



**December 8, 2024  
Advent Two – Peace  
Spirit of Giving 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 bulleting is dedicated in loving memory of Marion Abbott who we lost this past April. A member of Gower Street United Church for the last 60 plus years. Remembering her today and always, especially yesterday on what would have been her 83rd birthday.  
Forever in our hearts.  
The Abbott Family.

### THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

#### The Life and Work of Gower

**Voluntary:** Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 659 J.S. Bach

**We sing:** VU 2 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus Stuttgart

#### **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.

#### **Gathering Words:**

Peace in the midst of war, peace in the midst of conflict, peace when everything is going wrong—God offers peace.

**We come seeking God's peace. We come seeking to be made whole. We come seeking to be reconciled. We come from the four winds seeking God-with-Us.**

#### **Lighting of the Advent Candle:**

**We sing:** VU 7 Hope Is a star (v. 2)

The Addison Family  
Moon Beams

On this second Sunday of Advent, we come in peace as a community of faith.

#### **We watch, we wait, we wonder.**

Let peace begin with us. In every breath we take, may we live in the peace of God's promise to be with us always.

#### **We wait for Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to come into the world.**

As we light the second candle in our wreath, we take a moment to breathe in the Spirit of peace.  
(*Take a breath, then light the candle.*)

**Advent Response:** We Wait in Hope

Joel Ramsey

#### **Gathering Prayer:**

Let us pray: **God of peace, on this second Sunday of Advent, may you fill us with the peace that only you can bring. Help us to live each moment in peace with one another. Amen.**

**Exploring Advent:** VU 340 Jesus, Friend of Little Children (v. 1 & 2)

Farnham

#### **Spirit of Giving Blessing**

### LISTENING TO THE STORY

**We sing:** VU 5 All Earth is Waiting

Taulé

**Prayer for Illumination:**

Lincoln Addison

O God of Peace, **ble**ss this reading that it may inspire us today as we struggle to believe in an unbelieving world. Strengthen us as we take these words into our homes, workplaces, and schools, that we may find ways to witness for you. Amen.

**A reading from Hebrew Scriptures:** Malachi 3: 1-4

Lincoln Addison

A refiners' fire and launderer's soup.

**A reading from the Gospel:** Luke 1: 67-79

Zechariah sings, "Blessed be the God of Israel."

**Gospel Response:** Alleluia

Norah Duncan

**Solo:**

Ty Simms

**Meditation**

**We sing:** VU 6 A Candle is Burning

Away in a Manger

**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.*

**Advent Unwrapped**

**Gathering our Gifts**

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

Old 100th

**Offering Prayer:**

**On this Sunday when the Advent candle of peace flickers and dances, may you breathe in us, O Spirit, blessing what we offer in our dance with difficult partners, as we share your choreography of peace. In our giving, may we be inspired to follow the Way of Jesus in our living, learning to perceive the image of God across divides. Amen.**

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

**WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**We sing:** VU 30 Hail to God's Own Anointed

Crüger

**We go out into the world:**

Surely, God is our peace.

**We wait in peace.**

For God is our strength and our might.

**We watch in peace.**

We give thanks and sing praises to God as we go out into the world. We wonder in love as we share the Good News with others. May you go forth with hope and peace. **Amen.**

**We sing:** VU 5 All Earth is Waiting (v. 2)

Taulé

**Postlude:** Toccata in e minor

J. Pachelbel

*Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, 2024/2025, Year C.  
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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

