



June 23, 2024
5th 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.



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 the celebration of
Madelyn Dorothy Blanche's baptism,
with love from Aunt Di.**

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary

We sing: MV 145 Draw the Circle Wide

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:

We light this candle as a symbol of the warmth of self-giving love, the love that guides us each moment in our living.

Gathering Words:

Come from knowing into Mystery.

Come from certainty into Pondering.

Come from time-bound into Eternity.

Come from thinking into Being.

Come, let us worship God.

Gathering Prayer:

God is love, unfailing love.

Endless love. Aching love. If it is not love, it is not God. We can trust this love forever. Unfailing love, or "mercy," cannot be earned or deserved or hoarded. It just is. Always. Endlessly reaching out for us, to heal, to inspire, and to free us so we can be healers, inspirers, and lovers. Amen.

We sing: VU 271 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy Stuttgart

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 Candidates:

(Representative of the Worship & Sacraments Worship Committee)

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

Madelyn Dorothy Balance Roberts

child of **Heather (Vokey) & James Roberts**

Theodore Edgar Elliott-Gulliver
child of **Julia Elliott-Gulliver & Matthew Gulliver**

Autumn June Barbour Hiscock
child of **Krista (Barbour) & Robin Hiscock**

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:

Madelyn, Theodore, Autumn, 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:

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

Laying on of Hands:

Madelyn, Theodore, Autumn, 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)

Madelyn, Theodore, Autumn, 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 Madelyn, Theodore, and Autumn

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 the Gospel: Mark 4: 35-41 Ruth Francis
Jesus stills a storm.

We sing: VU 229 God of the Sparrow Rosder

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.

Minute for Mission: An Act of Generosity

Gathering our Gifts

We sing: MV 191 What Can I Do?

Offering Prayer:

What we offer as a faith community this morning is diverse and varied. Bless, O God, our multiplicity of gifts—of time, talent, and treasure—that we may engage the world's complexity with grace and love. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 716 My Life Flows On How Can I Keep From Singing

We go out into the world:

May you be blessed and strengthened by Almighty God to move gently upon the earth, to stop when you have done enough, to rest when you are weary, and to rejoice in all creation. Enjoy the Sabbath. **Amen.**

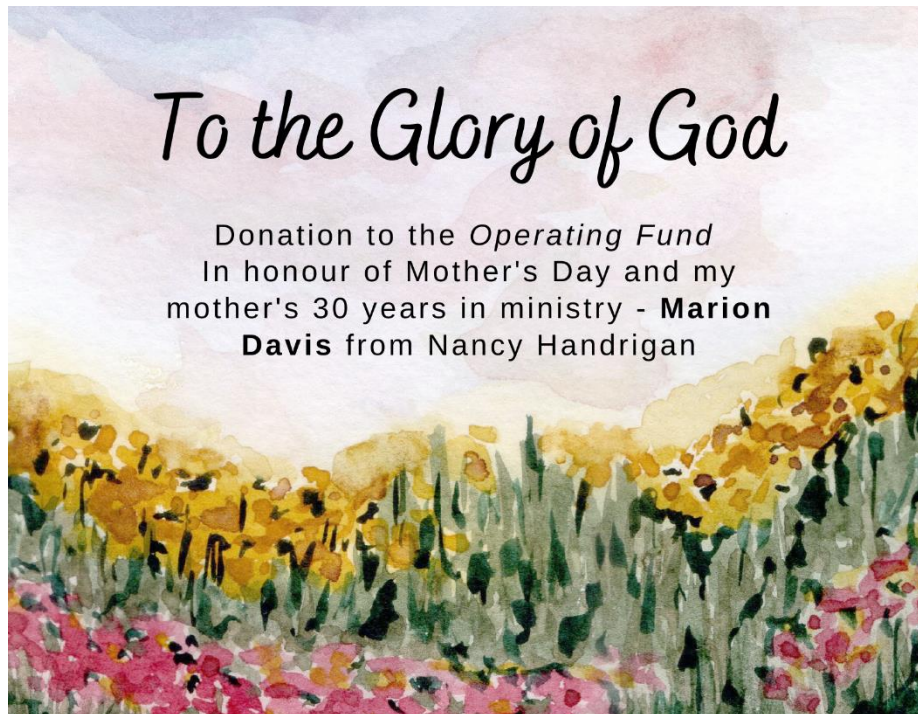
We sing: VU 567 Will You Come and Follow Me (V. 5)
Kelvingrove

