

August 18, 2024
13th Sunday after Pentecost

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.

99 Queen's Road – A1C 6M6 Tel: 753-7286 – Fax: 383-0145
E-Mail: office@gowerunited.com Website: <https://gowerunited.com>



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

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary

We sing: VU 356 Seek Ye First the Kingdom Lafferty

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.

Light of Faith:

As we light this candle of faith, it is a symbol of the presence of Jesus.

As we light this candle, we acknowledge that it is guiding us to the way of Jesus, the kin-dom of God. That is our call and the vision of our ministry.

Gathering Prayer:

Holy God of the hot summer sun and the refreshing summer rains, raise our expectations as we worship today. Do not leave us content to settle for a feel-good moment, for a tid-bit of usable wisdom, for a momentary easing of stress. Let us come seeking an encounter with Jesus so that we may be transformed to become his living body for the world. In that holy name we pray. Amen.

We sing: VU 242 Let All Things Now Living The Ash Grove

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Responsive Psalm: VU p.833 Psalm 111 (with refrain) Hobson
The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. Angeline Anstey

A reading from the Gospel: John 6:51–58
Whoever eats my bread has eternal life.

We sing: VU 672 Take Time to Be Holy

Holiness

Meditation

Musical Reflection

**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: MV 191 What Can I Give

Offering Prayer:

You lift us up, loving God; now let us lift up others. These gifts are to encourage and empower, to raise up issues and advance solutions. May lives be lifted up and renewed through them, in this community of faith and beyond. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

A Litany of Thanksgiving

We sing: VU 400 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Lifegiving God of Summertime, you open your hand, restoring our lives with all good things and renewing the face of the earth.

Nourishing God of Summer, all that we have is a sign of your love; all that we are is a gift from your grace.

Let us give thanks to God our Creator for all gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea.

We thank you, God.

For all that is gracious in the lives of all our siblings, revealing the ministry of Jesus.

We thank you, God.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends.

We thank you, God.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve.

We thank you, God.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play.

We thank you, God.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity.

We thank you, God.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice.

We thank you, God.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places.

We thank you, God.

For peace seekers, justice makers and advocates of the marginalized and hurting.

We thank you, God.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Jesus, the bread of life;

(a time of silent prayer)

To Jesus be praise and glory, with you, O Creator, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 506 Take My Life and Let it Be

Mozart

We go out into the world:

Go now with the guidance and the grace of God.
Let your life portray God's word in human form.

We will show by touch and word devotion to God, to the earth, and to all life that comes to birth.

And may the **Amen.**

We sing: VU 419 May the Grace of Christ (v.1) Stuttgart

Postlude

Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Pentecost 1 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 Parady
Organist & Music Ministry: R. Carl Goulding
Custodian: David Noseworthy
Board Chair: Patrick Griffin



What's Up at Gower

Out of Office: Rev. Pamela will be on vacation from Monday, August 19, to Monday, September 2. During this time, Rev. Rebecca will lead worship and cover pastoral care emergencies. David Noseworthy will be on vacation from Monday, August 19, to Tuesday, September 3.

Gower On the Move: Join Rev. Rebecca for a weekly community walk around Kenny's Pond on Thursdays in August. Weather permitting, we will meet by Sir Admiral John's Adventure Mini Golf at 6:00 p.m.

Flipper Dinners: The Gower Service and Social Club will be providing take-out Flipper Dinners with all the trimmings on Saturday, September 21, 2024. Pick-up will begin at 5:00 p.m. from the auditorium at Gower Street United Church, entrance from the Gower Street side. The cost of each

dinner is \$30.00. Tickets can be purchased from Bert Riggs, Lester Barbour, Doug Peters, or Bruce Nickerson.

Doors Open Program: We are excited to resume our Open Doors Program this year, which will run into November. This program was funded by "The Convening Fund at The United Church of Canada Foundation." We extend our gratitude to the United Church of Canada Foundation for once again supporting us in this programming.

Our doors will be open on Saturdays and other specific dates, and knowledgeable tour guides will be present to answer questions about the history of our building and congregation. You can also check our social media pages for openings on other days that may not be listed below.

August Dates

Sunday, August 18, 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 20, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday, August 23, 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 24, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, August 25, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 27, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 31, 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Connecting with Creation: Hopefully, the third time, we will get lucky; save the date now to join Rev. Rebecca for a beach fire on Middle Cove Beach on Sunday, August 25. This weather-permitting event will be announced in worship on August 25 or contact Rev. Rebecca for confirmation

Bulletin Dedications: The Worship and Sacraments Committee would like to thank all those who have dedicated a bulletin so far this year in memory or celebration of loved ones. Your gifts help us remember and celebrate with you. If you wish to dedicate a bulletin on any Sunday in memory of a loved one, in celebration of a significant event, or in celebration of a life's milestone, please contact the office.

Coming Up At Gower

Sunday Worship:

August 26: 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Weekly Activities:

Thursday, August 22: Pause for Prayer online at 4:30 p.m., Gower on The Move at 6:00 p.m. Kennys Pond

**THE ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL, THE BASILICA,
GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH AND
ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
INVITE YOU TO OUR**

**GOWER STREET
BLOCK PARTY**

SEPTEMBER 22TH • 12:30 - 3:00 PM

LOCATION:
GOWER STREET IN FRONT OF THE ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL

JOIN US FOR LIVE MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT FOR KIDS AND
ADULTS AND OF COURSE SOME FOOD FOR ALL!

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND!

RAIN DATE: OCTOBER 6

Our Community

Supporting the 'Bag to School' Program: 'Bag to School' is an education outreach program launched by Bridges to Hope to support K-12 students in our community. This program ensures hundreds of students go back to class in September with a backpack custom-filled with the supplies they need for a successful school year. Due to increased demand, they are aiming to double the number of students supported this year: from 350 to 700.

What impact will my donation have?

\$25 provides 32 rulers

\$50 provides 37 packages of crayons

\$100 provides 91 notebooks

\$500 provides 13 kindergarten students with a fully-packed backpack

Visit <https://bridgestohope.ca/bag-to-school> to donate.

Coastal Sounds choir and Aurora Women's Choir: Are you looking to join a choir, we are one month away from the start of our 2024/2025 season. Coastal Sounds choir and Aurora Women's Choir are looking for new members and would love to meet you. If you have any questions, please e mail Abra at aurorachoir.ad@gmail.com