

# June 30, 2024 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Remembering Beaumont Hamel Celebrating Canada Day

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 loving memory of The Brookings and Smith Families from Cheryl Conway.

#### THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

#### The Life and Work of Gower

## Voluntary

We sing: VU 806 O God Our Help in Ages Past St. Anne

#### 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:**

The morning star calls to the sun:

Let us worship God and give thanks.

Young and old, big and little gather in the house of God;

we raise our voices, we lift our hearts to you, Creator God.

#### **Gathering Prayer:**

On this day we gather to pray for your peace and to remember those who lost their lives, as well as those who were forever changed by the battle of Beaumont Hamel. **We pray for peace.** 

Not the peace that comes from the barrel of a gun, but the peace that comes from an open heart, an open mind, and open arms.

The peace that is created through the sharing of all the gifts of your creation, so no one will live in want.

The peace revealed when we welcome the stranger and greet them as friend, rather than seeing them as someone to be feared.

The peace created when all the voices of your children are heard, instead of ignoring those who only want what is just.

It is the peace that lies at the heart of the vision of the unconditional love of Jesus. **We pray for peace**. (silence) **Amen.** 

We sing: VU 436 Abide With Me Eventide

#### **Last Post**

The following members of the Gower Street Methodist Church lost their lives on July 01, 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. All but Captain Bernard P. Ayre, who was

a member of the Norfolk Regiment, were members of the Newfoundland Regiment who were killed in the fighting at Beaumont Hamel.

Captain Eric S. Ayre Captain Bernard P. Ayre

2nd Lieutenant Gerald W. Ayre Private Harry Butler

Lieutenant Hubert Clinton Herder Private William E. LeShana Private Robert Meadus Private William G. Perran

Private Alfred P. Taylor

#### **Moment of Silence**

#### Rouse

## **Prayer of Transformation:**

As proud as we are of our country, God, we know it could be better.

We know we could be better.

We know that there could be reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples of Canda and better relationships among those of all faiths.

We need your compassion in our communities and in our country.

We need your imagination, your vision of a country and a world transformed.

Instead, we have made idols for ourselves of culture, race, status, and material wealth. We have made gods that are no gods.

Forgive us, Spirit of justice and true peace.

Reconcile, restore, redeem us, Merciful One.

Turn us to the unconditional love of Jesus and give us your grace, we pray. **Amen.** 

#### We are forgiven:

God invites us to let go, to release our fears and our failures, our deepest loves and our greatest joys, into the infinite ocean of God's mercy. Amen.

# **LISTENING TO THE STORY**

A reading from Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Lewis Peters

Excel in generosity.

**Responsive Psalm:** VU 853 Psalm 130 Refrain 2 Lewis Peters

Out of the depths, I cry to God.

15th century French

A reading from the Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

A reading of the Beatitudes.

We sing: VU 713 I See a New Heaven I See A New Heaven

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:

We wrestle with what to give, how to give, when to give, yet you are with us in our wrestling. Make us hungry as this world of want, make us thirst for justice and for hope in a parched world. Bless us in our wrestling that we may share, in Jesus' name, becoming, partners in transformation through love. Amen.

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

## WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 421 Lead On, O Cloud of Presence Lancashire

# We go out into the world:

And now, touched by God's Spirit, which makes us free, held in God's love, which gives us strength, befriended by God's son, Jesus, who breaks down walls, let us live with hearts wide open to all adventure, all the pain, all the joy, Of being God's people, in every place life calls us to be. 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



## What's Up At Gower

**Out of Office:** 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.

**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 Becca at <a href="mailto:goprojectgower@nl.rogers.com">goprojectgower@nl.rogers.com</a>.

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 contact Becca at <a href="mailto:qoprojectgower@nl.rogers.com">qoprojectgower@nl.rogers.com</a>.

**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.

**Bulletin Dedications**: The Worship and Sacraments Committee would like to thank all those who have dedicated a bulletin so far this year in memory or celebration of loved ones. Your gifts help us remember and celebrate with you. If you wish to dedicate a bulletin on any Sunday in memory of a loved one, in celebration of a significant event, or in celebration of a life's milestone, please contact the office.

**HarbourVOICES!** International Festival of Collective Singing Traditions is a six-day festival featuring 44 singing groups/choirs from around the globe - a total of 1400 singer participants! Experience the world through song!! June 29 - July 4, 2024. Join us for this exciting celebration of singing, storytelling, and sharing of diverse musical traditions, where every note resonates with the spirit of community. Enjoy a series of 25+ concerts: afternoon, evening, lunch-time pop-ups, and our special Gala Concert featuring all 1400 festival singers and our guest artist, 6-time Grammy winner, Jacob Collier on July 2,

Mary Brown's Centre. All concert details and ticket information can be found on the HarbourVOICES! website: harbourvoices.ca - https://harbourvoices.ca/ Join us as HarbourVOICES! Festival welcomes the world to our shores and beautiful home - Newfoundland and Labrador!