Postlude

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

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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



To the Glory of God

Donation to the *Operating Fund*
In honour of Mother's Day and my
mother's 30 years in ministry - **Marion**
Davis from Nancy Handrigan

What's Up At Gower

Out of Office: Rev. Pamela will be out of the office from Monday, June 17, to Tuesday, June 25. During this time, Rev. Rebecca will lead worship and cover pastoral care emergencies.

Rev. Rebecca will be out of the office from Wednesday, June 26, to Tuesday, July 9. During this time, she will be on vacation and helping with leadership at Rendez-vous 2024: Audacious Hope with the United Church of Canada.

Connecting With Creation: Join Rev. Rebecca for a beach fire on Middle Cove Beach on Sunday, June 23rd, weather permitting. We will gather on the beach for a fire starting at 5:00 p.m. Contact Rev. Rebecca for more information. This weather-permitting event will be announced in worship on June 23rd, or contact Rev. Rebecca for confirmation

Celebration of Life for Alfred (Fred) Wilson on July 7, Helen and her family will be gathering to celebrate Fred's life at Masonic Hall (Mt. Carson Ave.) at service at 2:30 p.m. with a reception to follow. The families invite anyone who would like to attend to join them for this service and reception.

Supporting our Youth Mission Program this Summer: Gower is hosting a youth mission program for youth from across Canada this summer. We are asking for volunteers to help assist the program between July 27th and August 4th. We need drivers to drop youth to and from our missionary sites and any home-cooked meals or treats. We are thankful for any and all contributions made to the program! If you have any questions about our needs or would like to volunteer, please contact Rev. Rebecca.

Part of hosting the Youth Mission program this summer is to billet the staff who will be joining us on July 20th until the program starts on July 27th. If you have extra space in your home and would be willing to host Hopelyn this week, please reach out to Rev. Rebecca.

GSSC Dinner Meeting: The last Dinner Meeting of the Gower Service and Social Club before our summer break will be held on Tuesday, June 25, starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall. The menu has vichyssoise as an appetizer, a cold plate with roast beef, ham and four salads as the main course and pavlova for dessert. A special entertainment is planned for after dinner. Anyone wishing to attend should let Bert Riggs know (briggs@mun.ca) by 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 23.

Flower Services: The dates for the St. John's Memorial Services are as follows
Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Hamilton Avenue Extension - Monday, July 8, 2024, at 7 P.M.
General Protestant Cemetery, Topsail Road - Monday, July 22, 2024, at 7 P.M.
Memorial Gardens Cemetery, 25 Beaumont Hamel Way - Monday, July 29, 2024, at 7 P.M.
Please note: In the event of inclement weather, the services will move ahead to 7 P.M. the next evening.

Etcetera Productions: On Thursday, June 27th, at the Arts and Culture Centre, Justin and Megan perform on the Main Stage, along with the performers from the Music Studios of Etcetera Productions. Performances are enhanced by a stage band, and it's a great family show. Our Gower Street Church Choir members Justin and Megan, as well as Amber, Emma, Gabrielle, Lia, Lucas, Riley, and Ty, are featured performers and hope to see you there! Information about Etcetera 36: Come Alive is available on the Arts and Culture Centre website

etcetera 36
COME ALIVE
JUNE 27TH
ST. JOHN'S ARTS & CULTURE CENTRE
FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY
etcetera productions SHOW CHOIR
etcetera productions JR SHOW CHOIR
etcetera productions ensemble
etcetera productions MUSICAL THEATRE CLASS
etcetera productions POP PERFORMANCE CLASS
and of course the etcetera band
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