</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 mornings