



June 2, 2024
Pride Sunday
2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Baptism

Gower Street United Church is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of race, creed, age, ability, cultural background, or sexual orientation.

RAINBOW MELODIES:
CELEBRATING PRIDE, COMMUNITY, AND SUMMER HARMONY

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

Band Prelude

The Gift of Friendship
Raise Your Joys and Triumphs High

(see notes on last page)
Benjamin Yeo
James Swearingen

We sing: This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine let it shine

All around the neighborhood
I'm going to let it shine
All around the neighborhood
I'm going to let it shine
All around the neighborhood
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine let it shine

Hide it under a bushel...NO!
I'm going to let it shine
Hide it under a bushel...NO!
I'm going to let it shine
Hide it under a bushel...NO!
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine let it shine

This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm going to let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine let it shine

Words of Welcome

Acknowledging the Territory

A Moment for Pride

The Lighting of the Rainbow Candle:

We light this candle to remind us of the presence of the holy in our lives.

We are called to love with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul, and with all our strength, and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

In its light, remind us that those who have been turned away, forgotten, or persecuted find belonging here in this community.

We hope to embody such love in this community. May we be a sanctuary, a shelter, a safe place to turn.

Gathering:

Creating One—O Great Spirit beyond Gender,

who makes no mistakes, who surprises us always, who molded the first person both male and female, who molded the first non-gendered human, who loves all creation.

Help us love the diversity of your creation.

Help us accept all varieties of gender in ourselves and in others.

Help us celebrate those who are different from us.

That we may learn to love each other as you love us. Let us celebrate that love and all that makes us different in this time of worship! Amen.

We sing: MV 145 Draw the Circle Wide

Dedication of Gower Community Band Room

In the name of the Creator,

We dedicate the Gower Community Band Room to the glory of God.

With gratitude and reverence,

We dedicate the Gower Community Band Room to the glory of God.

For the beauty of this holy place and for the sake of all God's people, **we dedicate the Gower Community Band Room to the glory of God.**

In remembrance of Dr. Edsel Bonnell

We dedicate the Gower Community Band Room to the glory of God.

We pray together:

We thank you for all that was beautiful and good in the life of Dr. Edsel Bonnell, for the example Edsel provided of faith and hope, for his dedication to service and community, for his love of music, and for his love of Gower Street United Church. Amen.

Celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries

Judi Somers

We sing: VU 579 (v.2) The Church Is Wherever God's People

Bell Choir: Faith of Our Fathers
Simple Gifts

THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

(Please refrain from taking photographs until after the service)

Jesus Blesses Little Children

Then, little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.
(Mark 10: 13-15)

Presentation of Candidate:

(Representative of the Worship & Sacraments Worship Committee)

On behalf of the congregation of Gower Street United Church, I present:

Eleanor Andi Snook

child of **Anna (nee Bauditz) and Kevin Snook**

The Profession of Faith and Promises:

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

I do, by the grace of God.

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you seek to resist evil and to live in love and justice?

I do, God being my helper.

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you join with your siblings in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

I will, God being my helper.

Congregational Commitment:

Let us pledge our support and care.

As baptized and baptizing people, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within the wider community of faith. May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

VU p. 918

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water:

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life and, within it, the gift of water. Over its unshaped promise, your Spirit hovered at creation. By water comes the growth of the earth. Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom. In the waters of the Jordan, your Child Jesus was baptized. Now may your Spirit be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Baptism in the name of the Triune God:

Eleanor, we baptize you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Marking with the Sign of the Cross:

Eleanor, Child of God, from this day forward, you bear the sign of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Laying on of Hands:

Eleanor, the power of the Holy Spirit works within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Recognizing the Candle:

(Representative of the Worship & Sacraments Worship Committee)

Eleanor, may the candle lit for you remind us that Jesus said, "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to God." **Amen.**

Hopes and Dreams for Eleanor

Presentation to the Congregation Declaration and Congregational

Welcome:

There is one God, one faith, and one baptism:

By one Spirit, we are all baptized into one body. We are children of the one God, Parent of us all. We welcome you into the community of faith.

We sing: VU 454 May God Who Creates You

LISTENING TO THE STORY

A reading from Scripture: Matthew 5:1-10

Judi Somers

Stella's Circle Inclusion Choir: Sing
Happy

Joe Raposo
Pharrell Williams

Circle Song

Circle Time

It's a George Thing!

By: David Bedford and Russell Julian

We sing: The Rainbow Connection

Why are there so many songs about rainbows
And what's on the other side?
Rainbows are visions, but only illusions
And rainbows have nothing to hide

So we've been told and some choose to believe it
I know they're wrong, wait and see
Someday we'll find it, the rainbow connection
The lovers, the dreamers and me

Who said that every wish would be heard and answered?
We wished on the morning star
Somebody thought of that, and someone believed it
Look what it's done so far

What's so amazing that keeps us stargazing
And what do we think we might see?
Someday we'll find it, the rainbow connection
The lovers, the dreamers, and me

All of us under it's spell
We know that it's probably magic
Have you been half asleep, and have you heard voices?
I've heard them calling my name
Is this the sweet sound that calls the young sailors?
The voice might be one and the same

I've heard it too many times to ignore it
It's something that I'm supposed to be
Someday we'll find it, the rainbow connection
The lovers, the dreamers and me
La-da-da, de-da-da-do
La-da-da-da-da-de-da-do

**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 154 Deep in Our Hearts (v. 2)

Offering Prayer:

Change us as we give.

Change us from those who seek their own good to those who seek the good of others. Change us from those who discuss justice to those who get daringly involved.

Change us from those who are content with what we do now to those who are committed to seek a deeper spiritual life.

These gifts enable us to change. Amen!

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus**WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD****We go out into the world:**

This morning, we have celebrated our diversity.

We have lit the Pride Candle:

Red for life in all its forms, orange for healing, yellow for sunlight and all kinds of light, green for nature in all her diversity, blue for harmony, and purple for the Spirit which guides us all.

We are called to practice this rainbow of colors in our lives- the conversations and interactions- at home, at work, and at play!

Let us go out into our community and the world to share the message of Unconditional Love for everyone!

We sing: VU 646 We Are Marching

Postlude

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

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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

**GCB Prelude Notes**

The Gift of Friendship by Benjamin Yeo. This lyrical ballad is a tribute to the beauty of friendship. The music opens with the manual winding of a music box ready to tell its story before the music grows to include the full band. The final musical phrase is

unfinished and is followed by the winding of the music box again, signifying an unending friendship we all hope to achieve.

Raise Your Joys and Triumphs High by James Swearingen. The GCB has had a busy and fulfilling year celebrating the 50th anniversary of the band program started by Edsel Bonnell and the Gower Youth Band in 1973. Today we finish our season with the appropriately titled "Raise Your Joys and Triumphs High". Here's to the next 50 years of joys and triumphs!