



July 14, 2024
8th Sunday after Pentecost

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 memory of a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother, Mary Jessie Elms, in celebration of what would have been her 85th birthday (July 11) from Wince, Greg and Margie, Natalie and Art, Ryan, Cody, Zack and Travis.

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary

We sing: VU 686 God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM Rhondda

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

To set out on an adventure requires careful planning and preparation.

When we would rather avoid the planning and put off what needs to be done, we turn to God to get us going.

To stay on the course requires persistence and endurance.

When we are tempted to give up, and when we lack the confidence, we turn to God to renew our strength.

Overcoming obstacles and embracing possibilities demands faith.

When we notice that our energy and will to continue are flagging, we turn to God for encouragement and inspiration.

The journey may leave us frustrated and dispirited.

But the adventure of faith and the adventures of life also bring us new possibilities, new skills, and new insights.

God renews and restores us, giving us the courage to keep travelling despite the setbacks.

In worshipping together, we turn to our Loving God and find that our faith supports us in all our endeavors.

Gathering Prayer:

God of the journey, God who calls us to venture forth in faith, we sometimes focus on the ground that lies beneath us.

We concentrate on our current context because we are afraid to go forth and experience the new realities and challenges of the path before us.

Build strength in us to withstand the winds of discontent and fear.

Encourage us to place ourselves firmly on a path to spiritual discovery.

In the name of the one who journeyed beside the disciples on those many paths travelled to preach the Good News. **Amen.**

We sing: MV 135 Called by Earth and Sky

Words and Music: Pat Mayberry

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Prayer for illumination:

We come seeking, O God. **We seek wisdom. We seek knowledge. We seek what will restore our spirits and provide refuge from the chaos of the world. Bless to us your word, this day, and guide us to the wisdom lies within. Amen.**

Responsive Psalm: VU pp. 750-751 Psalm 24 Refrain 2 F.R.C. Clarke
The earth is God's and all that is in.

A reading from the Gospel: Mark 6:14-29
The death of John the Baptist.

We sing: VU 337 Blessed Assurance Assurance

Meditation

Musical Reflection

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: MV 191 What Can I Do?

Offering Prayer:

Giver of life, **today we dedicate this offering to your work throughout the world. May it find the places desperately in need of love. May it be a beacon of hope for all. Amen.**

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 633 Bless Now, O God, the Journey Thornbury

We go out into the world:

God bless and keep you.

May God's face shine upon you day by day.

May God's peace, God's joy, God's presence be with you in every stage of your life's journey.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

We Sing: VU 419 May the Grace of Christ, Vs 1 Stuttgart

Postlude

Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Pentecost 1 2024, Year B.

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Lead 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

