



**January 21, 2024
Third Sunday after Epiphany
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

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 celebration of
Heather Spurrell's 50th Birthday from Lima Spurrell.**

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary: Partita: All Depends On Our Possessing Peeters

We sing: VU 608 Dear God, Who Loves All Humankind Rest

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:

Heart of the universe, you speak to us in many different ways and an abundance of languages and faiths; in sacred text, in songs of faith, in tradition, in crisis, in celebration. **We light this candle, which represents light for the world. May its power bring hope and healing to our world full of division. Amen.**

Gathering Words:

We are gathered as siblings in this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to pray for the visible unity of people of all faiths.

At the heart of our worship we hear the divine call to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves. Let us prepare to meet the God of Love in thanksgiving and joy, remembering God's command to love.

Gathering Prayer:

Glory to you, Creative Spirit,
for you reveal yourself in your creation and call all people to live in your love, peace and justice.

Glory to you, O Jesus,
for you give yourself entirely to each one of us and invite us to do the same.

Glory to you, Holy Spirit,
for you gather us together in love and unity.

Glory to you, God of Love,
in whom we are created, redeemed and made one. Alleluia! Amen.

We sing: VU 602 Blest Be the Tie That Binds Dennis

Prayer Of Transformation:

Merciful God, **forgive and heal us.**

Words of Assurance:

Jesus says, "You are forgiven, not seven times but seventy times seven." Be assured that the forgiveness offered by the Great Spirit can bring healing and hope. **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer for Illumination:

You come to us, O God, along paths of stubborn resistance and dutiful persistence, calling us into lives unexpected and grace undeserved. **Startle us once again through sacred story. We pray that our hearts may leap toward you, following faithfully. Amen.**

Responsive Psalm: VU p. 779 Psalm 62 Elsie Doyle

A reading from the Gospel: John 4:4-42
The Samaritan Woman at the Well

Anthem: Come, Come Unto Me Dosso

Circle Song

Circle Time

We sing: Celtic Alleluia O'Carroll & Walker

Meditation

We sing: VU 678 For the Healing of the Nations

**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.

Minute for Mission: Providing Tuition Assistance

Gathering our Gifts

We sing: VU 540 Grant Us, God, the Grace Stuttgart

Offering Prayer:

There are many reasons why we give. Heart-filled giving is doing God's will. **As we think of the gifts of talent, time, and money that we have given this week, may our hearts be filled with joy and compassion: joy for the wonder of giving to God and compassion for anyone who is seeking hope and who may be blessed by these gifts. Gracious God, bless these gifts for all the reasons they have been given, so they may be used to build your kin-dom on earth. Amen.**

Prayers for our World and Prayer of Jesus

Fill us with your love! **Make us one in you.**

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 563 Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore Pescador de Hombres

We go out into the world:

Loving Jesus, who prayed that all might be one, we pray to you for the unity of all faiths, all people everywhere so that love, justice and peace might be at the heart of our work in the world.

Refreshed by our worship today, let us go forth to love the Holy One, and to love our neighbour as ourselves, united in Divine Love which is experienced in an abundance of ways and named differently for each one who seeks its light.

Everything we can do together, let's do it!

Alleluia! Amen!

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

Organ Postlude: Biblical Sonata No. 1 Parts IV & VI Kuhlau

Today's worship was inspired by resources for World Week of Prayer for Christian Unity developed by the World Council of Churches and the Canadian Council of Churches.

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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





On Sunday morning, February 11th,
come join us for
**“A Celebration of Faith: Hymns for
Choir and Congregation”**

With hymn selections such as “Amazing Grace”, “How Great Thou Art”, “The Church Is One Foundation” and “The Lord Is My Shepherd”, we honour our rich musical heritage. With our choir, soloists,

bagpipes, drums, organ, and congregation, we will sing a wide selection of traditional church repertoire. As we celebrate together the gift of sacred music, you are invited to make a financial donation in memoriam or in celebration of loved ones or special events in your life. These donations will be acknowledged and published in the bulletin for this special worship.

You can donate via our website, e-transfer, or drop off to office of cash or cheque. Ensure you include a note of details to be published in the bulletin.

The deadline to have donations published for the bulletin is Wednesday, February 7th, at 4 pm.