



**MARCH 31, 2024**

Gower Street  
United Church

Open Hearts • Open Minds • Open Arms

**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 loving memory of Grace's Mom, Olga Huber from Doug and Grace Dunsmore  
and  
dedicated in loving memory of our parents, Russell and Patricia Burke, from Phyllis and Gail.**

### **THE SPIRIT GATHERS US IN**

#### **The Life and Work of Gower**

#### **Voluntary**

**We sing:** VU 166 Joy Comes with the Dawn Dawn

#### **Lighting of the Christ Candle:**

Easter God, the wick is ignited, the light of hope and transformation is before us.

**How amazing that a single beam of light can change our way of experiencing life.**

May we rest in the glow of Jesus' love, ever radiating sparks of peace and a new dawn. **Amen.**

#### **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:**

As the women did on that Easter morning, we come together.

**We come together, giving thanks for their presence, worshipping in their path.**

They brought their grief and their fear, their gratitude and their love.

**We come together, acknowledging our fear and our gratitude, affirming God's love.**

They left transformed by the truth of the Risen Christ!

The love of God has triumphed!

**Because of these women, we come together in hope, faith and joy, transformed by the power of new life.**

As we gather at the dawning of a new day, we declare: Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed! Hallelujah!**

**Prayer of Transformation:**

Holy One, Maker and Keeper of Creation, Life of Life,

**we praise you! We sing joy!**

Open us to the new life you are creating in us.

**Forgive us when we choose our ways instead of your ways.** Forgive us when we let our world get so small that there is no room for strangers or new ways.

**Free us from the fear that keeps us stuck, but do it gently, O God—we like our routines.**

We like our security and our comfortable habits.

**Show us a new way, Loving God.**

As your Spirit moves among us, prune us where we have not been fruitful.

**Drive out fear that blocks us from confidence.**

Take root in us and help us to grow in love and in peace, until we are complete in your care. **Amen.**

**Words of Assurance:**

The good news of Easter is that death is turned into new life. The promise we have from God is that when we acknowledge our brokenness, God will acknowledge us with grace and forgiveness. **We are a forgiven people.**

**Thanks be to God. Hallelujah! Amen!**

### **LISTENING TO THE STORY**

**A reading from the Gospel:**

John 20:1-18

Karen Tuck

### **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:** VU 541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow  
Old 100<sup>th</sup>

### **Offering Prayer:**

O God, we meet you in worship.

**You bless our offerings for prayer and praise.**

O God, we meet you in the needs of those suffering among us in our local faith community.

**You bless our offerings for pastoral care.**

O God, we meet you in the work of education and in providing resources for people across Canada and around the world through Mission and Service.

**You bless our offerings for people whose names we will never know.**

Our offerings are effective when our money is used carefully and faithfully.

**You bless all our gifts, Loving God. Amen.**

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

### **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**We Sing:** VU 467 One Bread, One Body (v. 1, 2 with refrain)

My friends in Christ, as we gather at Jesus' Table, a table that touches all places, at all times, let us join together in a statement of our shared faith.

### **Affirmation of Faith**

VU p. 918

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God, Source of Life and Love.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love,

**you are beyond complete knowledge, above perfect description.**

Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit; Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love,

**you are creative and self-giving, generously moving in all the near and distant corners of the universe.**

Through fear-filled days and aching nights when the powers of death have done their worst, your love has never deserted us.

**Even when we turn away from you, you are with us; your presence never fails us, your gifts of hope and new life transform us.**

We praise you for Jesus, risen to life, eternal as your love. With the women at the tomb, we raise the strain of gladness.

**Hallelujah! Life is stronger than death!**

The day of resurrection has come, scattering fear and gloom. And so we rejoice with all your people of every time and place, and with angels and archangels, to proclaim the glory of your name:

**O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heaven, creation sings your praise. Blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always.**

It is Jesus, God incarnate, the Risen One, who joins us together as a community of broken but hopeful believers:

**loving what he loved, living what he taught, and striving to be his faithful servants in our time and place.**

In this meal, we remember Jesus, his promises, and the price he paid for who he was, what he said, and what he did.

On the night before Jesus died, he took a loaf of bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said, "Take and eat, whenever you do this, remember me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup and poured, saying, "This is the new covenant; remember me."

**We do remember. We remember his life of love, friendship, teaching, dying, and rising to life again.**

In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

Bless this bread and this cup, the wheat and the grape, the farmer and the harvest, the seed and the sower.

**So that in the sharing of these simple elements in community,**

**we may taste and see your goodness.**

Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

**Great Amen**

MV 205

**Prayer for our world and the prayer of Jesus:**

**Breaking the Bread, Pouring the Cup**

The body of Jesus,

**the bread of life.**

The love of Jesus,

**the cup of blessing.**

The gifts of God for the people of God,

**Thanks be to God!**

**The Sharing of the Bread and the Cup**

**Prayer after Communion:**

Risen Jesus, we have glimpsed you here as we have shared the bread and cup. **So help us to see you risen, present, and at work in our world and to join you in making all things new until you come again in glory and we feast again with you for all eternity. Hallelujah! Amen.**

**WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**We sing:** VU 173 Thine is the Glory

Judas Maccabaeus

**We go out into the world:**

May you feel our Creator lovingly rush toward you in answered prayer. May you notice the banquet of spring that the resurrecting Jesus lays out before you.

**May we know by the Spirit that new life has begun.**

Christ is Risen.

**Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah! Amen!**

**Organ Postlude**

*Worship today was inspired by Gathering, Lent 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



*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](mailto:office@gowerunited.com) Website: <https://gowerunited.com>

*To the Glory of God*

Donations to the *Operating Fund* in loving memory of  
**deceased members of the Barbour and Wright families**  
by Carl & Marie-Beth Wright and family

**Rudy Laite, Dereck Power, the Laite, Noftall, and Kerrivan families**  
from Cheryl & Ken Hanlon & family



**parents Alfred & Amelia Laite, Brothers Gordon, Alfred, Rudy, and Douglas Laite. My Sisters Nena (Peggy) and Mary-Joan**  
always remembered by daughter Jeanette and family

**parents Stanley & Mary Noftall, brothers Stanley & Bernard, sister Mary Elms & sisters in law Jackie, Esther & Cynthia Noftall**  
from Darren & Brenda Martin & the Noftall family

**parents William & Addie Martin & sister Dana**  
from Darren & Brenda Martin

**grandparents, Max & Muriel Vardy**  
from Russell, Sean & Nicole Vardy & their mom Brenda Martin

Donation to *Gower Community Band* in memory of  
**our parents, Marston and Elizabeth Cameron and Dennis and Margaret Murphy, and loved ones**  
from Blair and Anita Cameron

Donation to the *Memorial Fund* in loving memory of  
**Whiteway, Wylie & Barrett Families**  
from Ian Barrett

Donation to the *Mission and Service Fund* in loving memory of  
**parents, grandparents & great-grandparents William & Mabel Jones, Harold & Annie Noel, brothers & uncles, Lloyd Jones & Selwyn Noel, and sister & Aunt Muriel King**  
from Darroch & Lois Jones, their children Nicole (Mathieu Larose), Stefan (Sara Slade) & Heather (Shane Rose) and their grandchildren Chloé Larose, Sophie Larose, Lincoln Rose, Anderson Rose, Sebastian Jones, and Dawson Jones