



June 16, 2024
4th Sunday after Pentecost
Indigenous Day of Prayer

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

We sing: VU 703 In the Bulb There Is a Flower

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.

Light of Faith:

Our friend and teacher Jesus walked many dusty paths around Lake Galilee. He journeyed with good friends and with those of no account.

He cared for those who were left behind, the scared, and the forgotten.

Jesus taught us about being good stewards of creation, to be kind to others and ourselves. He taught us there is a time to take a stand.

When he taught in crowds, people didn't always know who he was.

He would share that he was the light.

That beautiful light shone everywhere Jesus went and it shines bright everywhere we go.

That glorious light follows you to work, to church, and to the park.

It is a light that supports us and reminds us in good times and in bad that we are loved, cared for, and always belong.

The stunning light also represents the importance of balance in all of creation: Fire and water represent different genders; for there to be life there must be both. **May it be so. Amen.**

Gathering Words

Grace and peace be with you, beloved children of God.

And also with you.

We gather today in prayer and thanksgiving for National Indigenous Day.

Creator, be with us as we journey forward in a good way.

We share scripture and stories that warm and challenge our heart.

Creator, be with us as we listen in a good way.

We sing with lightness and praise.

Creator, be with us as we respond in a good way.

Gathering Prayer

Loving and Ever-Present Creator, we ask in the time together that we have open hearts and minds to hear your Word and be reminded that we are all Spirit first. The grass around us, the feathers of the birds, the eagles, the trees and the rocks and the frog, we are all connected; we are all part of creation. Amen

We sing: MV 135 Called by Earth and Sky

Prayer of Transformation:

Great loving Spirit, you travel with us on so many paths. Some trails are straight and easy to navigate, but others are very difficult, windy, and up steep hills.

We confess that sometimes, when things get tough, we haven't always followed your teachings or done things in a good way. Sometimes we found it too taxing to sit still and listen to our Elders for the wisdom they bring. Other times, Creator, we just did not show up. We ask for forgiveness when we know we could have done better. Amen.

We are forgiven:

On this Indigenous Day of Prayer, we are assured of the Creator's unending love for us all. Our traditional teachings offer us assurance and the promise that we are Spirit first and we will always be part of creation.

LISTENING TO THE STORY

A reading from Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17 Geoff Wright
Walk by faith, not by sight.

Responsive Psalm: VU p.742 Psalm 20 Geoff Wright
Trust not in horses of chariots, but in God.

A reading from the Gospel: Mark 4:26-34
Parables of the growing seed and the mustard seed.

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

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:

Loving Creator, help us to think about others when we come to this time of giving. **Some of us only have a dollar or two or an hour or two to share, but others have so much more. Remind us when we have heaps of love, of time, or special talents to share, that we shine the love of God when sharing them widely. Amen**

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

One: Creator, receive our prayers...

All: And in your love answer.

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: MV 154 Deep in Our Hearts

We go out into the world:

May the Creator's eternal love warm your Spirit like the sun on an autumn day. May the Spirit guide your path with gentleness and strength.

May we always seek to move in a good way. May it be so. Amen.

We Sing: VU 567 Will You Come and Follow Me (v.5)
Kelvingrove

Postlude

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

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

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

