



**January 28, 2024  
Fourth 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.**

## **THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN**

### **The Life and Work of Gower**

**Voluntary:** Pavanna “The Earl of Salisbury” Byrd

**We sing:** VU 217 All Creatures of Our God and King Lasst Uns Erfreuen

### **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:**

God of incredible radiance, the light of a lone candle casts its path a surprising distance.  
**May this light remind us of the infinite ways Jesus illuminates our lives. Let all we are reflect God’s grace. In the name of the Holy One, we pray. Amen.**

### **Gathering Words:**

Come in from the cold after being teased by a taste of winter this week.

**We come into the warmth and shelter of this community.**

Come in from the anxieties and challenges of our ever-changing world.

**We come hoping for the comfort of grace abounding as we shelter with people we know and love and who know and love us.**

Come in as those sent out by Jesus to transform the world with good news.

**We come to recharge, renew, and re-engage with the Spirit’s power.**

### **Gathering Prayer:**

As we come, let us pray as one: **Open us, Holy One, to the possibilities for self-giving in the world. Equip us, Gracious God, to be the people you trust to call for your purpose within this community of faith and into the world. Enthuse us, Loving Spirit, as you breathe strength, courage, and wisdom into our hearts. Amen.**

**We sing:** VU 589 Lord, Speak to Me Winscott

## **LISTENING TO THE STORY**

### **Prayer for Illumination:**

**Holy One, help us pay attention to your encouragement to share the gift of faith with others. We thank you for this gift that has been built up in us through the words of scripture and the support of this community. Amen.**

Stuart Gill

**A reading from Scripture:** Deuteronomy 18: 15-20  
God will raise up a prophet after Moses.

**Responsive Psalm:** VU p. 833 Psalm 111  
The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.

**A reading from the Gospel:** Mark 1: 21-28  
A man with an unclean spirit is healed in Capernaum.

**Anthem:** Come, Come Unto Me Dosso

**Circle Song**

**Circle Time**

**We sing:** Celtic Alleluia O'Carroll & Walker

**Meditation**

**We sing:** MV 145 Draw the Circle Wide

**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:**

**Holy One, bless all that we offer: our time and finances, our energy and ideas, our care and compassion, our praise and prayers. Together, may we create a community of faith, hope, and love, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

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

**WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**We sing:** VU 642 Be Thou My Vision Slane

**We go out into the world:**

Go to the world with the power of the Spirit. Go in unity and peace. Go not by your own strength but through the strength of the Spirit to fulfill your commission from Jesus. You are children of God, Jesus' disciples, and church members. Go with God's blessing to fulfill your purpose as ambassadors of faith. **Amen.**

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

**Organ Postlude:** Trumpet Voluntary Travers

*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

