



March 24, 2024
Palm 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.

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 memory of
Shirley Abbott, on her 85th birthday
from the Collins Family.

THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN

The Life and Work of Gower

Gower Community Band Prelude:

1. Resignation by Ed Kiefer
2. Equinox: Coming of Spring by Alexander Bessant (current GCB member)
3. Ode To Music by Frederic Chopin arranged by Clair W. Johnson
4. Let There Be Peace On Earth arranged by Ed Huckeby

We sing: VU 122 All Glory, Laud and Honour

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:

We have gathered here, week after week, sharing a common quest for a deeper faith and a deeper experience of the divine.

As we close our eyes and center into this sacred space, let us be at peace.

As we centre into this sacred space, we let go of the things that distract and concern us.

Listen! Let us listen as the time is drawing near.

Jesus is preparing to enter Jerusalem.

How will we greet him?

Will we follow him all the way to the Cross?

A Silent Pause

Sixth Candle of Lent:

Susan Green

The power of Jesus is that he lived what he taught, even when it led to his death.

Jesus lived with an abiding awareness of God, radiating the light of God in all he said and did.

What are we willing to risk to follow Jesus?

(Silent time.)

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of illness and disease in the world.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Choral Response: Drop, Drop Slow Tears

Gibbons

Let us pray:

Loving God, there are so many choices before us every day.

Choices offered by our friends, our families, our culture, our own past. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, ourselves and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them. May we learn from the choices of Jesus and embody compassion, justice, and inclusion in all we say and do. Amen.

Sung Invitation: VU 948 O God, Hear My Prayer Taizé

Prayer Of Transformation:

Are you paying attention, God? **We call on you.**

Sung Response: VU 948 O God, Hear My Prayer Taizé

LISTENING TO THE STORY

Lenten Lamentation:

The Book of Lamentations invites us to pay attention to the grief of others, to open our hearts to those who suffer. It also summons us to attend to our own sorrows and to express them freely in prayer. God wants to hear what is real in our lives, including our struggles and disappointments. The book of Lamentations deepens our experience of Lent by encouraging us to grow in the freedom to share all that we are with God.

Choir Response: Bless the Lord my Soul Taizé

A reading from the Gospel: Mark 11:1-11
Jesus' joyful entry into Jerusalem.

Sung Response: Bless the Lord my Soul Taizé

Anthem: Sanctus, Benedictus Hassler

Circle Song

Circle Time

Meditation

We sing: VU 121 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

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: This Easter provide Education

Gathering our Gifts:

In praise and thanksgiving to our God, in response to Jesus' love shown in the cross, and as a sign of our faithfulness, let us offer our gifts to the work of God's church here on earth.

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

Offering Prayer:

Gracious God, may what we have offered-of ourselves, of our resources, of our time-become a rainbow of blessing of light for an aching world among those of us gathered here, for our local community, and for our world, blessed by the power of your abundant grace. Amen.

Prayers for the World and the Prayer of Jesus

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

We sing: VU 152 There is a Green Hill Far Away

We go out into the world:

Let us go into this Holy Week trusting in the grace of God.

When our strength fails may we still find the courage to turn toward the cross, to our king who wears a crown of thorns, and serve his world with compassion.

Go and remember that all our lives are held in God's gracious hand. Amen.

Lenten Blessing: VU 572 Send Me, Lord

Thuma Mina

Gower Community Band Postlude:

Great Coronation Hymn by Oliver Holden

arranged by James D. Ployhar

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.

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



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>

Holy Week
WORSHIPS

Maundy Thursday - March 28
GOWER STREET UNITED CHURCH
7:00 P.M.

Good Friday - March 29
WESLEY UNITED CHURCH
12:00 P.M.

Easter Vigil - March 30
ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH
7:00 P.M.

Gower Street
United Church
Open Hearts • Open Minds • Open Arms

