



January 14, 2024
Second Sunday after Epiphany

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 remembrance of
Audrey Nell from Peter Nell and Karen Nell Bennett**

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: Chorale Prelude on "Light Divine" Willan

We sing: VU 506 Take My Life and Let It Be Mozart

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:

Each Sunday morning, we gather around this candle, a symbol of hope. This ritual brings focus for our time of worship, a time when we pause to renew our faith and spiritual life with our Creator. May the light shine, gathering us in and bringing us to a place of calm and shalom. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Gathering Words:

Let us give thanks to God.

Let us join our whole selves in songs of praise.

Let us bring our hurts and concerns to God's gentle love.

Let us receive God's word for our lives.

Let us commit our lives to live for God's kin-dom.

Thanks be to God! We gather to worship.

Gathering Prayer:

In a world filled with noise, you are a place of quiet, God. **In a world filled with complexity, you are wisdom. In a world filled with brokenness and loss, you are the sturdy ground of our being. Through this time together, through the love of Jesus, may the world be changed, and may all be made whole. Amen.**

We sing: VU 589 Lord, Speak to Me Winscott

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer for Illumination:

As we prepare to receive, O God, your sacred story in word and in song, make us ready to grasp its true meaning. Then send us forth to live and to tell the story, in Jesus' name and for Jesus' sake. Amen.

A reading from Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1–10, (11–20) Meghan McKibbon
God calls Samuel.

Responsive Psalm: VU 861 Psalm 139
God has searched and known me.

A reading from the Gospel: John 1:43–51
Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael.

Anthem: Here I Am, Lord Schutte
Setting: Schrader

Circle Song

Circle Time

We sing: Celtic Alleluia O'Carroll & Walker

Meditation

We sing: VU 299 Teach Me, God, to Wonder McNaught

**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:

For the gifts you have given,

we give you thanks, O God.

For the gifts that we have the opportunity to give,

we give you thanks, O God.

May you bless these gifts for the work of your church,

here and in the world, where all may know your love. Amen.

Prayers for our World and Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 567 Will You Come and Follow Me

Kelvingrove

We go out into the world:

Let us go out to celebrate this Sabbath day of rest, to find refreshment for body, mind, and spirit, to connect with everything and everyone that brings us joy, to take time to delight in the world of our Creator God, and to practise Jesus' love for all. **May our minds and our hearts be open to the Holy Spirit's guidance as we take time to re-energize and renew this day. Amen.**

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

Organ Postlude: Prelude VI, Kleine Präludien und Intermezzi Schroeder

Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Advent, Christmas and Epiphany 2023-2024, Year B.

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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

