



**March 10, 2024
Lent Four
Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday**

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.

The Bulletin today is dedicated in memory of
Pte. Lester D. Barbour
who died March 10, 1918, at Passchendaele, Belgium
by nephews Leslie Barbour, Lester Barbour & Carl Wright

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Voluntary

We sing: VU 147 What Wondrous Love is This Wondrous Love

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:

It is Sunday morning. Last week, with all its demands, is over.

The coming week, with yet another round of challenges and demands, is not quite here.

I invite you to close your eyes and be in the moment.

No matter where we are in your thoughts and feelings—

Some of us are relieved about what we have accomplished.

Some of us are anxious about what is left undone.

Some of us are concerned about people or projects—...no matter where each of us is in our journey this day—

...let us encourage one another to set all that aside and consider where we are right now.

A Silent Pause

Fourth Candle of Lent

Doug Dunsmore

Whatever is true for you right now, in this moment, whether it be joy or sadness, gratitude or anxiety, let it come forward.

When it is fully present, we will listen...

for God is present in these moments, too.

God meets us where we are and calls us forward, moment by moment, guiding us slowly but surely toward transformation.

(Silent time.)

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain caused by the lack of basic needs—lack of food, of shelter, of education, of healthcare, of love.
(A candle is extinguished.)

Choral Response: Drop, Drop Slow Tears

Gibbons

Let us pray:

Loving God, we thank you that you are with us, and that we may call upon you no matter where we are, or what we are feeling. **Keep us mindful of your presence and trusting in your promise—that you are working with us in the moment-by-moment unfolding of our lives. Amen.**

We sing: MV 171 Christ has no Body Now But Yours

Rick Gunn

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Sung Response: Bless the Lord my Soul

Taizé

A reading from Scripture: Psalm 46

Sung Response: Bless the Lord my Soul

Taizé

Meditation

We sing: VU 510 We Have This Ministry

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

The Bible speaks of sacrificial giving, and to that kind of giving we are called.

In these Lenten days, let us offer not only our monetary gifts, but ourselves, into the heart of the one who gave himself for us.

We sing: VU 537 Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands (V. 1)

Kilmarnock

Offering Prayer:

God of promise, God of life, **we bring before you bits of paper and some clinking coins. We offer them to you as signs of your kin-dom among us: our sharing of our bounty gifted by you, our sharing of ourselves growing in you, our sharing of our time created in you. Take these gifts-and us-and bless them, we pray. Amen.**

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 612 There is a Balm in Gilead

Balm in Gilead

We go out into the world:

And now may God, who knows the secrets of our hearts, who loves us inside and out, through and through, be our source, guide, and destination as we continue our Lenten journey. **May we know ourselves to be so touched by God's love that we will share that love with all we meet and work for justice and peace for all God's people. Amen.**

Lenten Blessing: VU 572 Send Me, Lord

Thuma Mina

Organ Postlude

Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Lent 2024, Year B, and Lenten's Lamentation from Worship in the City, Prayers and Songs for the Urban Settings by Nancy Elizabeth Hardy.

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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

