



**April 28, 2024  
Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Baptism**

**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 The Brookings and Smith Families  
from Cheryl Conway.

## THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

### The Life and Work of Gower

#### Voluntary

**We sing:** VU 232 Joyful, Joyful

Hymn to Joy

#### 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:

No matter what kind of believers we may be, **let us all feel comfortable here at church and among our church family. There is a place for each of us here.**

*The Christ candle is lit.*

Now we centre our hearts for worship. As we pause and the glow of the Christ candle flickers, let us also remember all that happened during Holy Week. **Let us remember Jesus has died. Let us remember that Jesus lives among us. Hallelujah!**

#### Gathering Words:

In our Easter joy, we find a God of new starts and fresh growth.

**In our Easter grace, we find a God of renewal and transformation.**

In our Easter faith, we find a God to carry us from shadows and despair.

**In our Easter peace, we find a God to nurture us in hope and love.**

In our Easter lives, let us glorify God's name, now and forevermore.

#### Gathering Prayer:

True Vine, Gentle Gardener, we abide in your care. You never cut us off from your love. You tenderly lift us up when we have fallen, pruning us to make us fruitful and abundant. Flow through us to give us new life. May we grow by your grace into fruitful people. May we nourish others with our words and deeds. **May we lift up others who have fallen and connect them to the life-giving Vine. May our living bring you glory today and always. Amen.**

**We sing:** MV 1 Let Us Build a House (v. 1,2,4,5)

Two Oakes

## LISTENING TO THE STORY

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

Traditional: Tanzania

**Responsive Psalm:** VU p.746 Psalm 22, Part 3 and 4

Chambers  
Lloyd Gill

**A reading from the Gospel:** John 15:1-8  
Jesus is the true vine.

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

Caribbean

**Anthem:** Come, Come Unto Me

**Circle Song**

**Circle Time**

## THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

(Please refrain from taking photographs until after the service)

### **Jesus Blesses Little Children**

*Then, little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.*  
(Mark 10: 13-15)

### **Presentation of Candidate:**

(Representative of the Worship & Sacraments Worship Committee)

On behalf of the congregation of Gower Street United Church, I present:

**George Patrick Cameron**

child of Patrick and Kathleen Cameron

**Aariyan Rudro Islam**

child of Kathleen Driscoll and MD Khaledul Islam

**Amaya Eden Islam**

child of Kathleen Driscoll and MD Khaledul Islam

### **The Profession of Faith and Promises:**

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the

Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

**I do, by the grace of God.**

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you seek to resist evil and to live in love and justice?

**I do, God being my helper.**

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ?

**I will, God being my helper.**

Will you join with your siblings in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

**I will, God being my helper.**

**Congregational Commitment:**

Let us pledge our support and care.

**As baptized and baptizing people, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within the wider community of faith. May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith**

VU p. 918

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water:**

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life and, within it, the gift of water. Over its unshaped promise, your Spirit hovered at creation. By water comes the growth of the earth. Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom. In the waters of the Jordan, your Child Jesus was baptized. Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

**Baptism in the name of the Triune God:**

*George, Aariyan, Amaya*, we baptize you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Marking with the Sign of the Cross:**

*George, Aariyan, Amaya*, Child of God, from this day forward, you bear the sign of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Laying on of Hands:**

*George, Aariyan, Amaya*, the power of the Holy Spirit works within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **Recognizing the Candle:**

(Representative of the Worship & Sacraments Worship Committee)

*George, Aariyan, Amaya*, may the candle lit for you remind us that Jesus said, "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to God."

**Amen.**

## **Hopes and Dreams for George, Aariyan and Amaya**

### **Presentation to the Congregation Declaration and Congregational Welcome:**

There is one God, one faith, and one baptism:

**By one Spirit, we are all baptized into one body. We are children of the one God, Parent of us all. We welcome you into the community of faith.**

**We sing:** VU 454 May God Who Creates You

### **Meditation**

**We sing:** MV 161 I Have Called You by Your Name

Kelly

## **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:**

O Jesus, we are the branches, you are the vine. **Abide in us that our lives may produce fruit as your faithful disciples. May the offerings we bring this day bring your goodness and love to the world, so that God will be glorified. In your holy name we pray. Amen.**

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

## **WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**We sing:** VU 808 On Eagle's Wings

On Eagles Wings

### **We go out into the world:**

Go as God's beloved people, abiding in God's love, like the branch abides in the vine. May you feel the oneness of this connection, and

may you leave here knowing that this connection to the Divine makes a difference. **It makes all the difference. Hallelujah! Amen.**

**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

