



April 7, 2024
Second Sunday of Easter
Holy Humor Sunday

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 Helen June Milley from Bert Riggs.**

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn BWV 630 J S Bach
Prelude on "Diademata" Peeters

We sing: VU 164 The Day of Resurrection Ellacombe

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:

Easter God, the wick has been ignited and the light of hope and transformation is before us.

How amazing that a single beam of light can change our way of experiencing life.
May we rest in the glow of Jesus' love, ever radiating sparks of peace and a new dawn.
Hallelujah! Amen!

Gathering Words:

Welcome on this Holy Humour Sunday! Holy Humour Sunday was celebrated by the early Christians. It was their tradition to share laughter and song on the Sunday after Easter.

What Does the Bible Say About Laughter?

Like the famous saying, "Laughter is the best medicine." in the Bible, having a joyful and cheerful heart is also good medicine. (Proverbs 17:22) And throughout the Bible, we can find many Bible passages like Proverbs 17:22 that talk about laughter.

Throughout our service today we will share tiny bits of laughter!

As we continue to celebrate the Season of Easter, let us celebrate God's gift of humor!
Let us share the joy and laughter! Jesus is risen. Hallelujah!

Gathering Prayer:

God of laughter and light, we gather this morning to celebrate the wonder of your love that brings light out of shadows, life out of death, and springtime out of the cold and

snow of winter.

May our worship bring us joy as we are filled with the Spirit's lively energy.

We can't help but let our praise overflow into laughter.

This we pray in the name of the Risen One, Jesus. Amen.

Sharing Laughter: Mouths filled with Laughter.

Psalm 126:2: "Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, 'God has done great things for them.'"

This passage tells us that after God restored Zion, the Israelites celebrated God's amazing work with laughter and singing. Thus, we, too, should celebrate God's goodness in our lives, singing and with so much joy that our mouths will be filled with laughter.

We sing: VU 396 Jesus, Stand among Us

Bemerton (Caswall)

Sharing Laughter

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries

Judi Somers

We sing: VU 579 (v.2) The Church Is Wherever God's People

Circle Song

Circle Time

Sharing Laughter

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Sung invitation for illumination: MV 97 Listen God is Calling

Traditional: Tanzania

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 133

VU p. 856
Christina Doonan

A reading from the Gospel: John 20:19-31

Jesus appears to the disciples, but Thomas is not there.

Sung Response: VU 958 Halle, Halle, Halle

Caribbean

Sharing Laughter: A Time to Laugh

Ecclesiastes 3:4 "a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance."

In this passage, King Solomon tells us there will always be a time for something, including a time for laughter. So, don't be afraid to laugh out loud when it's time to enjoy and laugh!

Organ Meditation: Canon in d

Pachelbel

Sharing Laughter

Meditation

We sing: VU 382 Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Trenton

Sharing Laughter

**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

Our covenant is lived out through the giving of our selves-our time, talent, and our treasure. **May we live the promise of faith this morning. May these gifts represent our commitment to live as an Easter people. Thanks be to God.**

We sing: VU 541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Old 100th

Offering Prayer:

We ask your blessing, O God, on all who are gathered here and upon these gifts: for ourselves, for our siblings and for the world, so that all may be transformed and the world may be made new again, through us. In Jesus name, we ask. Amen.

Sharing Laughter

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

One: Listen to us praying, O God.

Sung Response: VU 400 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Sharing Laughter: God will fill Job's mouth with laughter

Job 8:21 "He will yet fill your mouth with laughter, and your lips with shouting."

In this passage, Job still suffers from losing his loved ones and properties. So, his friends have come to comfort him after these losses. And one of Job's friends reminded him that God will restore his joy. And that even at his lowest point, God is still with him.

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

Sharing Laughter

We sing: VU 224 Sing a Happy Hallelujah

We go out into the world:

Keep on asking questions so that you may discover God's world and God's word.

We keep on joyfully renewing and transforming our faith, for, as long as we remember him, Jesus still remains among us.

Do not doubt but believe.

We go celebrating the power of holy love, for we are an Easter People!

Hallelujah! Amen!

Threefold Amen: VU 967

Danish

Postlude: Christ ist Erstanden BWV 627

J S Bach

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

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