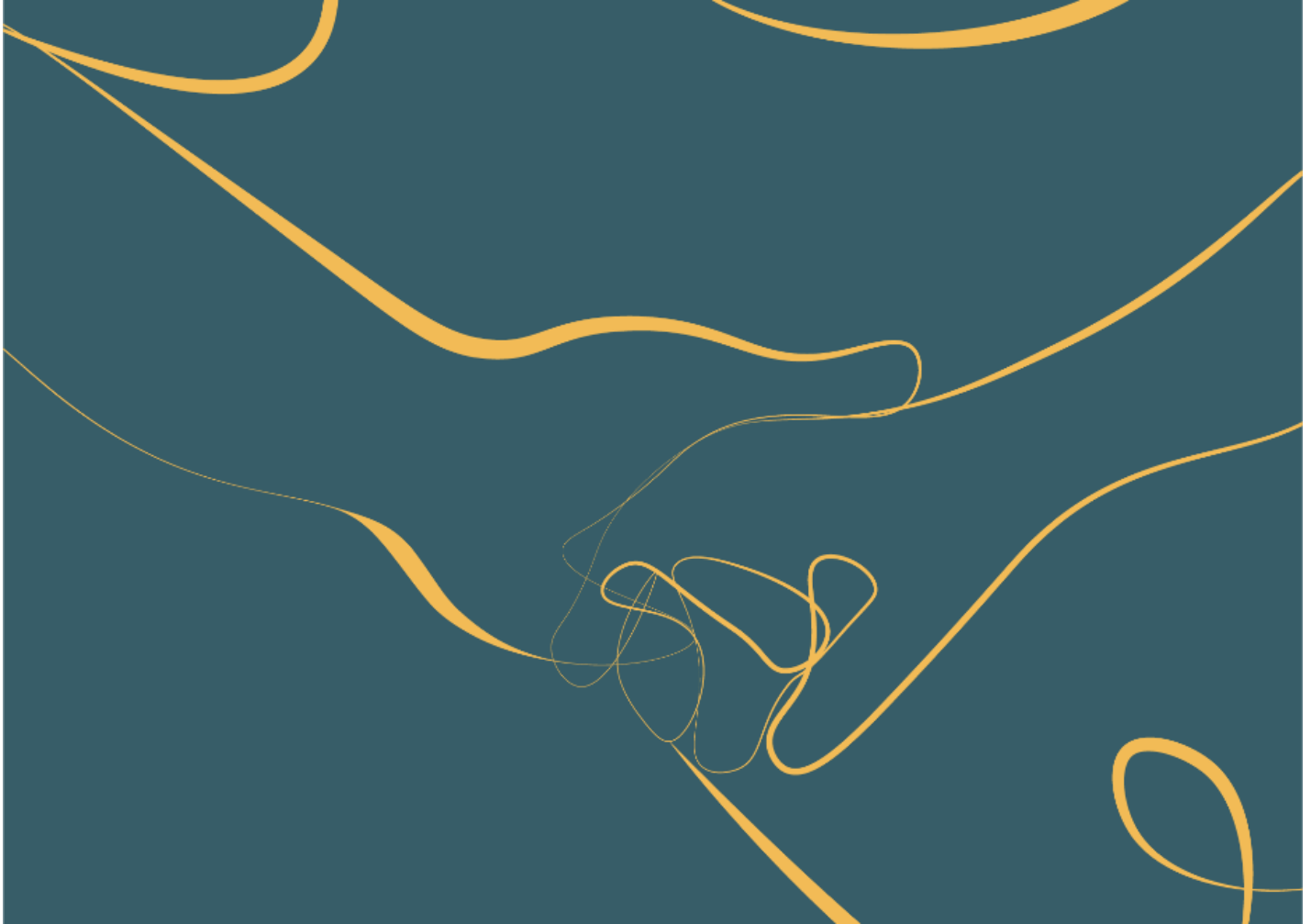




August 25, 2024
14th Sunday after Pentecost

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.

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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: MV 1 Let Us Build A House Two Oaks

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:

We light the Christ candle, a sign of the light that lives with us and within us. God's generous light shines out from us!
We light this candle as a sign of the light we carry.

We are God's generous light in the world! Praise be!

Gathering Words:

How lovely is God's dwelling place.

Our souls long to connect with our God.

All of earth and heaven tell us of God's goodness.

God's presence can be experienced from sunrise to sunrise.

God's call can be written on our hearts.

Let us seek God's will and listen for God's call to us.

Gathering Prayer:

Let us pray together. **Your holy mountain, O God, is the joy of all the earth. This is because it is your location! It is your realm! It is your dwelling place! May your holy mountain be here, now, in this time and place. Dwell within and among us, guide and love us. Amen.**

We sing: VU 337 Blessed Assurance Assurance

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer of Illumination:

Creator God, the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus have given us deep and meaningful stories to guide us and to show us the path you wish us to follow. We are most grateful for this season of Ordinary Time when we can digest all you are calling us to learn and live. Thank you for this time of pausing to receive and reflect upon your story so we can truly work on understanding your plan for us and the world. Amen.

Responsive Psalm: VU p. 800 Psalm 84 (Sung Refrain)
JoAnna Bennett

A reading from the Gospel: John 6: 56-69

We sing: VU 589 Lord, Speak to Me Winscott

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 Do?

Offering Prayer:

Giver of Life, today we dedicate this offering to your work throughout the world. May it find the places desperately in need of love. May it be a beacon of hope for all. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 674 Fight the Good Fight Pentecost

We go out into the world:

Let us go forth now,
into a world that is craving healing and wholeness.

Let us praise God,
whose power is working within us and through us.

Let us go now,
surrounded by the love of the Spirit who shows us we can do more than we can ever imagine.
Let us go now in peace. **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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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

