



**April 14, 2024**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**

**Gower Street United Church is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of race, creed, age, ability, cultural background, or sexual orientation.**



*We respectfully acknowledge the land on which we live, work and worship as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, whose culture has been lost forever and can never be recovered. We also acknowledge the island of Kaimuki (Newfoundland) as the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk and the Mi'kmaq. And we acknowledge Labrador as the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Innu of Nitassinan, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, and the Inuit of NunatuKavut. We recognize all First Peoples who were here before us, those who live with us now, and the seven generations to come. As First Peoples have done since time immemorial, we strive to be responsible stewards of the land and respect the cultures, ceremonies, and traditions of all who call it home. As we open our hearts and minds to the past, we commit ourselves to working in a spirit of truth and reconciliation to make a better future for all.*

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**Bold indicates unison.**  
**Rise in body and spirit as you prefer.**  
The projected text in white is a communal response.

Today's bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of  
Anderson Abbott, on his 85th birthday  
from the Collins Family.

### THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

#### The Life and Work of Gower

#### Voluntary

**We sing:** VU 166 Joy Comes with the Dawn Dawn

#### Words of Welcome:

No matter who you are, where you come from, how you come to be here, what you believe or what you are questioning, you are welcome in fullness.

#### Lighting of the Christ Candle:

The light of this candle is a reflection of the light that brightens our lands at this time of year, a reminder of the turning of the earth and the turning of the seasons. **This light is a light of presence, this light is a light of clarity, this light is a light of hope. This light is the light of Jesus among us.**

#### Gathering Words:

When we are seeking, **God points out the path.**

When others are searching, **God points out the path.**

Our lives are often signposts: **people together on the Way.**

Our words are waypoints: **people together on the Way.**

Where Jesus' story and our stories meet: **people together on the Way.**

Let us walk, roll, run, dance, hop, and live! **People—together on the Way!**

#### Gathering Prayer:

Dear Creator God, we are filled with trust in your guidance. Nothing is possible without you. Our life journeys continue with you at our sides. Fears are scarce and worries few when we trust your presence. **Guide us to a place of comfort when we feel forsaken and alone. Inspire us with hope when we start believing that the world is becoming a bad place. Let our confidence in your love overcome our fears. Your grace surrounds all people. Your love benefits everyone. Your mercy is infinite. Your compassion is unquestioning. Help us to reflect this understanding to each other when doubt fills us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**We sing:** MV 157 I Am a Child of God

### LISTENING TO THE STORY

**Sung Invitation for Illumination:** MV 97 Listen God is Calling Traditional: Tanzania

**A reading from Scripture:** 1 John 3:1-7 Daryl Pullman

We are children of God.

**A reading from the Gospel:** Luke 24:36b-48  
Jesus invited the disciples to touch his hands and feet.

**Sung Response:** VU 958 Halle, Halle, Halle Caribbean

**Anthem:** Lead Me, Lord Wesley

**Circle Song**

**Circle Time**

**Meditation**

**We sing:** VU 766 As the Deer Pants for the Water As the Deer

**COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH OUR  
MINISTRY**

*The offering plates are located near the sanctuary doors. You are invited to place your offerings there when you arrive or leave. You can also scan the QR code on our bulletin to donate via our website.*

**Gathering our Gifts**

**We sing:** VU 541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow Old 100th

**Offering Prayer:**

God of questions and answers, of doubt and belief, these gifts we bring are our response to the queries about your way. **As you invite us to share in all the mysteries of life, we give thanks that you bless us continually. Receive all that is presented—assurances, questions, answers, blessings, and longings. May our gifts be a source of new life in this world. Amen.**

**Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus**

**WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**We sing:** VU 703 In the Bulb There is a Flower Promise

**We go out into the world:**

On the way of discovery, **may we find new joy in old friends.**

On the way of discovery, **may we find new joy in new friends.**

On the way of discovery, **may we find new understanding in our confusing places.**

On the way of discovery, **may we find new inspiration in new songs.**

On the way of discovery, **may we find new perspective in our old learnings.**

On the way of discovery, **may we find new ways to change our suffering world.**

In all the tough and good places of our week, **God will go with us and bless us on the path of discovery.**

**Threefold Amen:** VU 967 Danish

**Postlude**

*Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Lent/Easter 2024, Year B.*

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**Minister:** The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald  
**Youth & Family Minister:** The Rev. Rebecca Pike  
**Minister Emeritus:** The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy  
**Organist & Music Ministry:** R. Carl Goulding  
**Custodian:** David Noseworthy  
**Board Chair:** Patrick Griffin

