



**February 4, 2024
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Black History Month**

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: Aria, Opus 51

Peeters

Gower Handbell Choir: **Glorioso**

Steve Danyew

We sing: VU 264 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

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:

This candle is lit to spread the light from Jesus into the corners which seek to hinder us from the truth—**that we are all loved and one.**

Gathering Words:

Jesus enters our village today to the laughter of our children

The graciousness of our elders

The excitement of our friends

The songs of the choir

He has come to us, to the burdens that we carry,

Bringing the peace that we seek, and the hope that we cling to Jesus enters our village today, and we receive him gladly.

Gathering Prayer:

Come to us, Holy God, as we seek to come together before you.

Encircle us with your love. Bless us with your sustaining presence. Surround us with your grace. Draw us together 'round your living Word and bind us to one another as disciples of Jesus; in whose name we come in worship. Amen.

We sing: MV 161 I Have Called You By Your Name

Kelly

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries

Judi Somers

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

Circle Song

Circle Time

We sing: Celtic Alleluia

O'Carroll & Walker

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer for Illumination:

Lewis Peters

Love, forgiveness, and understanding are epiphanies to us, Holy One. As we gather to worship, we seek the illumination of Jesus, the redeeming power of your presence, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, calling us to wholeness and holiness.

Come, O Word of Hope and Healing. Soften our hearts that we might receive your word. Amen.

Responsive Psalm: VU p. 868 Psalm 147 (Part One)

God heals the broken-hearted.

A reading from the Gospel: Mark 1:29–39

Simon's mother-in-law and many others healed.

Gower Handbell Choir

Meditation

We sing: MV 154 Deep In Our Hearts

Freed

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 540 Grant Us, God, the Grace

Stuttgart

Offering Prayer:

Grant that these gifts, O God, be used to extend and fulfill your ministry in this world, the same ministry to which we are called. Amen.

Prayers for our World and Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 808 On Eagle's Wings

On Eagle's Wings

We go out into the world:

Jesus said: Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages.

We recognize the call to go forth into the world carrying Jesus's light. May the spirit of those words guide us as we leave this place. May we not be afraid to share that light with siblings. Go in hope and peace. Amen.

Epiphany Blessing: VU 429 May the Blessing of God Be upon You

Macrae

Organ Postlude: Trumpet Voluntary

Stanley

Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Advent, Christmas and Epiphany 2023-2024, Year B and Jesus in the Village: A Service for Black History Month by Charmain Bailey, © 2024 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike License.

All music and lyrics, not in the public domain, are reproduced/broadcast under ONE LICENSE. License #: #A-700000 or CCLI Copyright License: 3157095 & Streaming License: 21279189

Minister: The Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald

Pastoral Care Minister: Vacant

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

